

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

October 8, 2024

From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 13

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to approve the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 33.605- 4 AAC 33.690, Funding for the Improvement of Internet Speed at Public Schools, dealing with increased internet speed for districts through the School Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) program.

◆ BACKGROUND

- On March 25, 2024, the 33rd Legislature passed HB 193 into law. The statute amended AS 14.03.127 *Funding for internet services* to provide Alaska school districts with funding to assist eligible schools in their school districts to increase their download speeds to 100 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed for internet services. This is an increase from the prior speed of 25 Mbps.
- The statute offers eligible school district funding to bolster services to 100 Mbps through the Alaska School Broadband Assistance Grant program (BAG).
- The changes to the current regulations include the update of BAG maximum download speed from 25 Mbps to 100 Mbps, a clear definition of “initial negotiated capacity”, required information to report in the BAG application, and a simplified process for determining date of initial negotiated capacity.
- The public comment period was open from August 29, 2024, to September 30, 2024.
- A supplemental amendment is included to provide clarifying language for 4 AAC 33.660 outlining the information required in the BAG application.
- A copy of the proposed regulation and the supplemental amendment follow this cover memo.
- Deborah Riddle, Division Operations Manager, and Faye Tanner, Program Coordinator, will be present to brief the board.

◆ OPTIONS

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 16.