



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 19, 2017**

## **State Board Approves UAA Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Program**

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education and Early Development, meeting September 14-15 in Juneau, approved the UAA early childhood special education endorsement program, and adopted amendments to regulations related to minimum standards for school buses and use of funding for vocational education programs.

The board approved the UAA early childhood special education endorsement program, thereby allowing the endorsement to appear on Alaska teaching certificates.

The adopted regulations implement the most recent national safety standards for school buses in Alaska, and expand the definition of vocational education to include grades seven and eight, in addition to grades nine through twelve. The latter regulation allows school districts to use state and federal vocational education funds to support programs for students in grades seven through twelve.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations to expand the list of approved basic competency and content area exams to quality for teacher certification, with the goal of decreasing barriers for educators to gain Alaska certification.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations to update the participation guidelines for inclusion of students with disabilities and English learners in state assessments due to recent changes to the state assessment system and the method of assessment delivery.

The board approved the appointment of Paul Prussing as Director of Student Learning.

Lieutenant Colonel Spencer Van Meter was sworn in as the military advisor on the board.

The next board meeting will be on October 5 in Anchorage to discuss the recommendations of the Alaska's Education Challenge committees.

The packet for the September 14-15 meeting is available at [https://education.alaska.gov/State\\_Board/pdf/17-September-Packet.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/17-September-Packet.pdf).

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