

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner

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Department of Education
and Early Development

Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2019

**State Board Approves UAA Initial Educator Preparation Programs
for 2019 Spring and Summer Graduates**
UAF School of Education Approved Through 2024

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education and Early Development, meeting February 4 in Juneau, approved the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) initial educator preparation programs for graduates in Spring 2019 and Summer 2019 only. The board's decision allows the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to recognize UAA's recommendations for initial licensure for these graduates.

The board's approval motion recognized that UAA's initial educator preparation programs were accredited and approved through December 31, 2018. Teacher candidates completing their preparation program at UAA during the 2019 Spring and Summer terms have completed the majority of their education in an accredited and approved program. These graduates will be considered to have graduated from a State-approved program. Additionally, the board approved a recommended process presented by DEED to address UAA's path forward towards achieving accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

The board granted continued State approval of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) initial educator preparation programs through June 30, 2024. The UAF School of Education was granted accreditation status by CAEP on October 22, 2018.

The board sent out for public comment proposed amendments to regulations regarding the sub-interval scores on the Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) assessment for grade 9 math. The proposed amendments update the grade 9 math sub-interval scores that are used to calculate student growth within Alaska's new accountability system. The board previously adopted regulations amending the assessment achievement level scores on the grade 9 math PEAKS assessment, as the test was revised during the 2017-18 school year to emphasize Algebra 1 concepts.

The board also sent out for public comment proposed amendments to regulations regarding teacher certification. The proposed amendments add three basic competency exams to the list of approved exams in Alaska in an effort to continue decreasing barriers for educators prepared outside of Alaska to gain Alaska certification.

EDUCATION
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The board adopted amendments to regulations regarding school facility planning and construction and school facility commissioning. The school facility planning and construction amendments provide necessary updates, codify current work practices, propose improvements to the capital project administration process, and propose limits on funding. The school facility commissioning amendments add a new subsection and amend related sections to implement requirements for commissioning on certain school capital projects.

The board selected Abigail Mainard of Eagle River High School as its student-advisor elect. She will begin her term as student advisor on July 1, 2019.

The board approved the Commissioner's appointments of Karen Melin as Deputy Commissioner, Tamara Van Wyhe as Director of Educator and School Excellence, and Brittany Hartmann as Chief of Staff.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 28-29 in Juneau.

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