To: **Members of the State Board of**   **June 8, 2023**
         Education & Early Development

From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner   **Agenda Item: 11**

♦ **ISSUE**
The board is being asked to adopt the Alaska Computer Science State Plan.

♦ **BACKGROUND**
- Computer science is driving innovation in almost every sector of the U.S. economy. Findings show that over 80% of software engineers are currently working remotely full time and working from home is becoming the new normal work arrangement. This presents our Alaska students with tremendous career opportunities with competitive pay while they continue to live and thrive in the communities that they, and many generations before them, grew up in.

- Alaska's Education Challenge identified increasing career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs as one of its five strategic priorities. Computer Science education in K-12 is an essential part of this strategic priority.

- In July 2022, Governor Mike Dunleavy and 49 other U.S. governors signed on to the Governors' Compact to Expand K-12 Computer Science Education. The governors committed to: 1. Increase the number of high schools offering computer science courses; 2. Allocate state funding to K-12 computer science education; 3. Create pathways to postsecondary success in computing and related careers; and 4. Provide equitable access to computer science for all students.

- A state plan is invaluable for strategically thinking through complex computer science policies and program implementations. A well-designed state plan provides coherence to the overall computer science expansion effort, links individual policy with consistent purposes, and ensures an organized approach to all program implementations.

- The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) completed the initial draft of the Alaska Computer Science State Plan in December 2022.

- The Alaska Computer Science State Plan Review Committee comprised of representatives from school districts, school administrators, State Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, computer science teachers, postsecondary computer science and education programs, indigenous education organizations, computer science staff development agencies, and other computer science support groups in the state.

- DEED established the Alaska Computer Science State Plan Review Committee in December 2022. The committee reviewed the initial draft of the plan and held three one-hour virtual meetings to share comments and discussions. DEED incorporated the committee's comments and recommendations into the revised plan.

- DEED announced the Alaska Computer Science State Plan during the annual Perkins Application Workshop, February 8-9, 2023, and received no comments.

- DEED presented the Alaska Computer Science State Plan on February 18, 2023, during the Education Rewired ASTE [Alaska Society for Technology in Education] 2023 Conference and held a question-and-answer session. No revisions were necessary.

- DEED presented the Alaska Computer Science State Plan on March 29, 2023, to the State Board's CTE committee. The committee reviewed the plan before the meeting and provided comments. DEED revised the plan based on comments received.

- DEED opened a period of public comment on the Alaska Computer Science State Plan on March 31, 2023 (http://notice.alaska.gov/210495). The public comment period ended on May 1, 2023, at 5:00 PM. DEED revised the plan based on comments received and responded to each comment individually.

- The proposed Alaska Computer Science State Plan can be found behind Agenda Item 4.

- Faye Tanner, Statewide Coding and Computer Science Career Coordinator, will be present to brief the board.

♦ **OPTIONS**
Adopt the proposed Alaska Computer Science State Plan.
Amend the proposed Alaska Computer Science State Plan.
Seek more information.

♦ **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**
Adopt the proposed Alaska Computer Science State Plan.

♦ **SUGGESTED MOTION**
I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt the proposed Alaska Computer Science State Plan.