

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Virtual Meeting
Regulatory Revisions - Administrative Order 360
Chapter 12 - Certification of Professional Teachers &
Chapter 30 - Exchange Teachers and Student Teachers

PUBLIC COMMENT

October 23, 2025
8:00 a.m.

Pages 1 - 9, inclusive

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
 2 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, good morning,
 3 everyone. I'd like to welcome you to today's
 4 Administrative Order, or AO, 360 stakeholder input
 5 session on Chapter 12, Certification of Professional
 6 Teachers; and Chapter 30, Exchange Teachers and Student
 7 Teachers.
 8 The purpose of the meeting today is to
 9 hear directly from stakeholders and members of the
 10 public regarding regulatory burdens or barriers you
 11 believe should be addressed as part of Alaska's AO 360
 12 reform project.
 13 Your input is critical in helping us
 14 shape meaningful changes that support students and
 15 schools. And to honor your time today, this session
 16 end promptly on the hour.
 17 These stakeholder meetings are
 18 opportunities for us to listen to your perspectives
 19 before any regulations are drafted, amended, or
 20 repealed. And this is not the formal public comment
 21 process under the Administrative Procedure Act, or APA.
 22 That process would begin later after draft regulations
 23 have undergone legal review and have been formally
 24 approved for public comment.
 25 As part of our regulatory reform plan,

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1 the department must create a list of all the comments
 2 we receive during the stakeholder process along with
 3 whether we intend to implement each recommendation made
 4 by stakeholders. And if we don't adopt a
 5 recommendation, we're required to explain why not. And
 6 that's why your feedback today is so valuable. It will
 7 directly shape our department's analysis and inform you
 8 of the next steps of this project.
 9 So proceeding today, we'll first hear a
 10 short overview of the regulations of this chapter for
 11 this meeting, and then we'll move into the comment
 12 period where you may share your input.
 13 Verbal feedback will be recorded,
 14 summarized, and included in our department's reform
 15 plan, and written feedback will also be accepted for 30
 16 days following this session. Please refer to the chat
 17 for information on submitting written feedback.
 18 And again, the sign-up sheet for verbal
 19 comment after an overview will also be in the comment
 20 section.
 21 So with that I will now hand it over to
 22 Ms. Kelly Manning who is our deputy director of the IEE
 23 division and she will walk through Chapter 12
 24 certification regulations and move on to the next one.
 25 **KELLY MANNING:** Thank you, Jacob. Good

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1 morning, my name is Kelly Manning, and I'm the deputy
 2 director for the Division of Innovation and Education
 3 Excellence. With me today to help answer questions is
 4 Colleen Walker, the Teacher Certification
 5 administrator.
 6 Today we'll be going over Chapter 12,
 7 Certification of Professional Teachers; and Chapter 30,
 8 Exchange Teachers and Student Teachers.
 9 Chapter 12 of Alaska's regulations
 10 provides information and guidance regarding
 11 professional certification requirements for educators,
 12 including teachers, administrators, and specialized
 13 endorsement professionals working in schools, as well
 14 as prohibited behaviors, required assessments, and
 15 mandatory training.
 16 Chapter 30 provides information and
 17 guidance on exchange teachers and student teacher
 18 requirements.
 19 As you consider these sections, we
 20 encourage you to think about whether the current
 21 regulations create unnecessary burdens, whether they
 22 meet today's needs, and what changes might better serve
 23 schools, students, and families.
 24 We've also shared the regulation text and
 25 the survey link in the chat. Thank you.

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1 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, thank you, Kelly.
 2 So as referenced before, the sign-up sheet to give
 3 comment today for these chapter of regulations is in
 4 the chat, and if you want to sign up, it will just
 5 prompt you a couple questions, and then we will read
 6 your name and then give you two minutes to provide your
 7 testimony.
 8 If you would like to skip the link or if
 9 you can't access the link and you just want to click on
 10 the raise hand icon on the bottom of your task bar of
 11 this Zoom meeting, we'll acknowledge you that way as
 12 well.
 13 So as always, when called on you'll have
 14 two minutes to talk, and you'll just have to state your
 15 name and any affiliation, and we'll just be here to
 16 listen and answer any specific questions, but we're not
 17 going to engage in any debate or anything like that,
 18 we're just here as a listening session to hear what you
 19 have to say.
 20 So again, the sign-up sheet is in the
 21 chat, and you can always just hit the raise hand icon
 22 as well if you can't access the link. And at this time
 23 we will just go on hold and await someone to provide
 24 comment. Thank you so much.
 25 (Pause)

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1 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** All right, I went a little
 2 too quick there. So we'll go ahead and acknowledge
 3 Susan Nedza. Susan, if you can just put your name and
 4 affiliation on the record, and you have two minutes to
 5 share your comments.
 6 **SUSAN NEDZA:** My name is Susan Nedza, and
 7 I'm the superintendent in Hoonah. I've been
 8 superintendent in Bering Strait in the past and other
 9 roles in Alaska for the last ten years.
 10 Teacher certification is obviously a huge
 11 part of what we do, both for me personally coming from
 12 out of state into Alaska and for the teachers that I
 13 have hired throughout the years.
 14 One area is, excuse me, foreign teachers.
 15 And I'm asking that any regulations that pertain to out
 16 of state also pertain to out of country.
 17 From what I see, the statute and the
 18 regulations just don't say that, but out of state is
 19 being interpreted as from a Lower 48 state when out of
 20 state could be anybody out of state. So if we applied
 21 it that way, it would make it much less burdensome for
 22 our foreign teachers coming in.
 23 So I don't know if it's okay to drop in
 24 the chat a little more detail to -- I don't know if
 25 that works or not or if I need to send that in writing.

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1 But removing language also relating to
 2 testing for out of state. I think that was removed by
 3 statute, and it still appears in a couple places that I
 4 saw. But just saying out of state also means out of
 5 country and recognizing that.
 6 We're being narrowly interpreted, and
 7 that's damaging teachers that have 20, 30 years of
 8 experience coming into the state. So that's one area,
 9 the foreign teacher issue, as well as -- I'll use
 10 myself as an example, this narrow interpretation.
 11 So when I came from out of state, I have
 12 an additional certification as a superintendent. So I
 13 have a certification as a principal and a certification
 14 as a superintendent from out of state. But the only
 15 thing that Alaska has is an endorsement for a
 16 superintendent.
 17 So when I came in and submitted all of my
 18 counselor, principal, superintendent, my counselor came
 19 in, my principal came in, but I was stopped from having
 20 an actual superintendent designation because it wasn't
 21 an endorsement coming from another state when actually
 22 I had a higher certification, a separate certification
 23 designation.
 24 So I think anywhere that we can expand
 25 our thinking and think about the reality rather than

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1 the words that are in the regulations would be helpful.
 2 I appreciate it, thank you.
 3 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** All right, thank you so
 4 much, Susan. And to your point about sharing
 5 something, we do record these meetings, so we'll be
 6 able to go back and go to the source that you were
 7 citing so you won't have to put it in the chat.
 8 **SUSAN NEDZA:** Yeah, so it won't go into
 9 the chat. But I guess, as pointed out, much more so
 10 I'll probably send that as written comment.
 11 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Yes, that would be great,
 12 too, yeah. And the survey I'm sure you saw, if you
 13 reference that, we'll make sure that that's looked at
 14 as well.
 15 **SUSAN NEDZA:** Thank you.
 16 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Thank you. We will go
 17 ahead and just remain on hold until anyone else joins
 18 us and wants to give comment. Thank you.
 19 (Pause)
 20 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, at this time we will
 21 now conclude this public stakeholder meeting for
 22 Chapter 12, Certification of Professional Teachers; and
 23 Chapter 30, Exchange Teachers and Student Teachers.
 24 If you're watching this recording and
 25 would still like to submit feedback regarding these

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1 regulations, you can go to our website at
 2 education.alaska.gov/ao360, it will be submitted for
 3 the record that way.
 4 Thank you for joining us, and we will now
 5 close this meeting.
 6 (Meeting concluded)
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