



Cover Memo

To: Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development
From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner
Date: October 14, 2026
Item: 16.0

Issue

The board is being asked to review the Department's evaluation of the OCEANS Academy charter school application submitted by the Anchorage School District and the Department's recommendation for conditional approval.

Background

- The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development reviewed the OCEANS Academy charter school application for compliance with applicable statutory, regulatory, educational, operational, and fiscal requirements.
- Overall, the Department determined that the application provides a sufficient educational and operational framework to support approval. The application addresses governance, admissions, curriculum, student supports, services for students with disabilities and English learners, staffing, and other required program elements. OCEANS Charter Review Summary
- The Department identified several areas requiring additional clarification or planning prior to implementation, primarily related to fiscal sustainability, enrollment projections, facilities, and food service.
 - The proposed budget identifies \$1,305,469 in total revenue but does not clearly identify the underlying revenue sources or applicable indirect costs.
 - School Finance calculated approximately \$1,179,049 in Basic Need and Quality Schools funding at 100 ADM, leaving more than \$125,000 in projected revenue that cannot presently be verified.
 - Enrollment is proposed to begin at a minimum of 75 students and grow over time; approximately 150 ADM may be needed by the fourth year to maintain current formula funding levels.
 - Additional information is needed regarding facility capacity as enrollment grows and how food service will be provided. OCEANS Charter Review Summary
- The Department review team recommends conditional approval, with the Anchorage School District and OCEANS Academy required to:
 - provide a revised financial plan identifying all revenue sources and applicable indirect costs;

- demonstrate a balanced budget based on reasonable enrollment assumptions;
 - identify a contingency plan if enrollment does not reach projected levels;
 - clarify facility capacity and plans for future enrollment growth; and
 - provide additional information regarding food-service arrangements. OCEANS Charter Review Summary
- Department staff will be present to brief the board and respond to questions.
- Behind this cover memo are the complete application and the DEED review summary.
 - The DEED Team review included issues that may require attention (items 1 through 5 in the DEED Summary) prior to approval or conditional approval.
- **Beth Busk/Robyn Harris, Founder/District Representative**, will be present to respond to questions from the board.

Options

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 19.