Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505

Toll Free: (800) 441-2962
In Juneau: (907) 465-2962
TTY: Dial 711 or (800) 770-8973

Fax: (907) 465-5316

Alaska's Regulatory Reform Initiative

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ANNUAL REGULATORY REDUCTION PLAN

JANUARY 1, 2026 – DECEMBER 31, 2027

Amendment No. 1: March 10, 2026

Amendment No. 2: September 30, 2026

Agency Regulatory Liaison
Jackie Hall
Program Manager
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Administrative Order 360, Alaska's Regulatory Reform Initiative, aims to improve the quality, transparency, and efficiency of the state's regulatory environment. The initiative mandates a statewide review of existing administrative regulations to reduce regulatory burdens by 15 percent by the end of 2026 and 25 percent by the end of 2027.

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) staff conducted a comprehensive review of its regulations to identify outdated, duplicative, or overly prescriptive provisions. The review streamlines and clarifies requirements, removes barriers, and preserves program integrity, accountability, and legal compliance.

ACPE's proposed regulatory actions include the following key categories: clarifying regulatory language; removing obsolete provisions linked to discontinued programs and provisions imposing unnecessary burdens; and eliminating redundant requirements.

Public input and stakeholder engagement are essential to this process. The agency solicited feedback through public meetings and written comments to ensure the reforms balance regulatory efficiency with the needs of students, families, postsecondary institutions, and other stakeholders.

These efforts will deliver a 14.34 percent reduction in regulatory requirements for 2026. The staff's work and the substantial reductions identified represent meaningful, positive change to the regulatory framework. These efforts reduce unnecessary burden while preserving regulatory clarity, accuracy, and program integrity.

ACPE has completed a comprehensive review of its regulatory chapters and incorporated all presently identified opportunities for responsible regulatory reduction into its 2026 plan. Following additional legal guidance and accounting for regulations needed to implement the newly established Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program, ACPE anticipates focusing its 2027 reform efforts on consolidating, simplifying, and eliminating obsolete or duplicative guidance documents.

AMENDMENT NOTICE

Amendment No. 1 incorporates changes supporting the Alaska Education Grant program, 20 AAC 16.005 through 16.050.

Amendment No. 2 incorporates a new project supporting the newly enacted Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program by adding a new article to Chapter 16, 20 AAC 16.300 – 20 AAC 16.390.

BACKGROUND

Administrative Order 360 is Alaska's Regulatory Reform Initiative, issued by Governor Dunleavy on August 4, 2025. The initiative was established to improve the quality, transparency, and efficiency of the State's regulatory environment by reducing administrative and economic burdens on Alaskans, investors, and agencies, and to encourage business and economic growth in Alaska.

Under this initiative, agencies must review their regulations systematically and implement reforms that achieve a 15 percent reduction in regulatory requirements by December 31, 2026, and 25 percent by 2027 (cumulative). Annual reporting is required to track progress, document actions taken, and provide transparency on the agency's efforts to align regulations with current practices, statutory intent, and public needs.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce regulatory burdens
2. Engage stakeholders
3. Increase transparency
4. Establish ongoing regulatory planning and reporting
5. Achieve measurable reduction targets

REGULATORY BASELINE

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education was established in 1974 to coordinate the development of educational programs and regulate postsecondary institutions in the State for the well-being of all Alaskans. Funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC), ACPE provides sustainable solutions for college, career, and technical training.

ACPE offers a suite of financial aid and outreach services designed to provide the educational access Alaskans need to become peak performers, regardless of financial status. These efforts support ACPE's vision of Alaskans as educated and skilled contributors to our vibrant communities and economy.

ACPE's administrative regulations are in Title 20 of the Alaska Administrative Code under Miscellaneous Boards and Commissions.

- **Chapter 15:** Establishes the framework for the State's student financial aid programs and the administration of student and family education loan programs.
    - 20 AAC 15.010 – 15.085 – Article 1. Education Loans
    - 20 AAC 15.086 – 15.095 – Article 2. AlaskAdvantage Federal Consolidation Loan Program
    - 20 AAC 15.100 – 15.170 – Article 3. AlaskAdvantage Loan Programs
    - 20 AAC 15.171 – 15.199 – Article 4. AlaskAdvantage Consolidation Loan Program
    - 20 AAC 15.200 – 15.295 – Article 5. Teacher Education Loan Program
    - 20 AAC 15.510 – 15.590 – Article 7. Family Education Loan Program
    - 20 AAC 15.610 – 15.690 – Article 8. A.W. "Winn" Brindle Memorial Education Loan Program
    - 20 AAC 15.700 – 15.795 – Article 9. Supplemental Education Loan Programs
    - 20 AAC 15.910 – 15.990 – Article 11. General Provisions

- **Chapter 16:** Establishes the framework for state education grants and scholarships, including the Alaska Education Grant and Alaska Performance Scholarship.
    - 20 AAC 16.005 – 16.050 – Article 1. Education Grant Program
    - 20 AAC 16.205 – 16.250 – Article 2. Alaska Performance Scholarship Program
    - 20 AAC 16.900 – Article 3. General Provisions

- **Chapter 17:** Establishes the regulatory framework to ensure that postsecondary institutions in Alaska operate responsibly, ethically, and transparently, while protecting students and maintaining educational quality.
    - 20 AAC 17.010 – 17.145 – Article 1. Authorization to Operate and Agent's Permits
    - 20 AAC 17.205 – 17.255 – Article 2. Authorization to Operate as a University, College, Junior College, Community College, or Career College
    - 20 AAC 17.900 – 17.910 – Article 3. General Provisions

- **Chapter 18:** Establishes and governs the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Loan Program. The WICHE program provides financial assistance to Alaska residents pursuing professional degrees not available in the state and participating in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP).
    - 20 AAC 18.005 – 18.990 – General Provisions

- **Chapter 19:** Establishes the rules, eligibility requirements, and financial terms under which ACPE provides financial support to Alaskan students participating in the WWAMI Medical Education Program, and defines the conditions for repayment or forgiveness of that support.
    - 20 AAC 19.010 – 19.990 – General Provisions

ACPE's regulatory baseline of discretionary requirements across Chapters 15 through 19 totals 1,262. The amended plan includes 10 new requirements for the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program and 191 proposed reductions. If approved, these changes would result in a net reduction of 181 requirements, or 14.34 percent of ACPE's original baseline.

- **Chapter 15. Student Financial Aid.**

	Baseline	Reductions
Article 1. 20 AAC 15.010 – 15.085	22	17
Article 2. 20 AAC 15.086 – 15.095	35	26
Article 3. 20 AAC 15.100 – 15.170	61	35
Article 4. 20 AAC 15.171 – 15.199	38	26
Article 5. 20 AAC 15.200 – 15.295	29	07
Article 7. 20 AAC 15.510 – 15.590	15	01
Article 8. 20 AAC 15.610 – 15.690	29	01
Article 9. 20 AAC 15.700 – 15.795	101	24.50
Article 11. 20 AAC 15.910 – 15.990	185	01
Total	**515**	**138.50**

- **Chapter 16. Education Grant and Scholarship Programs.**

	Baseline	Reductions
Article 1. 20 AAC 16.005 – 16.050	62	05
Article 2. 20 AAC 16.205 – 16.250	107	08
Article 3. 20 AAC 16.300 – 16.390 – New (+10)	–	00
Article 4. 20 AAC 16.900	07	00
Total	**176**	**13**

Article 3 is not included in ACPE's original regulatory baseline. The proposed regulations for the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program add an estimated 10 requirements, increasing ACPE's projected regulatory inventory from 1,262 to 1,272 before reductions.

- **Chapter 17. Regulation of Postsecondary Education Institutions.**

	Baseline	Reductions
Article 1. 20 AAC 17.010 – 17.145	348	18.50
Article 2. 20 AAC 17.205 – 17.255	42	06
Article 3. 20 AAC 17.900 – 17.910	22	00
Total	**412**	**24.50**

- **Chapter 18. WICHE Professional Student Exchange Loan Program.**

	Baseline	Reduction
20 AAC 18.005 – 18.990	102	09
Total	**102**	**09**

- **Chapter 19. Financial Support for the WWAMI Program.**

	Baseline	Reductions
20 AAC 19.010 – 19.900	57	06
Total	**57**	**06**

STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

ACPE solicited public feedback on potential regulatory changes to Title 20, Chapters 15 through 19, to gather ideas, suggestions, and input before proposing any specific amendments or repeals.

ACPE held a series of public meetings from October 15 to 29, 2025, during which staff provided a high-level overview of the regulations under Title 20 and invited participants to offer oral testimony on which regulations to prioritize for reform.

In addition to the public meetings, ACPE accepted written comments through multiple channels, including direct email, the Alaska Online Public Notice System, and an online survey. Public feedback is essential in helping ACPE shape meaningful changes that support students, families, and postsecondary institutions.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following timeline summarizes the public engagement process, the recommendations received, and, where applicable, whether ACPE accepted or rejected each recommendation.

Chapter	Meeting Date	Comment Period	Public Recommendations	Channel	Action	Justification
Chapter 15. Student Financial Aid	10/15/25	10/15/25 through 11/14/25	No comments received from the public	N/A	N/A	Although no public comments were received, ACPE will review Chapter 15 to identify opportunities for streamlining.
Chapter 16. Education Grant and Scholarship Programs	10/21/25	10/21/25 through 11/20/25	No comments received from the public	N/A	N/A	Although no public comments were received, ACPE will review Chapter 16 to identify opportunities for streamlining.
Chapter 17. Regulation of Postsecondary Education Institutions	10/28/25	10/28/25 through 11/27/25	Public testimony addressed the impact of recent storms in the region, which displaced approximately 2,000 individuals. She emphasized the importance of	Public Meeting	N/A	ACPE will consider this testimony as staff works to streamline regulations and programs under Title 20,

Chapter	Meeting Date	Comment Period	Public Recommendations	Channel	Action	Justification
			supporting displaced residents by providing job and training opportunities locally to improve retention rates and reduce homesickness. The individual also highlighted Alaskans' generosity in supporting those affected and urged streamlined regulations and programs to assist the community during this challenging time.			Chapters 15 through 19.
			20 AAC 17.095, regarding Facilities and equipment. Survey response: Keep the existing language.	Online Survey	Accepted	As requested, ACPE will make no changes to 20 AAC 17.095.
Chapter 18. WICHE Professional Student Exchange Loan Program	10/29/25	10/29/25 through 11/28/25	• 20 AAC 18.005 – The provision is clear, and WICHE has no issues with its stated purpose. • 20 AAC 18.007- 20 AAC 18.050 – These provisions fall under ACPE's jurisdiction, and they do not conflict with any WICHE policies. WICHE has no issues with its implementation. • 20 AAC 18.060 – This provision is clear and consistent with WICHE processes. • 20 AAC 18.070-20 AAC 19.990 – These provisions fall under ACPE's jurisdiction, and they do not conflict with any WICHE policies. WICHE has no issues with its implementation.	Online Survey	N/A	Although no revisions were proposed, ACPE will review Chapter 18 to identify opportunities to streamline it.

Chapter	Meeting Date	Comment Period	Public Recommendations	Channel	Action	Justification
			We reviewed the provisions related to Title 20, Chapter 18, which pertain to the WICHE Professional Student Exchange (PSE) Loan Program. Through the survey, WICHE noted that the provisions explain how we partner in the implementation of PSE. However, the statutory provisions fall under ACPE's jurisdiction. From our perspective, they are clear and concise, and they do not conflict with any existing WICHE policies or processes. WICHE has no concerns regarding their implementation.	Email	N/A	Although no revisions were proposed, ACPE will review Chapter 18 to identify opportunities to streamline it.
Chapter 19. Financial Support for the WWAMI Program	10/29/25	10/29/25 through 11/28/25	I am a UAA WWAMI medical school applicant and I am running into a problem with my residency eligibility. In summary, I am ineligible due to 20 AAC 19.030. 20 AAC was written in 1999, when school began in the Fall. However, this residency requirement does not fit the current WWAMI curriculum– the current WWAMI curriculum begins in July (Summer), not September (Fall). The 1999 state statute to establish residency intended "two consecutive years ending in September 1st of the year before the participant begins class [3 weeks later on September 27th, 1999] in the WWAMI	Email	Accepted	ACPE confirmed with UAA that the WWAMI program start date begins in July. ACPE will amend 20 AAC 19.030.

Chapter	Meeting Date	Comment Period	Public Recommendations	Channel	Action	Justification
			program". This sounds reasonable. A two year wait for residency before classes begin. The statute does not say —begins classes in the WWAMI program "the following year", it implies that it is the same year "ending on September 1st of the year before the participant begins class [on September 27th, 1999] in the WWAMI program." However, when the 20 AAC 19.030 state statute from 1999 is applied with our current WWAMI July start date curriculum change, *this can cause a student to wait 3 years (not 2 years like the statute intends).*			

REGULATORY REDUCTION PLAN

ACPE's regulatory reduction plan establishes the agency's baseline of discretionary regulatory requirements. It further summarizes the proposed reductions identified through the agency's comprehensive review process and establishes a timeline for submitting draft regulatory revisions to the Department of Law for preliminary review.

2026 REFORM PLAN

ACPE's original regulatory baseline of discretionary requirements across Chapters 15 through 19 is 1,262. This amended plan includes regulations needed to implement the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program, which are estimated to add 10 discretionary requirements and increase ACPE's projected regulatory inventory before reductions. Following additional legal review, ACPE revised the regulatory reforms proposed for 2026 to retain provisions that cannot be repealed without statutory changes. The remaining proposed changes reflect stakeholder meetings and written comments received during the public engagement process, as well as ACPE's review of outdated regulations and opportunities for streamlining.

The proposed reductions will eliminate 191 discretionary requirements. After accounting for the 10 requirements added by the new program, ACPE will achieve a net reduction of 181 requirements, or 14.34 percent of its original baseline, by the end of 2026.

Regulatory Reductions

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 15.060. Resident forgiveness benefits.	The regulation describes the eligibility rules and procedures for loan forgiveness under former AS 14.43.120(j) for Alaska student loan borrowers from the 1986–87 school year and earlier.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.086. Purpose of the AlaskAdvantage federal consolidation loan program.	The regulation describes the purpose of the AlaskAdvantage federal consolidation program, which allows eligible borrowers to consolidate multiple outstanding federally guaranteed education loans into a single loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.087. General program requirements.	The regulation outlines the program's requirements under the Higher Education Act of 1965.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.088. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation outlines an applicant's eligibility requirements.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.089. Loan eligibility.	The regulation outlines which federal student loans may be consolidated and under what conditions.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.090. Application procedure.	The regulation describes the application process and the commission's right to request additional information.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.091. Loan disbursement.	The regulation describes how loans will be disbursed in compliance with 34 C.F.R. 682.206 and 34 C.F.R. 682.209.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.092. Loan fees, interest, and interest capitalization—sections (a), (b), and (c).	Section (a) of this regulation describes origination fees, section (b) states interest rates cannot exceed 8.25%, and section (c) describes how subsidized loans included in consolidation remain unsubsidized.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.100. Purpose of AlaskAdvantage loan program.	The regulation describes the purpose of the AlaskAdvantage loan program, which provides low-cost federally guaranteed loans to qualified applicants.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.105. General program requirements.	The regulation outlines that the program will be administered under the Higher Education Act of 1965.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.110. AlaskAdvantage loan types.	The regulation outlines the federal loan types under the program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.115. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation describes the applicant eligibility requirements for the loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.120. Institutional eligibility.	The regulation describes the eligibility requirements for institutions to participate in the program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.125. Application procedure requirements.	The regulation outlines the procedural requirements for applying for an AlaskAdvantage federal loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.130. Allowable use of loan proceeds.	The regulation states that AlaskAdvantage loan proceeds may be used, in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1087ll, to pay the allowable costs of attendance related to the student's period of enrollment.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.140. Limitations on loan amounts.	The regulation states that borrowing under the program is subject to the annual and aggregate lifetime limits set out in 34 C.F.R. 682.204.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.145. Loan disbursement and refund.	The regulation states that loans will be disbursed in accordance with 34 C.F.R. 668.22, 668.164, and 682.207.	Repeal

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 15.171. Purpose of the AlaskAdvantage consolidation loan program.	This regulation provides the purpose of the AlaskAdvantage consolidation loan program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.174. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation describes the applicant eligibility requirements for the loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.177. Application procedure.	The regulation outlines the procedural requirements for applying for an AlaskAdvantage consolidation loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.180. Priority ranking of applicants.	The regulation outlines how loans will be awarded.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.183. Computation of authorized loan amounts.	The regulation outlines what is included in the total loan award and the minimum authorized loan amount.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.186. Effect of consolidation on eligible loans.	The regulation states that a promissory note for an eligible loan is void once it is fully paid and consolidated, and commission staff will promptly return the canceled promissory notes to the borrower after the consolidation loan is originated.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.189. Loan fees, interest, and interest capitalization. Section (c).	This section states that the interest on the loan will be set by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation under 20 AAC 14.050.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.199. Definitions.	This regulation includes specific definitions applicable to the AlaskAdvantage consolidation program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.200. Purpose of teacher education loan program.	This regulation provides the purpose of the Teacher Education Loan Program.	Amend
20 AAC 15.205. Administration.	This regulation covers the administrative process for distributing nomination and application forms each year.	Amend
20 AAC 15.210. Filing of application.	This regulation outlines the application process and distribution of loan proceeds.	Amend
20 AAC 15.215. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation describes the applicant eligibility requirements for the loan.	Amend
20 AAC 15.220. Priority ranking of applicants.	The regulation describes how loans will be awarded if available funds are insufficient to fund all eligible applicants.	Amend
20 AAC 15.230. Condition of loans.	The regulation outlines how the loan may be used.	Amend
20 AAC 15.250. Forgiveness benefits. Section (d).	This section describes applicant eligibility for forgiveness benefits under former AS 14.43.120, which is no longer available.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.540. Duties of student recipient. Section (a).	The regulation describes the student's responsibility to sign the promissory note for the Alaska Family Education Loan program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.705. Applicant eligibility. Section (a)(4).	This section describes eligibility under the AlaskAdvantage loan program, which is no longer available.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.710. Institutional eligibility.	This regulation points to institutional eligibility under 20 AAC 15.922.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.715. Application procedure requirements. Section (g).	This section describes the signature requirements for an endorser on the promissory note.	Amend
20 AAC 15.755. Loan forbearance.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.966.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.760. Medical cancellations.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.920.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.765. Delinquency and default.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.970.	Repeal

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 15.770. Complaints and appeals.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.915.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.775. Loan audit and institutional sanctions.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.924.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.780. Default rates of students who attend an institution.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.925.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.785. Default rate reduction requirements for institutions.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.925.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.790. Involuntary collection on the supplemental education loan.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.970. and 20 AAC 15.972	Repeal
20 AAC 15.795. Definitions. Section (2).	This section defines ASELP, which is no longer needed.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.945. Conditions and limitations of loans. Section (g).	This section of the regulation outlines how the interest rate on a Teacher Education Loan is set.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.960. Repayment of loans. Sections (c) and (e)(3).	These sections outline how payments on a delinquent loan are applied.	Amend
20 AAC 15.970. Delinquency and default. Sections (e)(4), (e)(5)(A), and (g).	These sections of the regulation outlines how to calculate an institution's default rates under AS 14.43.120(d) and AS 14.43.172(C).	Amend
20 AAC 16.005. Purpose of the Alaska education grant program. Sections (a)(2) and (a)(5).	This section states that the Alaska Education Grant Program provides higher education grants to residents of this state who demonstrate financial need based on FAFSA data.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.010. Applicant eligibility.	This section outlines the requirements a student must meet to be eligible for the Alaska Education Grant Program.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.015. Application priority.	This section outlines how Alaska Education Grant applications are prioritized and awarded.	Amend
20 AAC 16.021. Institution eligibility and responsibilities. Section (a)(3).	This section outlines institutional eligibility and responsibilities.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.030. Application procedure.	This regulation covers the application procedure, which is currently the FAFSA.	Amend
20 AAC 16.034. Priority ranking of applicants. Sections (a) and (b).	This regulation outlines how the agency prioritizes applications.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.037. Computation of financial need and authorized grant amounts. Section (a), (e), and (g).	This regulation outlines how grants are determined and how award amounts are calculated.	Amend
20 AAC 16.050. Complaints and appeals.	This regulation covers complaints and appeals, as outlined in 20 AAC 15.915.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.205. Purpose of Alaska performance scholarship program.	This regulation outlines the purpose of the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.	Amend
20 AAC 16.215. Application procedure. Sections (a), (b), and (c).	This regulation outlines the application process for the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.	Amend
20 AAC 16.225. Award disbursement and refund. Sections (d) and (e).	This regulation outlines the disbursement and refunds of the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.	Repeal

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 17.015. Exemptions. Sections (b), (d), and (f).	This regulation establishes which programs and institutions are not subject to full regulatory oversight. It balances regulatory efficiency with consumer protection.	Amend
20 AAC 17.016. Participation in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements. Sections (a)(2)(A) and (d).	This regulation facilitates interstate delivery of postsecondary distance education, enabling Alaska institutions to participate in the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (W-SARA), allowing out-of-state institutions to serve Alaska students under W-SARA, and providing a clear framework for approvals, compliance, and complaint resolution.	Amend
20 AAC 17.018. Appeal process. Section (a).	This regulation provides a structured, fair process for challenging administrative decisions, including reconsideration by the executive director and, if needed, a formal administrative hearing, while maintaining an applicant's operational status during the appeal.	Amend
20 AAC 17.040. Status changes. Sections (a), (b), (c), and (f).	This regulation ensures that any material changes to an institution's programs, delivery, tuition, location, or ownership are transparently communicated and approved by the commission, maintaining regulatory compliance and safeguarding students.	Amend
20 AAC 17.045. Bonding requirements. Sections (b) and (e).	This regulation ensures that postsecondary institutions and agents maintain financial security to protect students from financial loss, establishes the method for calculating bond amounts, provides exemptions for employees, and allows alternative bonding mechanisms approved by the commission.	Amend
20 AAC 17.055. Fees. Sections (a) and (b).	This regulation provides a structured fee schedule for institutions and agents, covering applications, renewals, amendments, exemptions, and late submissions, supporting the commission's ability to regulate postsecondary education effectively.	Amend
20 AAC 17.060. General operating standards. Sections (c), (d), (e), and (f).	This regulation sets foundational academic, operational, admission, and safety standards for postsecondary institutions, ensuring programs are legitimate, compliant, and capable of delivering meaningful student outcomes.	Amend
20 AAC 17.065. Institutional and course names.	This regulation ensures that institution and course names accurately reflect the nature, level, and purpose of the education provided, protecting students and the public from misrepresentation, while providing limited exceptions for religious and Alaska Native institutions.	Repeal and Re-adopt
20 AAC 17.070. Advertisement and solicitation. Sections (d) and (k).	This regulation protects students by requiring accurate, transparent, and verifiable advertising, ensuring institutions do not mislead about programs, costs, accreditation, placement, or professional outcomes.	Repeal
20 AAC 17.075. Catalog.	This regulation ensures that the catalog functions as a comprehensive disclosure document, providing students with all necessary information about the institution, programs, costs, policies, and outcomes so they can make informed enrollment decisions.	Amend
20 AAC 17.085. Enrollment contract. Section (g).	This regulation ensures enrollment contracts are clear, fair, and legally enforceable; protects student rights; accurately reflects program costs and schedules; and requires proper documentation of changes and student identity.	Repeal

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 17.102. Financial soundness.	This regulation requires institutions to prove financial stability through audited or reviewed financial statements, with extra safeguards for financially unsound institutions, including bonds, teach-out plans, and annual reviews. Smaller institutions may submit unaudited statements with certain standards.	Repeal and Re-adopt
20 AAC 17.110. Records. Sections (b)(5), (c), and (d).	This regulation requires institutions to maintain detailed, accurate, and accessible records covering student demographics, academics, attendance, finances, and compliance. Permanent retention applies to transcripts, while other records must be kept for at least five years.	Amend
20 AAC 17.115. Tuition and refund policy. Sections (j) and (k).	This regulation establishes clear standards for fair tuition practices, a cooling-off period, proportional refunds based on attendance, and clear trust/accounting requirements for unearned tuition, with special standards for collegiate programs.	Repeal
20 AAC 17.117. Closure of institution or cessation or change of program. Section (g).	This regulation ensures students are notified in a timely manner, refunded fairly, and offered substantially equivalent alternatives if their program or institution closes. It also establishes strict penalties for noncompliance and mandates disclosure of financial unsoundness.	Repeal
20 AAC 17.125. Revocation, suspension, conditioning, or refusal of authorization.	The Commission can take action against an institution's authorization whenever it fails to comply with legal requirements, misrepresents information, or breaks its own promises in the application process. This key enforcement tool helps ensure institutions operate ethically and comply with state law.	Amend
20 AAC 17.140. Exceptions to complaints accepted. Sections (b) and (d).	This regulation specifies situations in which the Commission will not take action on a complaint, even if it is filed. It ensures the Commission focuses on timely, actionable complaints and avoids duplication with legal proceedings.	Amend
20 AAC 17.145. Complaint investigation process. Section (a).	This section outlines how the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education investigates formal complaints against postsecondary institutions, from initial analysis through potential hearings. The process moves from analysis → mediation → formal investigation → report → reconsideration → hearing, ensuring procedural fairness while prioritizing voluntary resolution when possible.	Amend
20 AAC 17.205. Use of terms university or college. Section (b).	This section governs the use of the term "university" and "college" by postsecondary institutions in Alaska, ensuring that only properly accredited and authorized institutions may use these designations.	Repeal
20 AAC 17.240. Institutional assessment.	This regulation ensures that institutions offering degree programs have a formal system for evaluating and demonstrating the effectiveness of their educational programs and support services.	Repeal and Re-adopt
20 AAC 17.250. Admission requirements.	This regulation ensures that students admitted to degree programs can succeed and that program standards are upheld.	Repeal and Re-adopt
20 AAC 17.900. Definitions.	This section clarifies the key terms used in the regulations governing postsecondary institutions in Alaska.	Amend

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 18.007. Fields of study for which PSE loans are available. Section (3).	This section ensures that PSE loans are offered only for out-of-state professional programs that are hard for Alaskans to access, meet Alaska's workforce needs, and lead to careers that provide sufficient income to repay the loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 18.020. Certification eligibility. Sections (b) and (c).	This regulation ensures that Professional Student Exchange program participants are Alaska residents, meet school admission and loan eligibility standards, and maintain communication with their school regarding certification status.	Repeal
20 AAC 18.030. Application procedure. Sections (b), (c), (d), and (i).	These sections set the rules for submitting and processing PSE applications, including deadlines, required signatures, admission documentation, consent for record transfer, handling of continuing students, verification of information, and reporting changes to ensure accurate certification and loan administration.	Repeal
20 AAC 18.040. Certification procedure. Section (c).	This section establishes the timeline and process for notifying WICHE and applicants of certification, ensuring that eligible students are confirmed and alternates are considered based on available funding.	Amend
20 AAC 19.020. Application requirements. Section (a)(2).	This regulation requires applicants to be admitted to the University of Washington School of Medicine, meet state eligibility criteria, and agree to repay state support if they do not meet program obligations.	Repeal
20 AAC 19.030. Eligibility requirement.	This regulation ensures WWAMI participants have a strong connection to Alaska through prior residency and maintain the intent to return, while allowing limited absences for study, military service, the Peace Corps, or relevant work experience.	Amend
20 AAC 19.090. Complaints and appeals. Section (a).	This regulation limits complaints and appeals to issues with the commission's administration of WWAMI and excludes matters related to the University of Washington School of Medicine's admissions or internal administration.	Repeal
20 AAC 19.900. Definitions. Sections (1), (2, and (4).	These sections clarify terminology for Chapter 19.	Repeal

New Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 16.300. Purpose.	The regulation describes the purpose of the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.310. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation establishes applicant eligibility criteria.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.320. Loan eligibility.	The regulation establishes the criteria a student loan must meet to qualify for repayment assistance.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.330. Applicant procedure and annual verification.	The regulation describes the initial application process and the annual verification process for continued participation.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.340. Computation of grant awards.	The regulation describes how grant awards are calculated and	New – Increases baseline requirements

	proportionally reduced when funding is insufficient.	
20 AAC 16.350. Verification of contract completion.	The regulation establishes how the Department verifies completion of a participant's contract term.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.360. Grant disbursement	The regulation describes how grant funds are disbursed to an eligible student loan holder on behalf of a participant.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.370. Complaints and appeals	The regulation identifies the process governing complaints and appeals.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.390. Definitions	The regulation defines terms used in the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program regulations.	New – Increases baseline requirements

2027 PROJECTED REFORM PLAN

ACPE has completed a comprehensive, section-by-section review of its regulatory chapters and has identified for repeal or amendment all requirements that can reasonably be eliminated without impairing statutory mandates, program integrity, consumer protections, or clear and consistent administration. ACPE's existing regulatory framework is already narrowly tailored, and it has incorporated previously identified unnecessary or outdated burdens into the agency's 2026 Regulatory Reduction Plan. Subsequent legal guidance requires ACPE to retain certain provisions previously proposed for repeal. At the same time, implementation of the newly established Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program will add an estimated 10 regulatory requirements.

After this exhaustive review, ACPE has not identified additional regulatory requirements it can responsibly eliminate through rulemaking in 2027. Accordingly, ACPE will focus its remaining AO 360 reduction efforts on reviewing, consolidating, simplifying, and eliminating obsolete or duplicative guidance documents to reduce administrative burden further and advance the overall reduction target.

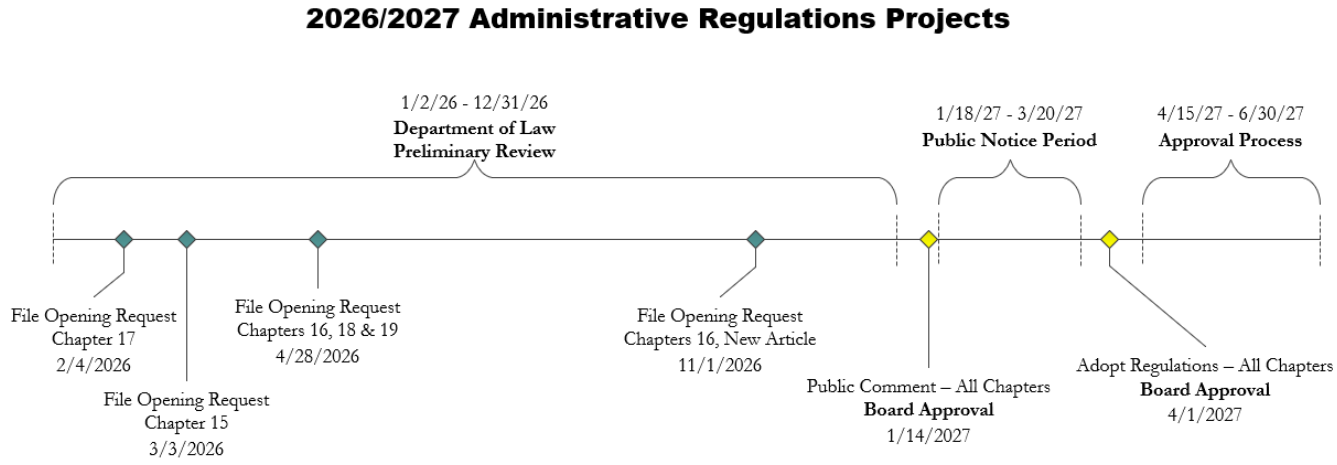
REGULATORY TIMELINE

ACPE's regulatory timeline has been updated to reflect actions completed since approval of the original plan and the remaining actions anticipated under this amended plan. The regulatory revisions originally identified for 2026 were organized into three projects for submission to the Department of Law for preliminary review. The updated timeline identifies the current status and remaining milestones for those projects. It also includes the anticipated development of a separate regulatory project to implement the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program, subject to approval of this amended plan by the Commission and the Department of Law. ACPE staff will continue drafting the proposed regulations and will coordinate with the Department of Law throughout the review and adoption process.

ACPE does not anticipate requesting drafting assistance from the Department of Law.

REGULATORY PROJECTS

- Chapter 17 Revisions – Submitted February 4, 2026
- Chapter 15 Revisions – Submitted March 3, 2026
- Chapters 16, 18, and 19 Revisions – Submitted April 28, 2026
- Chapter 16, new Teacher's Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program – To be submitted November 2026.



In closing, this report documents the actions taken and timelines established in response to Administrative Order 360 for 2026/2027. ACPE has not requested or been granted an extension of time for any regulatory reform deadline. ACPE remains committed to timely implementation and continued transparency as this work proceeds.

BOARD APPROVAL

The Commission approved ACPE's proposed regulatory reform plan during its January 15, 2026 meeting. The Commission presented the first amendment for approval at its April 2, 2026 meeting. The Commission will present the second amendment and proposed plan for 2027 at its October 15, 2026 meeting.

The Commission will submit certification of its action separately.