From: EED, State Board (EED sponsored)
To: "E Filardi"
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Public comment on gifted education funding and transportation (AO 360)
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 2:13:00 PM
Attachments:

Greetings,

You raise important considerations regarding the accessibility of gifted education services, particularly when services are provided at an instructional site other than a student's neighborhood school. We recognize that transportation can be a significant factor in determining whether students are able to participate in available programming and that these challenges may be especially pronounced in smaller and rural districts. Repealing these regulations do not remove the statutory language that remain intact.

One of the goals of Administrative Order 360 was to reduce regulations that restated what is already outlined in statute. By removing these regulations, the requirements or guidelines are not removed from statute. The requirements in statute still remain.

Best regards,

State Board of Education
State of Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
Office: 907-465-2802
eed.stateboard@alaska.gov | education.alaska.gov | aklearns.org

---

From: E Filardi [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2026 1:28 PM
To: EED, State Board (EED sponsored) <eed.stateboard@alaska.gov>
Subject: Public comment on gifted education funding and transportation (AO 360)

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Members of the State Board,

I'm submitting this comment on my own behalf, not on behalf of

my school or district. My experience as an elementary principal in Juneau informs my perspective on the proposed repeal of 4 AAC 52.865 and 4 AAC 52.870.

When advanced learning services are offered at another site, getting there is part of being able to participate. I don't want a student's access to those services to depend on whether a parent can leave work to drive them. I'd also encourage the Board to hear from smaller and rural districts about what it takes to make those services accessible in their communities.

Before voting, please explain whether the repeal would change how districts file their gifted education service plans or receive foundation funding under AS 14.17.420. Please also explain how districts would document and receive reimbursement under AS 14.30.352(b) for transportation to another instructional site when those trips are routinely required by the district's gifted education program. If the current process will stay the same, it would help to say that plainly and point districts to the forms and guidance they should use. If the change would reduce access to services, I'd ask the Board to hold off until districts have a workable plan to keep students served.

Kindest,
Eric Filardi