



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 31, 2017**

## **State Board Approves New Fees for State Museums**

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education and Early Development, meeting March 27-29 in Juneau, approved higher admission fees for the state museums and set a fee structure to recover costs from groups that rent facilities at the new state museum/library/archives building in Juneau, the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations to repeal state-required physical examinations for school district employees; however, districts can require such exams if they wish. This will conform regulations to a new state statute.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations to repeal all references to college and career readiness assessments, which are no longer required by state statute.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations that would limit the department's supervision over pre-elementary schools to those that receive state or federal funding. The proposed regulations would conform to state statutes. The Department of Health and Social Services would supervise other privately funded child care programs serving children ages 3-5. All pre-elementary schools or programs will continue to receive inspections for health and safety and staff background checks.

The board approved a resolution supporting the University of Alaska's efforts to open up paths for its students to transfer credits from other Alaska institutions. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education has passed a similar resolution. The intent is to increase college graduation rates.

The board approved 10-year renewals of charters for Aurora Borealis Charter School and Fireweed Academy Charter School in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and for Soldotna Montessori Charter School in the Mat-Su Borough School District.

The board approved the appointment of Bob Williams as Director of Educator and School Excellence.

The board scheduled a special audio-conference meeting for 1 p.m. on July 13 to set the range of scores for each achievement level in the PEAKS statewide assessments in English language arts and math.

The March 27-29 meeting packet is available at [https://education.alaska.gov/State Board/pdf/17-March-Packet.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/17-March-Packet.pdf)

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