STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Virtual Meeting
Regulatory Revisions - Administrative Order 360

Chapter 33 - Special Programs

PUBLIC COMMENT

November 4, 2025
4:00 p.m.

Pages 1 - 8, inclusive

Transcribed by: Leonard DiPaolo, RPR, CRR, CCP

Page 2

P R O C E E D I N G S

JAKE ALMEIDA: Okay, good afternoon, everyone. I'd like to welcome you to today's Administrative Order, or AO, 360 stakeholder input session for Chapter 33, Special Programs regulations. Thank you for taking the time to join us.

The purpose of this meeting is to hear directly from stakeholders and members of the public regarding regulatory burdens or barriers you believe should be addressed as part of Alaska's AO 360 reform project.

Your input is critical in helping us shape meaningful changes that support students and schools. And to honor your time today, the session will end promptly on the hour.

These stakeholder meetings are opportunities for us to listen to your perspectives before any regulations should be drafted, amended, or repealed. This is not the formal public comment process under the Administrative Procedure Act, or APA. That process will begin later after draft regulations have undergone legal review and have been formally approved for public comment.

As part of our regulatory reform plan, the department must create a list of all the comments

Page 3

we receive during this stakeholder process along with whether we intend to implement each recommendation that you as stakeholders make. And if we do not adopt a recommendation, we are required to explain why not. And that's why your feedback today would be so valuable to us. It will directly shape our department's analysis and inform you of the next step.

So to proceed today, we'll first hear a short overview of the regulations for this meeting, and then we'll move into the comment period where you can share your input.

Verbal feedback will be recorded, summarized, and included in our department's reform plan, and written feedback will also be accepted for 30 days following this session. And please refer to the chat for all the information on submitting verbal or written feedback that I'm making reference to.

So with that, I will now hand it over to Ms. Heather Heineken who is our director of finance and support services for the department, and she will give you an overview of what Chapter 33 regulations are and what they entail. Over to you, Heather.

HEATHER HEINEKEN: Good afternoon, thank you. Chapter 33 of 4 AAC establishes special programs administered by the Department of Education and Early

Page 4

Development. The chapter is organized into several articles. Today's focus is on Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

Article 1 covers special schools which establishes the framework for state designated special schools and charter schools. It includes provisions for residential schools, such as Mt. Edgecumbe and district-operated statewide residential programs, outlines administrations requirements, and defines the department's authority over special programs.

It also establishes the process for charter school applications, amendments, operations, contracts, renewals, and performance accountability along with the charter school grant program.

Article 2 covers grants for the improvement of school performance which establishes the department's authority to award grants to districts for improving student performance and school outcomes. It includes eligibility requirements, application procedures, requirements for districts or school improvement plans, expectations for measurable results, timelines, and how the department monitors use of funds and progress towards goals.

Article 3 is the quality schools funding grants which establishes the quality schools grant

Page 5

program intended to support statewide school improvement efforts. It covers criteria districts must meet to qualify, the purpose of the funding, required components such as performance-based planning, local reporting, and how the department determines awards and monitors the use of these grants.

Article 4 is the correspondence studies program which establishes requirements for a school district-operated correspondence programs. This includes rules for student enrollment, allotment accounts, use of public funds for instructional materials and services, curriculum oversight, student programs documentation, teacher involvement, and department authority to review, audit, place programs on a corrective action, or require repayment for non-compliance.

And finally Article 6 is funding for improvement of Internet speeds at public schools which establishes a program to support broadband and Internet speed improvement in public schools, otherwise known as "the beg." It includes eligibility for funding, how districts apply, allowable project types such as infrastructure upgrades or bandwidth increases, prioritization for rural or high cost areas, and the department's role in improving, monitoring, and

Page 6

reporting on funded projects. Thank you.
JAKE ALMEIDA: All right, thank you so much for that, Heather. A lot of regulations there. It's always good to have an overview.
So we are now in the comment section of this stakeholder meeting. And as stated before, there is a link in the chat sign up for verbal comment today. If you click on that link, you just fill out a couple questions of name, affiliation and then your name pops up on my sign-up sheet here and I will call our your name as names pop up on the sign-up sheet. Everyone commenting will have two minutes to give their testimony, and always we ask that you please place your name and any affiliation on the record and give your two minutes. If you have specific questions, we can answer that, but if you're just stating your opinion of the regulations, we're just here to listen and always appreciate that.
Again, there is a link in the chat. If you are not able to access the link, you can also just click on the raise hand icon on the bottom of your Zoom task bar and we can acknowledge you that way as well.
So seeing not immediate signups or hands up, we will just continue to wait for anyone that wants to give comment to do so, and if no one signs up for

Page 7

comment, we will end at approximately 20 after. So we are on standby for anyone to give comment. Thank you.
(Pause)
JAKE ALMEIDA: All right, we have Mr. Seth Haines with the Chugach School District, it looks like. Mr. Haines, if you want to place your name on the record, and you have -- can give your testimony for two minutes.
SETH HAINES: Well, this was more a clarification question. To be clear, there is a 30-day period for submitting written comments, is that correct --
JAKE ALMEIDA: That is correct.
SETH HAINES: -- following today? Okay, thank you for the clarification.
JAKE ALMEIDA: Yep. No worries, thanks.
(Pause)
JAKE ALMEIDA: Okay, we will now go ahead and conclude this public stakeholder meeting for Chapter 33, Special Programs regulations. For those still with us in the chat, there was just a link put again for the survey link. If you want to fill out the survey and submit your comment that way, that would be great.
And for those watching us after the fact,

Page 8

you can always go to our website at education.alaska.gov/ao360, and your comments will also be submitted into the record that way. So thank you all. We will now conclude this meeting.
(Meeting concluded)

A

AAC (1)
3:24
able (1)
6:20
accepted (1)
3:14
access (1)
6:20
accountability (1)
4:13
accounts (1)
5:11
acknowledge (1)
6:22
Act (1)
2:20
action (1)
5:15
addressed (1)
2:10
administered (1)
3:25
administrations (1)
4:9
Administrative (2)
2:4,20
adopt (1)
3:3
affiliation (2)
6:9,14
afternoon (2)
2:2;3:23
Again (2)
6:19;7:22
ahead (1)
7:18
Alaska's (1)
2:10
allotment (1)
5:10
allowable (1)
5:22
ALMEIDA (6)
2:2;6:2;7:4,13,16,18
along (2)
3:1;4:14
always (4)
6:4,13,17;8:1
amended (1)
2:18
amendments (1)
4:12
analysis (1)
3:7
AO (2)
2:4,10
APA (1)
2:20
application (1)
4:19
applications (1)
4:12
apply (1)
5:22
appreciate (1)
6:18
approved (1)
2:23
approximately (1)
7:1
areas (1)
5:24
Article (5)
4:4,15,24;5:7,17
articles (2)
4:2,2
audit (1)
5:14
authority (3)
4:10,17;5:14
award (1)
4:17
awards (1)
5:5

B

bandwidth (1)
5:23
bar (1)
6:22
barriers (1)
2:9
beg (1)
5:21
begin (1)
2:21
bottom (1)
6:21
broadband (1)
5:19
burdens (1)
2:9

C

call (1)
6:10
can (6)
3:10;6:15,20,22;7:7;
8:1
changes (1)
2:13
Chapter (5)
2:5;3:21,24;4:1;7:20
charter (3)
4:6,12,14
chat (4)
3:16;6:7,19;7:21
Chugach (1)
7:5
clarification (2)
7:10,15
clear (1)
7:10
click (2)
6:8,21
comment (9)
2:19,23;3:10;6:5,7,
25;7:1,2,23
commenting (1)
6:12
comments (3)
2:25;7:11;8:2
components (1)
5:4
conclude (2)
7:19;8:4
concluded (1)
8:5
continue (1)
6:24
contracts (1)
4:13
corrective (1)
5:15
correspondence (2)
5:7,9
cost (1)
5:24
couple (1)
6:8
covers (3)
4:4,15;5:2
create (1)
2:25
criteria (1)
5:2
critical (1)
2:12
curriculum (1)
5:12

D

days (1)
3:15
defines (1)
4:9
department (6)
2:25;3:20,25;4:22;
5:5,14
department's (5)
3:6,13;4:10,17;5:25
designated (1)
4:5
determines (1)
5:5
Development (1)
4:1
directly (2)
2:8;3:6
director (1)
3:19
District (1)
7:5
district-operated (2)
4:8;5:9
districts (4)
4:17,20;5:2,22
documentation (1)
5:13
draft (1)
2:21
drafted (1)
2:18
during (1)
3:1

E

Early (1)
3:25
Edgecumbe (1)
4:7
Education (1)
3:25
educationalaskagov/ao360 (1)
8:2
efforts (1)
5:2
eligibility (2)
4:19;5:21
end (2)
2:15;7:1
enrollment (1)
5:10
entail (1)
3:22
establishes (7)
3:24;4:5,11,16,25;
5:8,19
everyone (2)
2:3;6:11
expectations (1)
4:21
explain (1)
3:4

F

fact (1)
7:25
feedback (4)
3:5,12,14,17
fill (2)
6:8;7:22
finally (1)
5:17
finance (1)
3:19
first (1)
3:8
focus (1)
4:2
following (2)
3:15;7:14
formal (1)
2:19
formally (1)
2:22
framework (1)
4:5
funded (1)
6:1
funding (4)
4:24;5:3,17,21
funds (2)
4:22;5:11

G

goals (1)
4:23
good (3)
2:2;3:23;6:4
grant (2)
4:14,25
grants (4)
4:15,17,25;5:6
great (1)
7:24

H

Haines (4)
7:5,6,9,14
hand (2)
3:18;6:21
hands (1)
6:23
hear (2)
2:7;3:8
Heather (4)
3:19,22,23;6:3
Heineken (2)
3:19,23
helping (1)
2:12
high (1)
5:24
honor (1)
2:14
hour (1)
2:15

I

icon (1)
6:21
immediate (1)
6:23
implement (1)
3:2
improvement (5)
4:16,21;5:2,18,20
improving (2)
4:18;5:25
included (1)
3:13
includes (4)
4:6,19;5:10,21

increases (1)
5:23
inform (1)
3:7
information (1)
3:16
infrastructure (1)
5:23
input (3)
2:4,12;3:11
instructional (1)
5:11
intend (1)
3:2
intended (1)
5:1
Internet (2)
5:18,19
into (3)
3:10;4:1;8:3
involvement (1)
5:13

J

JAKE (6)
2:2;6:2;7:4,13,16,18
join (1)
2:6

K

known (1)
5:20

L

later (1)
2:21
legal (1)
2:22
link (6)
6:7,8,19,20;7:21,22
list (1)
2:25
listen (2)
2:17;6:17
local (1)
5:4
looks (1)
7:5
lot (1)
6:3

M

making (1)
3:17
materials (1)
5:12
meaningful (1)
2:13
measurable (1)
4:21
meet (1)
5:3
meeting (6)
2:7;3:9;6:6;7:19;8:4,5
meetings (1)
2:16
members (1)
2:8
minutes (3)
6:12,15;7:8
monitoring (1)
5:25
monitors (2)
4:22;5:6
more (1)
7:9
move (1)
3:10
Mt (1)
4:7
much (1)
6:3
must (2)
2:25;5:2

N

name (5)
6:9,9,11,14;7:6
names (1)
6:11
next (1)
3:7
non-compliance (1)
5:16

O

one (1)
6:25
operations (1)
4:12
opinion (1)
6:16
opportunities (1)
2:17
Order (1)
2:4
organized (1)
4:1
otherwise (1)
5:20
out (2)
6:8;7:22
outcomes (1)
4:18
outlines (1)
4:9
over (3)
3:18,22;4:10
oversight (1)
5:12
overview (3)
3:9,21;6:4

P

part (2)
2:10,24
Pause (2)
7:3,17
performance (3)
4:13,16,18
performance-based (1)
5:4
period (2)
3:10;7:11
perspectives (1)
2:17
place (3)
5:14;6:13;7:6
plan (2)
2:24;3:14
planning (1)
5:4
plans (1)
4:21
please (2)
3:15;6:13
pop (1)
6:11
pops (1)
6:9
prioritization (1)
5:24
Procedure (1)
2:20
procedures (1)
4:20
proceed (1)
3:8
process (4)
2:20,21;3:1;4:11
program (4)
4:14;5:1,8,19
Programs (8)
2:5;3:24;4:8,10;5:9,13,14;7:20
progress (1)
4:23
project (2)
2:11;5:22
projects (1)
6:1
promptly (1)
2:15
provisions (1)
4:6
public (7)
2:8,19,23;5:11,18,20;7:19
purpose (2)
2:7;5:3
put (1)
7:21

Q

qualify (1)
5:3
quality (2)
4:24,25

R

raise (1)
6:21
receive (1)
3:1
recommendation (2)
3:2,4
record (3)
6:14;7:7;8:3
recorded (1)
3:12
refer (1)
3:15
reference (1)
3:17
reform (3)
2:10,24;3:13
regarding (1)
2:9
regulations (8)
2:5,18,21;3:9,21;6:3,17;7:20
regulatory (2)
2:9,24
renewals (1)
4:13
repayment (1)
5:15
repealed (1)
2:19
reporting (2)
5:5;6:1
require (1)
5:15
required (2)
3:4;5:3
requirements (4)
4:9,19,20;5:8
residential (2)
4:7,8
results (1)
4:21
review (2)
2:22;5:14
right (2)
6:2;7:4
role (1)
5:25
rules (1)
5:10
rural (1)
5:24

S

school (8)
4:12,14,16,18,20;5:1,8;7:5
schools (9)
2:14;4:4,6,6,7,24,25;5:18,20
section (1)
6:5
seeing (1)
6:23
services (2)
3:20;5:12
session (3)
2:5,14;3:15
Seth (3)
7:5,9,14
several (1)
4:1
shape (2)
2:13;3:6
share (1)
3:11
sheet (2)
6:10,11
short (1)
3:9
sign (1)
6:7
signs (1)
6:25
sign-up (2)
6:10,11
signups (1)
6:23
Special (6)
2:5;3:24;4:4,5,10;7:20
specific (1)
6:15
speed (1)
5:20
speeds (1)
5:18
stakeholder (5)
2:4,16;3:1;6:6;7:19
stakeholders (2)
2:8;3:3
standby (1)
7:2
state (1)
4:5
stated (1)
6:6
statewide (2)
4:8;5:1
stating (1)
6:16
step (1)
3:7
still (1)

7:21
student (3)
4:18;5:10,12
students (1)
2:13
studies (1)
5:7
submit (1)
7:23
submitted (1)
8:3
submitting (2)
3:16;7:11
summarized (1)
3:13
support (4)
2:13;3:20;5:1,19
survey (2)
7:22,23

T

task (1)
6:22
teacher (1)
5:13
testimony (2)
6:13;7:7
thanks (1)
7:16
timelines (1)
4:22
today (5)
2:14;3:5,8;6:7;7:14
today's (2)
2:3;4:2
towards (1)
4:23
two (3)
6:12,15;7:8
types (1)
5:22

U

under (1)
2:20
undergone (1)
2:22
up (5)
6:7,10,11,24,25
upgrades (1)
5:23
use (3)
4:22;5:6,11

V

valuable (1)
3:5
Verbal (3)
3:12,16;6:7

W

wait (1)
6:24
wants (1)
6:24
watching (1)
7:25
way (3)
6:22;7:23;8:3
website (1)
8:1
welcome (1)
2:3
worries (1)
7:16
written (3)
3:14,17;7:11

Y

Yep (1)
7:16

Z

Zoom (1)
6:21

1

1 (2)
4:2,4

2

2 (2)
4:2,15
20 (1)
7:1

3

3 (2)
4:2,24
30 (1)
3:14
30-day (1)
7:10
33 (4)
2:5;3:21,24;7:20
360 (2)
2:4,10

4

4 (3)
3:24;4:2;5:7

6

6 (2)
4:3;5:17