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SEAL OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 9, 2013

State Board Adopted New Regulations

JUNEAU – The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting Dec. 5-6 in Anchorage, adopted regulations regarding early literacy screenings, residential schools, and recognition of high-achieving schools.

The early-literacy regulations provide school districts with more choices of literacy assessments and give districts more time to report results to the state.

The residential-school regulations align regulations with new state law to allow districts to operate district-wide residential schools and to operate residential schools that accept students for varied periods of time. The regulations also remove a limit on the number of residential schools the state may approve.

The school-recognition regulations clarify the required graduation rate for small schools to be named Reward Schools under the state's new accountability system.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations regarding the Uniform Chart of Accounts and Account Descriptions for Public School Districts. The regulations would comply with a new state law to provide oversight and support to districts in achieving safe and cost-effective student transportation.

The board approved a new teacher preparation program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The program offers a bachelor's degree program in secondary education. Candidates can obtain an initial teaching certificate with a secondary education endorsement (grades 7-12) in art, biology, chemistry, Earth science, economics, English, French, German, history, mathematics, political science, or Spanish.

Additionally, the board named Kobe Rizk from West Valley High School in Fairbanks as its student advisor-elect. The student advisor-elect becomes student advisor on July 1, 2014. The board named Christopher Houlette and Jeremy Kane to the Museum Collections Advisory Committee of the Alaska State Museums. For details, see http://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/14-DecemberPacket.pdf

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