

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

**March 10, 2026**

**From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 6**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The Board is being asked to consider and take action on the Initial Application for the Pearl Creek STEAM Charter School for a proposed five-year term ending June 30, 2031.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- On November 4, 2025, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Board voted to deny the Pearl Creek STEAM Charter School initial application.
- On November 11, 2025, the applicant submitted a formal appeal to the Commissioner.
- On January 29, 2026, the Commissioner's designee issued a written decision approving the application.
- Pursuant to AS 14.03.250(e), when a charter school application is approved on appeal, the application and record must be forwarded to the State Board of Education and Early Development (SBOE) not later than 30 days of issuing a written decision.
- The complete record and written decision were transmitted to the SBOE on February 13, 2026.
- Pursuant to 4 AAC 33.110(21)(i), once a charter school application approved on appeal is forwarded to the SBOE, the Board will consider the application at its next meeting.

**◆ OPTIONS**

This is an information item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 18