



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2018

Alaska's Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan Moving Through the Review Process

JUNEAU -- Alaska's plan for implementing the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has taken a step forward in the approval process.

On December 15, 2017, the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. ED) provided feedback based on its initial review of the plan submitted in September 2017. U.S. ED requires resubmission of state plans within 15 calendar days after feedback is provided.

The Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) requested an extension in order to ensure adequate time to review all feedback and provide the details requested to clarify the state's plan and proposed accountability system. On January 2, U.S. ED approved DEED's request for an extension. DEED anticipates resubmitting Alaska's plan by the end of February.

DEED also received peer review feedback on the Title 1, Part A; Title III, Part A and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act sections of the plan. Required by federal law, peer review is conducted by a panel of four reviewers, the majority of which have had recent practical experience in the classroom, school administration, or state/local education agencies. The goal of peer review is to support state- and local-led innovation by providing feedback on the technical, educational, and overall quality of the state's plan. Notes from peer reviewers are provided to states for consideration.

"We are pleased to have reached this milestone in the development of Alaska's ESSA plan," said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson. "The majority of the comments were requests for additional or clarifying information to ensure Alaska's plan has met the federal law."

ESSA provides states flexibility in how they meet the letter of the law. Alaska received similar types of feedback as other states; though, each state plan is different.

The plan builds off Alaska's ongoing commitment to ensuring an excellent education for every student every day. Alaska developed its plan over a year and a half with input from more than 4,000 stakeholders.

A copy of [Alaska’s plan](#) and the [initial feedback letter](#) are available on the [U.S. ED website](#), as are peer review reports related to [Title I, Part A](#); [Title III, Part A](#) and the [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#).

###

