

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

January 22, 2026

From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 2

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to consider Resolution 01-2026 reaffirming Alaska's Education Challenge and the five strategic priorities that guide statewide improvement efforts.

◆ BACKGROUND

- Alaska's Education Challenge (AEC) was first established in 2017 through a statewide effort to improve educational outcomes for every student.
- The AEC priorities were informed by broad public involvement across Alaska, including participation from over one hundred communities.
- In March 2025, the Board requested that the Department conduct a comprehensive review of the Education Challenge. That review was completed through the work of each Board standing committee.
- The review confirmed progress across all five strategic priorities, including improvements in early literacy, expansion of career and technical education, stronger tribal partnerships, continued efforts to stabilize the educator workforce, and support for student safety and well-being.
- Resolution 01-2026 reaffirms the five strategic priorities and directs the Department to develop a strategic plan grounded in these priorities.
- Member Kathryn McCollum will present the resolution during the work session.

◆ OPTIONS

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 10.