

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

July 1, 2025

From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 5

◆ ISSUE

Teacher Certification will provide an update on the implementation of Alaska's Teacher Retention and Recruitment Playbook, specifically Section B 6.1, modernization of the certification process.

◆ BACKGROUND

- Teacher Retention and Recruitment work to attract and retain talent in Alaska schools started in 2020. The TRR Playbook focuses on how to expand the good work, align the various components of the system, support communication and collaboration across stakeholder groups, and take action on practical, professional, and policy solutions. Section B 6.1, modernization of the certification process.
- The formal certification process was established upon statehood (1959). Paper-based applications were used from 1959 to 2024. DEED started the transition to TEACH-AK, an online application platform, in 2023 and has operated paperless since June 1st, 2024.
- Over the past year, the Teacher Certification Office has focused on streamlining systems to better serve both districts and applicants. Through the launch of TEACH-AK and the District Communication Hub, we have significantly enhanced the efficiency of application review and processing. DEED is committed to continuing the work to improve internal operating systems in response to district and applicant feedback.

◆ OPTIONS

No action needed.