

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

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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 60. Thank you for taking the time
 6 to join us.
 7 The purpose of this meeting is to hear
 8 directly from stakeholders and members of the public
 9 regarding regulatory burdens or barriers you believe
 10 should be addressed as part of Alaska's AO 360 reform
 11 project. Your input is critical in helping us shape
 12 meaningful changes that support students and schools.
 13 To honor your time today, this session will end
 14 promptly on the hour.
 15 These stakeholder meetings are
 16 opportunities for us to listen to your perspectives
 17 before any regulations should be drafted, amended, or
 18 repealed. And this is not the formal public comment
 19 process under the Administrative Procedure Act, or APA.
 20 That process would, of course, begin later after draft
 21 regulations have undergone official legal review and
 22 have been formally approved for public comment.
 23 As part of our regulatory reform plan,
 24 the department must create a list of all the comments
 25 we receive during this stakeholder process along with

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1 whether we intend to implement each recommendation that
 2 stakeholders should make. And if we do not adopt a
 3 recommendation, we are required to explain why not.
 4 And that's why your feedback today is so valuable, as
 5 it will directly shape our department's analysis and
 6 inform you of the next steps.
 7 So to proceed today, we'll first hear a
 8 short overview of the regulations for this chapter of
 9 this meeting, and then we'll move into the comment
 10 period where you may share your input. Verbal feedback
 11 will be recorded, summarized, and included in our
 12 department's reform plan. And written feedback can
 13 also be accepted for 30 days following this session.
 14 So please refer to the chat for links and information
 15 on signing up for verbal comment today and submitting
 16 written feedback as well.
 17 So with that I will now hand it over to
 18 Ms. Heather Heineken who is a director of Finance and
 19 Support Services for the division, and she will walk
 20 through the regulations of this chapter and what they
 21 are. Over to you, Heather.
 22 **HEATHER HEINEKEN:** Good morning, thank
 23 you, Jake. Chapter 60 of the Alaska Administrative
 24 Code addresses pre-elementary or early childhood
 25 schools. This chapter provides the regulations

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

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1 much for that, Heather.
 2 So yeah, we are now under the comment
 3 section of this stakeholder meeting. And as stated
 4 before, there is a link in the chat to sign up for
 5 verbal feedback, to provide your verbal comment today
 6 for two minutes. And we just ask that you state your
 7 name and any affiliation, and you can give your
 8 testimony. We are able to answer specific questions,
 9 but for comment we're just here to listen to what you
 10 have to say, won't need to respond back.
 11 Additionally, there is also the raise
 12 hand icon on the bottom of your Zoom task bar. So if
 13 you are not able to use the link, then you can just
 14 raise your hand, and we will acknowledge you that way
 15 as well.
 16 So at this time, since there is no one
 17 currently signed up, we will go ahead and just wait for
 18 anyone who wants to join us and give comment.
 19 (Pause)
 20 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, we will now conclude
 21 this public stakeholder meeting for Chapter 60,
 22 Pre-Elementary and Early Childhood School regulations.
 23 If you're watching this recording and
 24 would still like to submit feedback regarding these
 25 regulations, you can go to our website at

1 education.alaska.gov/ao360, and your comments will
2 still be submitted for the record that way. Thank you
3 so much, and we will now conclude this meeting.

4 (Meeting concluded)

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