Cover Memo

To: Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development
From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner
Date: December 03, 2026
Item: 4A

Issue

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on regulation regarding Special Education Administration Certification, Chapter 12.

Background

- In response to Administrative Order 360, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development conducted a comprehensive review of existing regulations, guidance documents, and materials incorporated by reference to identify provisions that are outdated, redundant, or unclear. Through stakeholder meetings held between October 2 and December 18, DEED gathered input that informed the identification of regulations recommended for repeal. All stakeholder feedback, along with the AO360 reform plan, is posted on the DEED website for public review: Administrative Order 360
- Summary of Proposed change is to consolidate certificates required for a special education.
- 4 AAC 12.307 is being amended by adding clarification by adding the specific certifications regarding administrator certificates to include school administrator or special education administrator under 4 AAC 12.345 and removing the special education administrator certificate referenced in 4 AAC 12.347.
- 4 AAC 12.345(g) is being repealed and added to 4 12.AAC 307(a).
- 4 AAC 12.347 is being repealed and added to 4 AAC 12.307(a)
- 4 AAC 12.305(3) is being repealed to remove the requirement for educators meet or will meet the requirements for an initial, professional, or master certificate within two years.
    - Behind this cover memo is a copy of the proposed regulations.
    - Deborah Riddle, Division Operations Manager, will be present to brief the board.
- A copy of the proposed regulation can be found behind Cover Memo 2.0A.
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Options

Open a 30-day period of public comment on the proposed regulations.
Amend the proposed regulations and open a period of public comment.
Seek more information.

Administration's Recommendation

Open a period of 30-day public comment on the proposed regulations.

Suggested Motion

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a 30-day period of public comment on Special Education Administration Certification, Chapter 12 4 AAC 12.307, 4 AAC 12.345, 4 AAC 12.347, 4 12.AAC 307(a), 4 AAC 12.345(g), 4 AAC 12.347, 4 AAC 12.307(a), 4 AAC 12.305(3).