



Cover Memo

To: Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development
From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner
Date: October 14, 2026
Item: 19

Issue

The board is being asked to approve the OCEANS Academy charter school application submitted by the Anchorage School District, subject to conditions identified through the Department's review.

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.
- 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.
- The Department recommends that approval be conditioned upon the Anchorage School District and OCEANS Academy:
 - providing a revised financial plan identifying all revenue sources and indirect costs;
 - demonstrating a balanced budget based on reasonable enrollment assumptions;
 - identifying a contingency plan if enrollment does not reach projected levels;
 - clarifying facility capacity and plans for accommodating future enrollment growth; and
 - providing additional information regarding food-service arrangements.
- Behind this cover memo are the OCEANS Academy charter school application, Department rating template, and Department review summary.
- **Beth Busk/Robyn Harris, Founder/District Rep** Academy will be present to brief the board and respond to questions.

Options

Approve the application.

Conditionally approve the application (addressing Items identified in the Review Summary 1-5).

Reject the application.

Seek more information.

Administration's Recommendation

Conditional Approval is recommended.

Suggested Motion

After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early Development to adopt the proposed application for the OCEANS Academy charter school with the Anchorage School District for a period of **5** years.