



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Education  
& Early Development**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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June 8, 2022

Dear Governor Dunleavy, Chair Fields, and Members of the State Board of Education and Early Development,

As you know, for the past several months, I have been considering the appropriate time to resign as Alaska's Commissioner of Education and Early Development. After seeking advice from others, most importantly my family, I recently informed Governor Dunleavy and asked Chair Fields to begin the process of selecting the next Alaska Commissioner of Education and Early Development.

Unlike other commissioners, Alaska Statute 14.07.145 requires the Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development be appointed by the State Board of Education subject to the approval of the governor without regard to political affiliation. The State Board determines the recruitment and selection process for the Commissioner, who serves at the pleasure of the State Board.

Since July of 2016, it has been my privilege to serve under two Governors, work with legislators, support educators, and advocate for student centered policies. It has been an honor to work with many Alaskans who share a vision for better student outcomes. I am more convinced than ever that no other state in America should outperform Alaska's students.

There are far too many friends, colleagues, and fellow Alaskans to thank individually. I'll look back on my time as Commissioner with enormous gratitude.

On behalf of all Alaskans I'd like to thank Alaska's students. Your potential and optimism are immeasurable treasures for our state. I wish you all the very best.

My last official day as Commissioner will be June 30, 2022. Until then and beyond, I look forward to working with Governor Dunleavy, the State Board of Education, and Department staff for a smooth transition.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Johnson", followed by a horizontal line.

Michael Johnson