



# Office of Education Advocacy

**To:** Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development  
**From:** Paul Reid, Project Coordinator  
**Date:** June 4, 2026  
**Item:** 13F

## Standing General Report

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### Mission of the Office of Education Advocacy

The Office of Education Advocacy (OEA) exists to empower Alaska's educational stakeholders through a centralized hub of resources and support. Its mission is to provide clear, accessible information; assist stakeholders in navigating the education system; and serve as a resource for parents, students, educators, community members, and elected officials. By acting as both an advocate and a connector, the OEA helps ensure that families and educational partners have the tools they need to address concerns, make informed decisions, and uphold the educational rights of students across the state.

### Progress Update

Under the leadership of Project Coordinator Paul Reid, the Office of Education Advocacy has continued to advance its foundational work.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engagement increased during the final quarter of the school year. While the OEA homepage remains a primary resource, stakeholders are also seeking assistance through inquiries routed from the Commissioner's Office, the Governor's Office, the Department's general email, and Department phone lines. Growing numbers are also reaching out through word of mouth and direct access to the OEA website.
- **MEHS Improvement Ad Hoc Committee Development:** OEA is leading the development of an Ad Hoc Committee focused on improvement efforts for Mt. Edgecumbe High School. To support this work, Mr. Reid traveled to Sitka April 20–24 to visit both the academic and residential campuses, meeting with students and staff. This visit strengthened the committee's foundation by deepening understanding of MEHS's unique culture and its importance to more than 100 communities across Alaska.
- **MEHS Administration Hiring Committees (FY27):** Mr. Reid participated in the hiring committees for both the residential principal and academic principal positions. These committees were dedicated to identifying strong, effective leaders for the upcoming school year.
- **Consultation with Department of Health on Rural Health Transformation Program:** Mr. Reid serves as the department's liaison to the Department of Health for the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), which includes exploring the reintroduction of Presidential Physical Fitness testing in Alaska schools. Drawing on his background as a physical education

teacher, he provides expertise in fitness assessment and program design. The multi-year initiative begins with statewide needs assessments to identify current practices, resource gaps, and supports needed for implementation in the 2027–28 school year.

- **Direct Support and Consultation:** OEA continues to provide guidance to a wide range of stakeholders, including educators, charter school Academic Policy Committee boards, and families navigating the education system. Through resource sharing, consultation, and clear interpretation of state statutes and regulations, Mr. Reid supports stakeholders in understanding their rights, responsibilities, and available pathways.
- **Network Building:** Ongoing work is focused on strengthening relationships across the education community to expand awareness of OEA services. Internal collaboration with the Department’s subject matter experts remains essential to ensuring the accuracy and reliability of information shared with stakeholders.
- **Building Community Trust:** Stakeholder outreach continues to be met with appreciation and aligns directly with OEA’s mission to support and equip stakeholders statewide in addressing local concerns.