

To: **Members of the State Board of  
Education & Early Development**

**June 8, 2023**

**From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 13A**

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◆ **ISSUE**

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on regulations to establish a virtual education consortium and associated governing body related to the Alaska Reads Act.

◆ **BACKGROUND**

- The proposed regulations are in response to the passage of House Bill (HB) 114, Education: Schools; Funding; Programs, also known as the Alaska Reads Act, that became law on July 15, 2022 (Chapter 40, SLA 2022). The effective date of this new law is July 1, 2023.
- Virtual Education is the component of the Alaska Reads Act (Section 37, AS 14.30.800) that directs the department to establish a consortium to share access to virtual education resources between Alaska school districts.
- In order to govern and organize the consortium, vet content, and approve teacher training for providing instruction through the consortium, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) proposes the establishment of a governing body for the consortium.
- DEED proposes a governing body of nine members to represent a range of partners, districts, and geographic regions of the state.
- DEED proposes the establishment of a database to establish a mechanism for compiling approved content for the purpose of cataloging options for districts to access.
- This initial round of regulations will establish the consortium governing body and the database. Once convened, the governing body of the consortium will work from stakeholder input, current practice from other states, and guidance from DEED to further define the consortium model, identify any forms, agreements, processes, and/or fees necessary to implement the consortium, and draft further regulations to guide the implementation of the consortium for use by participating members.
- The proposed regulation is pending Department of Law review and approval.
- The proposed regulations, and publications to be adopted by reference (the *National Standards for Quality Online Courses* and the *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching*) can be found behind Agenda Item 6A.
- Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, and Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General, will be present to brief the board.

**◆ OPTIONS**

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation changes.  
Amend the proposed regulations and open a period of public comment.  
Seek more information.

**◆ ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation changes.

**◆ SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment to add new regulations 4 AAC 67.010 through 4 AAC 67.900 to implement a virtual education consortium defined by AS 14.30.800.