



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 12, 2017**

## **Department Seeks Additional Comment on State Plan to Implement the Every Student Succeeds Act**

JUNEAU -- The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is seeking public comment on the second draft of the state plan to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the new federal education law.

States must submit plans to the U.S. Department of Education (US ED) by Sept. 18, 2017, to show how they will implement ESSA. The State Board of Education will review the state plan in special meetings on July 14 and August 1. The Governor's office will then have a 30-day review period before the submission deadline, as required in ESSA.

Alaska's second draft was shaped by guidance provided by the US ED and by over 4,000 stakeholder comments provided by nearly 1,000 stakeholders at more than 40 meetings and conferences conducted across the state over the last year. DEED also considered the feedback provided by stakeholders on the first draft. DEED is seeking additional public comment on the second draft to ensure that the plan takes full advantage of expanded state and local options and addresses the state's unique educational needs and priorities.

DEED will gather public comment on the second draft **through July 31, 2017**.

For the public's convenience, 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 on them. The plan and feedback form are available at:  
<https://education.alaska.gov/akessa/#c3gtabs-stateplan>.

"Many tribal groups, school districts, parents, teachers, and others have taken the time to be involved in the development of our plan for Alaska's students," said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson in a [video announcing the release of the second draft](#). "I hope you'll take the time to review the plan and offer your ideas."

The second draft is available at: [Alaska's 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Application for ESSA](#).

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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
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