



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEED Finalizes State Plan to Implement the Every Student Succeeds Act

JUNEAU -- The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has completed the final draft of the state plan to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA was signed into federal law on December 10, 2015, replacing the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

The final draft was submitted to the Governor's office for a 30-day review period before the submission deadline, as required in the law. States must submit plans to the U.S. Department of Education by Sept. 18, 2017, to show how they will implement ESSA.

Alaska's state plan for ESSA is informed by over a year's worth of stakeholder input and engagement. The elements of Alaska's state plan are designed to work within Alaska's unique context to improve our schools.

"Our goal is that ESSA will support and nourish our state's public education mission to provide an excellent education for every student every day," said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson.

To ensure that Alaska's state plan is aligned with what Alaskans value, DEED is seeking additional public comment on the final draft.

DEED will gather public comment on the final draft **through September 15, 2017**.

Similar to previous drafts, DEED has created a feedback form that addresses the plan's various sections. Members of the public may comment on the entire plan or only on the sections that interest them. DEED encourages the public to read the plan's section(s) before commenting. The plan, an executive summary, and feedback form are available at: <https://education.alaska.gov/akessa/#c3gtabs-stateplan>.

The final draft is available at: [Alaska's Final Draft Application for ESSA](#).

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