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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Board Releases Proposed Standards for Public Comment

JUNEAU-- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting Dec. 15-16 in Anchorage, has sent out for public comment proposed new standards in English language arts and mathematics. The standards would apply to public school students from kindergarten through high school.

"I am confident that these standards will prepare our students to be college ready and career ready," said Alaska Education Commissioner Mike Hanley. "The standards set high expectations for students and for their futures. In aiming for these higher goals, districts and schools will continue to choose the best routes and strategies to meet students' needs and connect them to their learning. I look forward to seeing best practices modeled in a variety of strategies, from immersion programs to theme-based approaches to traditional models."

The State Board set an extended period of public comment, during which time the Department of Education & Early Development will widely publicize the standards and invite comments, including from parents, students, employers, postsecondary institutions, Native corporations, and the military, among other stakeholders in public education. Beginning later this week, public comment will be accepted through May 12, 2012, at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/regs/>.

Additionally, at the Dec. 15-16 meeting the State Board approved new regulations that:

- Created limited teacher certificates, valid for one year, in career or technical education; and set the criteria for applicants, for the department's approval of such certificates and for renewal of such certificates; and
- Set the courses that will be required – effective for the high school graduating Class of 2015 and thereafter -- for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, and created a method for school districts to submit other courses for approval.

The State Board also sent out for public comment proposed regulations that:



- Would clarify regulations by which the Commissioner of Education accepts the education-preparation program attended by an applicant for an Alaska educator's certificate; and
- Would adopt new national minimum standards for school buses.

The State Board appointed Madison Manning, a student at Meshik School in the Lake & Peninsula School District, as the student advisor-elect. Ms. Manning's term on the State Board as student advisor will run from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013.

The State Board appointed Chris Houlette of Fairbanks and Erica Hill of Juneau to serve three-year terms on the State Museum Collections and Advisory Committee of the Alaska State Museums.

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