



Cover Memo

To: Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development
From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner
Date: June 4, 2026
Item: 18

Issue

The board is being asked to release the draft Alaska's Education Challenge Strategic Plan SMART Goals for a period of public comment.

Background

- In September 2016, the State Board of Education established five strategic priorities to improve outcomes for Alaska students. In 2017, the Alaska Education Challenge was launched to support statewide collaboration and improvement efforts aligned to those priorities.
- In January 2026, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to the Alaska Education Challenge and directed the Department of Education and Early Development to develop a strategic plan grounded in the board's priorities and focused on measurable outcomes.
- The draft strategic plan establishes a series of three-year SMART goals aligned to the Board's five strategic priorities, including Early Literacy, Career and Technical Education, Closing the Achievement Gap, Educator Workforce Development, and Student Safety and Well-Being.
- The draft plan includes statewide performance data, supporting context, and proposed outcome measures intended to guide future department work and statewide improvement efforts.
- The proposed public comment period is intended to provide educators, families, community members, tribal partners, and stakeholders across Alaska the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft plan prior to final consideration and adoption by the board.
- Behind this cover memo is the draft Alaska's Education Challenge Strategic Plan SMART Goals document. Commissioner Deena Bishop and State Board of Education members serving as committee leads will present the strategic plan priorities and proposed SMART goals to the Board.
 - Member Kathryn McCollum: Strategic Priority 1 - Support ALL students to read at grade level by the end of third grade
 - Military Advisor Lt. Col. James Fowley: Strategic Priority 2 - Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs
 - Member Pamela Dupras: Strategic Priority 3 - Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources
 - Vice Chair James Fields: Strategic Priority 4 - Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals
 - Member Barbara Tyndall: Strategic Priority 5 - Support all students to have a safe and healthy learning environment

Options

Release the draft strategic plan for public comment.
Amend the draft strategic plan prior to release for public comment.
Seek additional information.

Administration's Recommendation

Release the draft Alaska's Education Challenge Strategic Plan SMART Goals for public comment.

Suggested Motion

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development release the draft Alaska's Education Challenge Strategic Plan SMART Goals for a period of public comment.