

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON VIRTUAL EDUCATION IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Department of Education and Early Development, as part of the Alaska READS Act, proposes to adopt regulations establishing the Virtual Education Consortium.

The Department of Education and Early Development proposes to adopt regulation changes by adding a new chapter 67 in title 4 of the Alaska Administrative Code. The proposed regulations would establish a Virtual Education Consortium in accordance with enactment of the Alaska Reads Act (House Bill 114, Chapter 40, SLA 2022). To implement AS 14.30.800, the proposed regulations address subjects including the consortium's governing board, standards for virtual education and professional development resources available through the consortium, the consortium-maintained database of virtual education courses for students and virtual instruction training and professional development courses for teachers, employment of the reading specialist under AS 14.30.800(c), and fees that the department charges to participating school districts and that a participating school district charges to a student taking a course.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to the Commissioner's Office, Department of Education and Early Development, Attn: Regulations Review, 333 Willoughby Ave., 9th Floor, State Office Building, P.O. Box 110500, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500. Additionally, the Department of Education and Early Development will accept comments by facsimile at 907-465-2806 and by electronic mail at deed.commissioner@alaska.gov. Comments may also be submitted through the Alaska Online Public Notice System by accessing this notice on the system and using the comment link. The comments must be received not later than 4:30 p.m. on July 13, 2023.

Oral or written comments may also be submitted at a hearing to be held on July 26, 2023, via Zoom platform. You may join the online Zoom meeting at <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/99391482721> or by calling 1-253-215-8782 and selecting *9 on your phone's keypad. When public comment is over, the meeting will continue to broadcast at the above link. The hearing is scheduled from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and priority will be given to commenters on the line before the beginning of the hearing. The hearing may be extended to accommodate those on the line before 9:15 a.m. who did not have an opportunity to comment. Before the start of the hearing, the State Board of Education and Early Development Chair, James Fields, may limit the time allotted for each person providing oral testimony, as reasonably necessary to conclude the hearing in the time provided.

You may submit written questions relevant to the proposed action to Janell Andrews at deed.commissioner@alaska.gov or the Department of Education and Early Development, Attn: Regulations Review, P.O. Box 110500, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500. The questions must be received at least 10 days before the end of the public comment period. The Department of Education and Early Development will aggregate its response to substantially similar questions and make the questions and responses available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System <https://education.alaska.gov/regs/comment.cfm>.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Janell Andrews at 907-465-2800 or deed.commissioner@alaska.gov not later than July 14, 2023 to ensure that any necessary accommodation can be provided.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and by contacting Janell Andrews at Janell.Andrews@alaska.gov 907-465-2802.

After the public comment period ends, the State Board of Education and Early Development will either adopt the proposed regulation changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulation may be different from that of the proposed regulation. You should comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected.

Statutory authority: AS 14.07.020; AS 14.07.060; AS 14.30.800

Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific: AS 14.30.800

Fiscal information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Individuals can sign-up to receive automated notifications of all State of Alaska notices, including public notice for regulation changes, by subscribing to the Alaska Online Public Notices System: <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Default.aspx>.

Date: 6/8/2023



Lacey Sanders, Deputy Commissioner