

4 AAC is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

**Chapter 67. Virtual Education Consortium.**

**Section**

- 10. Consortium established; name
- 20. Consortium membership
- 30. Consortium governance; bylaws
- 40. Duties and responsibilities of the department
- 50. Consortium duties
- 60. Standards for consortium courses
- 900. Definitions

**4 AAC 67.010. Consortium established; name.** There is established, within the department and in cooperation with participating school districts, a virtual education consortium to make virtual education and professional development resources available to students and teachers in the state. The virtual education consortium is named the Alaska Distance Learning Consortium. (Eff \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_, Register \_\_\_)

**Authority:** AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.30.800

**4 AAC 67.020. Consortium membership.** (a) Eligibility to be a member of the consortium is limited to school districts operating within the state.

(b) Consortium membership is voluntary. A school district may request membership by submitting a request to the department from an individual authorized to act on behalf of the school district.

(c) A member of the consortium

(1) shall have access to consortium resources as provided in this chapter;

(2) may provide a course for inclusion in the consortium database subject to the requirements of 4 AAC 67.060;

(3) may designate a representative to receive consortium communications; and

(4) may designate a representative eligible to vote in governing board elections under 4 AAC 67.030(b)(1). (Eff \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_, Register \_\_\_)

**Authority:** AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.30.800

**4 AAC 67.030. Consortium governance; bylaws.** (a) The consortium shall be governed by a board consisting of

(1) the commissioner or the commissioner's delegate, as a representative of the department; and

(2) a maximum of six representatives of consortium members who have been designated under 4 AAC 67.020(c)(4).

(b) A consortium member representative who serves on the governing board shall

(1) be elected by a simple majority vote of consortium member representatives;

(2) be designated by a consortium member under 4 AAC 67.020(c)(4); and

(3) serve for a minimum term of one year.

(c) If possible, the governing board shall include one consortium member representative from each of the four judicial districts, one member representative from the state at large, and at least one member representative from a regional educational attendance area.

(d) If a matter under consideration by the governing board requires the force of law, the

governing board may vote on, and adopt by simple majority, a resolution containing the proposed regulation for state board consideration.

(e) The governing board may prepare and recommend adoption of bylaws subject to review and approval by the state board. To be effective, consortium bylaws must be consistent with this section, must be subject to review and approval by the state board every three years, and must include

- (1) a statement of purpose;
- (2) the consortium mission and vision;
- (3) governance rules; and
- (4) meeting requirements.

(f) Meetings of the governing board are subject to AS 44.62.310 - 44.62.319 (Open Meetings Act) and shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. (Eff \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_, Register \_\_\_\_)

**Authority:** AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.30.800

**4 AAC 67.040. Duties and responsibilities of the department.** (a) The department will

- (1) provide assistance and administrative support to the consortium, including
  - (A) information, procedures, forms, and other material as required, on how to apply and qualify to become a member of the consortium; and
  - (B) counseling and technical assistance to the consortium;
- (2) establish standards for consortium resources as provided in AS 14.30.800; and
- (3) through a candidate selection process incorporating the governing board, employ a reading specialist.

(b) If recommended by the governing board, the department may establish a fee for school district participation in the consortium. (Eff \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_, Register \_\_\_)

**Authority:** AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.30.800

**4 AAC 67.050. Consortium duties.** The consortium shall

(1) subject to curriculum standards established by the department, establish and maintain a database of virtual education courses as described in AS 14.30.800(a);

(2) provide training and professional development consistent with AS 14.30.800(b) for teachers delivering or facilitating virtual coursework to students through the consortium database;

(3) adopt a policy consistent with AS 14.30.800(b)(2) to determine the previous experience and demonstrated skills necessary for a teacher to deliver or facilitate virtual coursework through the consortium database without requiring the teacher to complete training or professional development provided by the consortium;

(3) through the department, employ a reading specialist to perform the duties described in AS 14.30.800(c);

(4) subject to approval by the department, recommend a school district consortium participation fee that approximately equals the consortium's prorated administrative costs related to review and approval of courses and maintaining the database; and

(5) provide recommendations to the state board regarding establishment and management of the consortium or consortium resources that may require department approval or force of law. (Eff \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_, Register \_\_\_)

**Authority:** AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.30.800

**4 AAC 67.060. Standards for consortium courses.** (a) A course made available to school districts through the consortium must meet

(1) content standards set out in the corresponding subject matter standard adopted by reference in 4 AAC 04.140; and

(2) standards set out in *National Standards for Quality Online Courses*, 3rd edition, revised as of October 2019, adopted by reference.

(b) A course or other training made available through the consortium for professional development for teachers must meet standards set out in *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching*, 3rd edition, revised as of October 2019, adopted by reference. (Eff \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_, Register \_\_\_\_)

**Authority:** AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.30.800

**Editor's note:** Copies of the *National Standards for Quality Online Courses* and *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching*, adopted by reference in 4 AAC 67.060, are available for inspection at the Department of Education and Early Development, 801 West 10th Street, Suite 200, P.O. Box 110500, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500. The *National Standards for Quality Online Courses* and *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching* may also be viewed on the department's Internet website at [www. https://education.alaska.gov/standards](http://www.https://education.alaska.gov/standards).

**4 AAC 67.900. Definitions.** In this chapter,

(1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of education and early development;

(2) "consortium" means the Alaska Distance Learning Consortium, the virtual education consortium established under AS 14.30.800 and 4 AAC 67.010;

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(3) "department" means the Department of Education and Early Development;

(4) "governing board" means the consortium's governing board;

(5) "school district" means a city or borough school district or regional educational attendance area;

(6) "state board" means the state Board of Education and Early Development;

(7) "virtual education" or "virtual instruction" has the meaning given in

AS 14.30.800. (Eff \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_, Register \_\_\_)

**Authority:** AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.30.800