

**RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND EARLY
DEVELOPMENT**

in support of reaffirming Alaska's Education Challenge

Resolution 01-2026

WHEREAS, the Alaska Education Challenge (AEC) was established in 2017 through a statewide effort to improve outcomes for every student every day; and

WHEREAS, development of the AEC included broad engagement from Alaskans, including nearly 1,400 participants from 109 communities who contributed more than 18,000 ideas, followed by nearly 100 Alaskans who refined those ideas into actionable strategies; and

WHEREAS, the AEC established five long-term strategic priorities to guide statewide improvement:

- (1) support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade;
- (2) increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs;
- (3) close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources;
- (4) prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals; and
- (5) improve the safety and well-being of students through partnerships with families, communities, and tribes; and

WHEREAS, in March 2025 the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development (SBOE) directed the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to conduct a comprehensive review of the AEC, which was completed through the work of each SBOE standing committee; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 AEC Review identified progress across all priority areas, including expansion of early literacy implementation, increased access to career and technical education, strengthened tribal partnerships, efforts to develop and stabilize the educator workforce, and ongoing investments in student safety and well-being; and

WHEREAS, despite this progress, continued effort is required to ensure every student reads proficiently, graduates prepared, and is supported by a strong, stable educator workforce; and

WHEREAS, the SBOE recognizes maintaining commitment to the AEC's five strategic priorities strengthens alignment, accountability, and long-term progress across the state's education system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the SBOE acknowledges the contributions of thousands of Alaskans who participated in the creation and review of the AEC and recognizes their continued role in advancing educational excellence for every student every day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the SBOE reaffirms the five strategic priorities of the AEC as the framework for continued statewide improvement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the SBOE supports and directs DEED to develop a strategic plan grounded in the five strategic priorities of the AEC, including the development of specific, measurable goals through the SBOE standing committees, to guide strategic direction, strengthen accountability, and align fiscal and human resources within the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED following development of draft strategic goals, the SBOE will open a public comment period to gather feedback from stakeholders across the state prior to final adoption of the strategic plan.

ADOPTED by the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development, at the regular open public meeting held the 22 day of January 2026.

ATTEST: Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development

Sally Stockhausen, Chair