

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

September 17, 2020

From: Michael Johnson, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 4E

◆ ISSUE

The State Board of Education & Early Development is asked to adopt proposed regulation changes to Article 4's "High School Graduation Requirements" by adding a new regulation entitled "High school credit for Alaska Army National Guard military training," 4 AAC 06.077. This proposal makes military training with the Alaska Army National Guard, for high school credit, available to all eligible third and fourth year high school students in Alaska.

◆ BACKGROUND

- This proposed regulation requires all school districts to allow eligible third and fourth year students to participate in the Alaska Army National Guard's Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training courses (AIT), beginning the summer after their third year of high school.
- The regulation requires school districts to award a health/physical education credit and/or an elective credit (e.g., CTE) for successful completion of BCT and/or AIT.
- School districts must use the same hourly calculation to award credit for military training that they use for other courses of study.
- The proposed regulation is necessary to ensure all school districts provide their eligible third and fourth year high school students access to this opportunity, and that each school district awards credit for successful completion of BCT or AIT training on an equitable basis.
- This regulation would: (i) help ensure secondary students have access to approximately 45 CTE/vocational courses through AIT training; (ii) augment the state's efforts in workforce development; (iii) provide paid employment to students for their participation in training; (iv) provide additional college funding options for students (e.g., Montgomery GI bill, tuition assistance programs, etc.); (v) provide high school credit for successful completion of training; (vi) create alternative career pathways for students who choose not to attend college; and (vii) provide unique, additional opportunities that are not easily available and accessible to students in our rural and remote areas. All of these benefits would be provided at no additional cost to the state.
- The proposed regulation and public comment received follow this cover memo.
- Assistant Commissioner Niki Tshibaka and Assistant Attorney General Susan Sonneborn will be present to brief the board.

◆ OPTIONS

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 8E.