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Department of Education
and Early Development

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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State Board Provisionally Approves UAA Early Childhood Education Program
Charter School Renewals, School Construction & Major Maintenance Lists, and Regulations Approved

JUNEAU – Wednesday the State Board of Education and Early Development provided provisional approval of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) School of Education’s Early Childhood Education teacher preparation program and adopted regulation changes pertaining to teacher certification, assessment participation guidelines, and native languages. The Board also approved the [final FY2023 School Construction and Major Maintenance Grant Fund lists](#), approved charter school renewals for five schools, and voted to open public comment periods for facilities publications, alternate assessment scores, and the seal of biliteracy.

The Board’s provisional approval of the UAA School of Education’s Early Childhood Education teacher preparation program is valid through December 31, 2025 and includes four conditions: the establishment of an advisory committee, annual updates on its progress toward [CAEP](#) accreditation, written assurance to the board that UAA will freeze enrollment in the program if denied [NAEYC](#) accreditation during the provisional approval period, and written assurance from UAA and the UA Board of Regents that students enrolled in the provisionally approved program will have the opportunity to complete their program at UAA and be recommended for licensure if UAA is denied either NAEYC or CAEP accreditation.

Charter school renewals were approved for Alaska Native Cultural Charter School, Aquarian Charter School, Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Charter School, Family Partnership Charter School, and Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School. Each renewal is valid for 10 years.

The teacher certification regulations adopted address recommendations from the Governor’s Teacher Retention and Recruitment Working Group by expanding pathways to certification, simplifying qualification requirements, and streamlining the certification process.

The Board approved amendments to regulations to add the definition of “world languages” and updated the term “foreign language” to “world language.” The definition provides that world languages means “non-English languages including Alaska Native, American Indian, and American Sign Language.” The board voted to open a public comment period on proposed regulations to establish an “Alaska Seal of Biliteracy,” which would recognize students who have attained proficiency in English language arts and at least one other world language by high school graduation.

The board is scheduled to meet next on April 13, 2022 for a virtual work session.

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*The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development provides information, resources, and leadership to support over 130,000 students in 505 public schools across the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to ensure an “**Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day.**”*

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