

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Virtual Meeting
Regulatory Revisions - Administrative Order 360
Chapter 60 - Pre-Elementary (Early Childhood) School

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Pages 1 - 6, inclusive

Transcribed by: Leonard DiPaolo, RPR, CRR, CCP

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, good afternoon,
3 everyone. I'd like to welcome you to today's
4 Administrative Order, or AO, 360 stakeholder input
5 session on Chapter 60, Pre-Elementary or Early
6 Childhood School regulations. Thank you for taking the
7 time to join us.
8 The purpose of this meeting is to hear
9 directly from stakeholders and members of the public
10 regarding regulatory burdens or barriers you believe
11 should be addressed as part of Alaska's AO 360 reform
12 project. Your input is critical in helping us shape
13 meaningful changes that support students and schools.
14 So to honor your time today, this session will end
15 promptly on the hour.
16 These stakeholder meetings are
17 opportunities for us to listen to your perspectives
18 before any regulations should be drafted, amended, or
19 repealed. And this is not the formal public comment
20 process under the Administrative Procedure Act, or APA.
21 That process would begin later after draft regulations
22 have undergone official legal review and have been
23 formally approved for public comment.
24 So as part of our regulatory reform plan,
25 the department must create a list of all the comments

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1 we receive during this stakeholder process along with
2 whether we intend to implement each recommendation that
3 a particular stakeholder makes. And if we don't, we
4 are required to explain why not. And that's why your
5 feedback is so valuable to us as it will directly shape
6 the department's analysis and inform you of the next
7 steps.
8 So to proceed today, we'll first hear a
9 short overview of the regulations for this meeting, and
10 then we'll move into the comment period where you may
11 share your input.
12 Verbal feedback will be recorded,
13 summarized, and included in our department's reform
14 plan, and written feedback will also be accepted for 30
15 days following this session. So please refer to the
16 chat for links for signing up for verbal comment and
17 written comment as well as I'm citing.
18 So with that I will now hand it over to
19 Ms. Kathy Moffitt with the IEE division here at the
20 department, and she will walk through the regulations
21 of this Chapter 60 and what they are, and we'll go from
22 there. So over to you, Kathy.
23 **KATHY MOFFITT:** Okay, thank you, Jake.
24 Chapter 60 of the Alaska Administrative
25 Code addresses pre-elementary schools. This chapter

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1 provides the regulations governing early childhood
2 education in Alaska with a specific focus on
3 pre-elementary programs operated by school districts
4 and Head Start agencies.
5 The regulations cover the essential steps
6 for obtaining and renewing annual approval to operate
7 these programs. The chapter also incorporates
8 provisions established through the Alaska Reads Act,
9 which aim to build and strengthen early education
10 programs statewide.
11 These provisions include standards for
12 high quality early education programs, certified
13 teacher requirements for these programs, and minimum
14 session days for high quality early education.
15 Finally, Chapter 60 outlines the
16 financial support available, including state grant
17 opportunities and the process for securing foundation
18 funding through the .5 average daily membership
19 allocation.
20 Together, these regulations ensure that
21 programs have the resources and structure necessary to
22 prepare Alaska's youngest learners for success in
23 elementary school and beyond. That concludes our
24 overview. Thank you, Jake.
25 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** All right, thank you so

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1 much for that, Kathy.
2 And with that we are now in the comment
3 section agenda item of this stakeholder meeting. And
4 as mentioned before, there is a link in the chat to
5 sign up for verbal comment today. If you click on
6 that, you just fill out a couple fields and then I see
7 your name on the sign-in sheet, and we'll announce you
8 and you'll have two minutes to give your testimony. As
9 always, please state your name and any affiliation you
10 have. And if you have specific questions we can answer
11 then, but as far as your comments overall stating
12 opinions, we're just here to listen.
13 And if you're not able to utilize the
14 link, you can also just click on the raise hand icon on
15 the bottom of your Zoom task bar, and we can
16 acknowledge you that way as well.
17 So with that, seeing no one's hands up at
18 this time, we will just kind of go on hold. And if we
19 do not get a sign up from anyone or a hand raised at 20
20 after, we will just conclude from there. So at this
21 time we are just going to remain on hold.
22 (Pause)
23 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, we will now conclude
24 this public stakeholder meeting for Chapter 60,
25 Pre-Elementary or Early Childhood School regulations.

1 If you're watching this recording and would still like
2 to submit feedback regarding these regulations, you can
3 go to our website at education.alaska.gov/ao360, and
4 your comment will still be submitted for the record
5 that way.

6 So thank you so much for attending today,
7 and we will now close this meeting.

8 (Meeting concluded)

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