

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education & Early Development**

January 25, 2023

From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner

Agenda Item: 7

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on regulations related to the Alaska Reads Act.

◆ BACKGROUND

- The proposed regulations are in response to the passage of House Bill (HB) 114, Education: Schools; Funding; Programs, also known as the Alaska Reads Act, that became law on July 15, 2022 (Chapter 40, SLA 2022). The effective date of this new law is July 1, 2023.
- The Alaska Reads Act created four new programs in the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED): an early education grant program; a department reading program; a district reading improvement program; and a virtual education consortium.
- The proposed regulations included in the board packet address three of the four programs (an early education grant program; a department reading program; and a district reading improvement program), as well as amendments to teacher certification regulations tied to the Alaska Reads Act.
- The proposed regulations for the virtual education consortium, created under AS 14.30.800, will be presented at a future board meeting.
- A summary of the proposed regulations, along with the proposed regulations and Alaska Early Education Program Standards, can be found behind Agenda Item 3.
- Susan McKenzie, Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Education & Certification; and Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General, will be present to brief the board.

◆ OPTIONS

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation.

Amend the proposed regulation and open a period of public comment.

Seek more information.

◆ ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation changes.

◆ SUGGESTED MOTION

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on regulation changes to implement House Bill 114, including:

- adding new regulations 4 AAC 06.300 through 4 AAC 06.390 to implement a department reading program;
- adding new regulations 4 AAC 06.400 through 4 AAC 06.490 to implement a district reading improvement program;
- amending teacher certification regulations 4 AAC 12.300(g), 4 AAC 12.305, 4 AAC 12.310, 4 AAC 12.345, 4 AAC 12.407 and 4 AAC 12.900(a), adding new sections to teacher certification regulations 4 AAC 12.310, 4 AAC 12.392, 4 AAC 12.393, 4 AAC 12.409 and repealing 4 AAC 12.900(b) to address teacher certification requirements; and,
- adding new regulations 4 AAC 05.100, 4 AAC 60.190 through 4 AAC 60.990, adopting by reference *State of Alaska Early Learning Guidelines*, and repealing 4 AAC 60.037 and 4 AAC 60.180 to implement an early education grant program.