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SEAL OF THE STATE
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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board Adopts Regulations

JUNEAU-- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting March 17-18 in Juneau, approved regulations related to career-ready assessments and to school districts' fund balances, and the board sent out for public comment regulations related to the Alaska Performance Scholarship, state museum fees, educator certification and student assessments.

In addition, board member Pat Shier, who was reappointed by Governor Parnell, was sworn in for a five-year term.

The State Board approved the following regulations:

- Set a five-month testing window for WorkKeys assessments that are administered electronically, and require the Commissioner of Education to set a two-week testing window each year for WorkKeys assessments administered with paper and pencil. Allow students in grade 12 to take the WorkKeys assessments, with the state paying the test vendor's fees for one attempt per school year.
- Include retirement incentive funds in a limitation related to school districts' year-end fund balances.

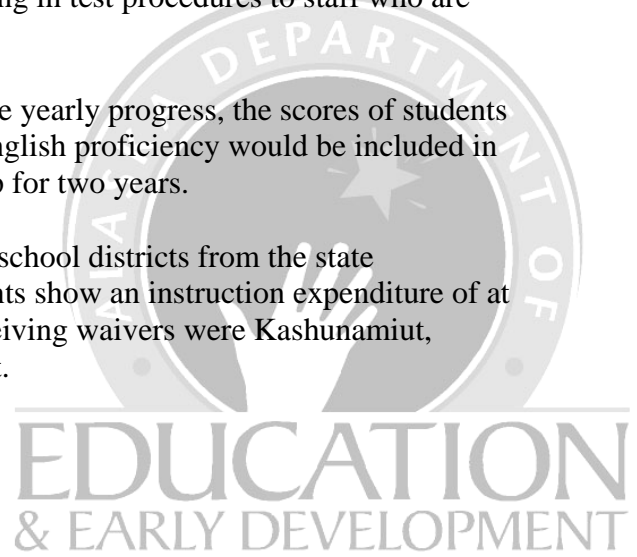
The State Board sent out for public comment the following proposed regulations:

- Allow eligible students to receive an Alaska Performance Scholarship during a one-year grace period in which they attempt to complete the scholarship's curricular requirements. Allow school districts to receive state funding for courses taken by students who have a grace period to complete the scholarship's curricular requirements.
- Allow the Alaska State Museum in Juneau to increase its summer admission fee to \$7 and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka to increase its summer admission fee to \$5.

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- Require that the credits needed to renew educators' certificates be related to their employment, endorsement area, or an endorsement they are seeking to acquire.
- Require that teachers receiving the Professional certificate have been employed for at least two years as a teacher while holding a valid certificate from a state.
- Require applicants for employment in a certificated position to disclose any prior employment in an Alaska public school.
- Require that blank forms used by districts to evaluate educators be online and otherwise available to the public.
- Allow an additional application for an Initial certificate if a teacher was unable to meet the two-year employment requirement or the content area exam requirements for Professional certification.
- Allow for the issuance of Provisional Type B, Type C or Type F certificates to educators who have not met the recency-credit requirement.
- Adopt the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards 2007 edition in preparation for transitioning to a new statewide English language proficiency assessment. WIDA refers to the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment Consortium, consisting of 27 states.
- Allow school districts to distribute student assessment results to teachers no later than the first day of the following school year.
- Require school districts to begin the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination between 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on testing days. Except in emergencies, districts would not allow students to leave during the first two hours of testing or enter test centers to start their tests after two hours of testing have elapsed.
- Require school districts to provide training in test procedures to staff who are involved in state-required testing.
- For the purposes of determining adequate yearly progress, the scores of students no longer identified as having limited English proficiency would be included in the limited English proficiency subgroup for two years.

The State Board also approved waivers for five school districts from the state requirement that their audited financial statements show an instruction expenditure of at least 70 percent of their operating budgets. Receiving waivers were Kashunamiut, Klawock, Yakutat, Yukon-Koyukuk, and Yupiit.



The State Board approved the Alaska Birth to Graduation Literacy Blueprint, the state's Capital Improvement Project lists, and a 10-year renewal of the charter for the Tongass School of Arts & Sciences Charter School in Ketchikan.

The board packet is at http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State_Board/pdf/11March_packet.pdf

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