

Mike Hanley
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
education.alaska.gov



Eric Fry
Information Officer
907.465.2851
cell: 907.321.5564
eric.fry@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 11, 2014

State Board Increases Math Requirements for Graduation

JUNEAU – The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting Dec. 4 and 5 in Anchorage, adopted eight regulations and sent out for public comment four proposed regulations.

The board adopted a regulation requiring public high school students to take three credits of math as a condition of graduation, starting with this year's freshman class. Currently, 47 of Alaska's 54 school districts require more than two credits of math, as do 42 other states.

Seven of the eight adopted regulations implement new state laws. The main features include:

Charter schools

- Requirements regarding pupil transportation.
- Appeals of a district's denial of a charter school application.

School accountability

- Reporting aggregate data, in the state's Report Card to the Public, about the student count and academic performance of students from families on active military duty.

Natural and cultural repositories

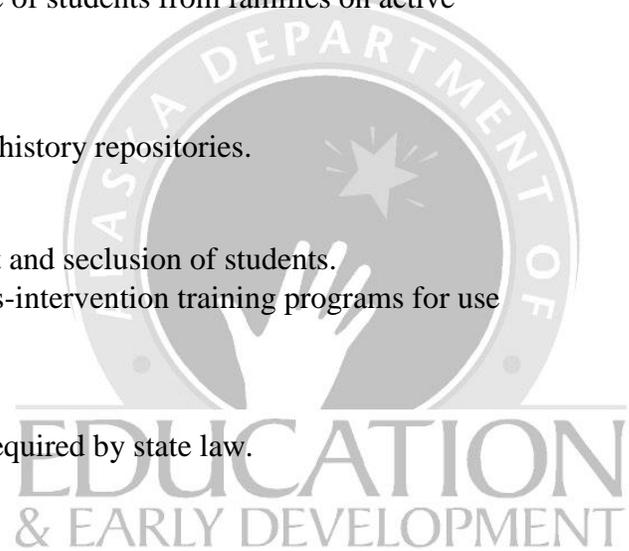
- State designation of natural and cultural history repositories.

Restraint and seclusion of students

- District procedures to report the restraint and seclusion of students.
- Criteria for department approval of crisis-intervention training programs for use by districts.

Residential schools

- Set the annual open application period required by state law.



- Allow a variable-term statewide residential program flexibility in choosing the day (of the official student count period) for which it reports enrollment for state funding purposes.

Correspondence study programs

- Implement a new state law regarding individual learning plans and student allotments.
- For students who are proficient or advanced in language arts and math, waive the requirement that students take at least half of their courses in core subjects.

Assessments

- Waiver from the state requirement to take a career-ready or college-ready assessment as a condition of graduating high school.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations regarding:

- Extending the eligibility period for an Alaska Performance Scholarship.
- Raising teacher certification fees to cover the cost of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission, per legislative intent.
- Clarifying certain assessment regulations for students with substantial cognitive difficulties.
- Providing for a limited administrator certificate with a superintendent endorsement.

The proposed regulations and an opportunity to comment on them will be available next week at <http://education.alaska.gov/regs> or Alaska Online Public Notices. The board will consider the proposed regulations at its March 19-20 meeting in Juneau.

The board named Alec Burris, a student at the Mat-Su Career and Technical High School, its student advisor-elect. Mr. Burris will become the student advisor on July 1, 2015.

The board approved a 10-year renewal of the charter for Birchtree Charter School in the Mat-Su Borough.

The meeting's packet is available at

http://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/14_december_packet.pdf

###

