



December 3, 2019

Dear Tribal Leaders and Education Partners:

Over a two-year period, Alaskans from across our great state -- including parents, students, educators, legislators, Tribal leaders, partner organizations, and local school boards -- worked hard to identify the various challenges we face in education and to creatively address those challenges in transformational ways. This effort has become known as *Alaska's Education Challenge*.

As part of this effort, a diverse group of nearly 100 Alaskans worked collaboratively in committees from April to October 2017 to develop recommendations to improve Alaska's education system. The Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development (board) established five committees to address five strategic priorities for improving public education for all students. One of those committees focused solely on the board's strategic priority to "inspire tribal and community ownership of educational excellence." The committee's recommendation to the board was to create the option for self-governance tribal compacting for the delivery of education.

The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is committed to working with Tribal governments and school districts to create an optional tribal compacting pathway and system for the delivery of public education across the state, and to achieving this objective through robust and innovative partnerships.

As the first peoples of this land, Alaska Native communities have developed remarkable, complex ways of living and knowing that train learners to meet life's challenges. We must address injustices and grievances in education by working to ensure every student has access to an equitable education that honors and celebrates these indigenous ways of knowing and living that enrich our entire state.

The state is committed to pursuing a compacting process that respectfully engages and honors Tribal governmental voices, educators, and school communities, as we work together to improve the educational outcomes of Alaska's greatest treasure – all of its children. Alaskans should not be satisfied until every student has the opportunity to receive an excellent education every day.

**As a next step, DEED will host an introductory telephonic meeting and two initial in-person meetings for interested Tribal governments and school districts. These meetings also will be open to the general public.**

**Information on these meetings is provided below:**

**Statewide Informational Teleconference Call (presentation only, this meeting will not take public comment):** Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Join by phone:**

1-650-479-3207 Call-in number (US/Canada)

Access code: 800 113 529

**In-Person Meetings:**

**Anchorage:** Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30pm

**Location:** Cook Inlet Native Head Start, 6901 E Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99507

**Join by phone:**

1-650-479-3207 Call-in number (US/Canada)

Access code: 800 113 529

**Fairbanks:** Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm-4:00pm

**Location:** Morris Thompson Cultural Visitor Center, 101 Dunkel St, Fairbanks, AK 99701

**Join by phone:**

1-650-479-3207 Call-in number (US/Canada)

Access code: 800 113 529

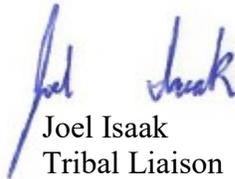
Additional telephonic and/or in-person meetings will take place in January 2020 and throughout the next legislative session, as we continue to seek your comments, input, and recommendations. You will receive emails with information about those meetings, when they are scheduled.

If you have any questions, please email Joel Isaak, DEED Tribal Liaison, at [joel.isaak@alaska.gov](mailto:joel.isaak@alaska.gov).

With respect and gratitude,



Niki Tshibaka  
Assistant Commissioner



Joel Isaak  
Tribal Liaison