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Commissioner

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Department of Education  
and Early Development

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State Board Adopts Regulations to Allow Credits for Military Training**

JUNEAU – The State Board of Education and Early Development, meeting virtually September 16-17, adopted regulation changes to allow military training with the Alaska Army National Guard to count for high school credit and be available to all eligible high school students in Alaska. The regulation changes will require all school districts to allow eligible third and fourth year high school students to participate in the Alaska Army National Guard's Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training courses and be awarded a health/physical education credit and/or an elective credit upon successful completion. The regulation changes help augment the state's efforts in workforce development; provide paid employment to students for their participation in training, additional college funding options for students, and high school credit for successful completion of training; create alternative career pathways for students who choose not to attend college; and provide additional opportunities that are not easily available and accessible to students in our rural and remote areas.

The board also adopted amendments to update the state's school library standards. The current library standards were last updated in 2006. In April 2019, a team of eleven educators participated in a committee to draft updated standards. Twenty-one educators, including librarians, parents, students, and educational organizations engaged in the review and provided feedback on the updated standards. The regulation changes replace the existing standards with the *Alaska School Library Framework for Learners*, which are based on standards developed by the American Association of School Librarians.

After a period of public comment, the board voted to make emergency regulation changes permanent to ensure funding to eligible school districts under Senate Bill 74 to improve Internet services under the School Broadband Assistance Grant program, with one additional amendment to require all circuits and connections reported on the E-rate application be included on the state application so the department can determine eligibility. The board also repealed and replaced regulations to allow the issuance of emergency administrative certificates and some emergency teacher certificates; adopted regulation amendments to update the energy efficiency code of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers to the most recent edition; and adopted regulation amendments relating to fee increases for the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums.

The board approved for public comment proposed regulation changes to amend programmatic requirements for pre-elementary schools, whereby an updated version of the *State of Alaska Early Learning Guidelines* is proposed to be adopted by reference. The last update to the guidelines was made in December 2007.

The board appointed three members to the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board. Michelle Martin and Mary Suzzuk Huntington were appointed to the Parent Representative seats, and Josh Vo was appointed as the Alumni Representative.

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Lastly, the board approved its consent agenda consisting of prior meeting minutes and held an executive session to discuss the FY2022 budget.

The September 16-17 meeting packet and 2020 board meeting schedule are posted at [https://education.alaska.gov/State Board](https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board). The next board meeting is scheduled to be held October 21, 2020, virtually.

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