

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Virtual Meeting
Regulatory Revisions - Administrative Order 360
Chapter 67 - Virtual Education Consortium

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Pages 1 - 7, inclusive

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Page 2

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 67, Virtual Education Consortium
6 regulations. Thank you for joining 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 And to honor your time today, we will end promptly on
14 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18 repealed, but this is not the formal public comment
19 process under the Administrative Procedure Act, or APA.
20 That process will begin later after draft regulations
21 have undergone official legal review and have been
22 formally approved for public comment.
23 So 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

Page 3

1 whether we intend to implement each recommendation that
2 a stakeholder should make. If we don't adopt a
3 recommendation, we're required to explain why not.
4 That's why your feedback is so valuable, and it will
5 directly shape our department's analysis and inform you
6 of the next steps.
7 So to proceed today, we'll first hear a
8 short overview of the regulations for this meeting, and
9 then we'll move into the comment period where you can
10 share your input. Verbal feedback will be recorded,
11 summarized, and included in our department's reform
12 plan, and written feedback can also be accepted for 30
13 days following this session. So please refer to the
14 chat for information on submitting verbal and written
15 feedback.
16 With that, I will now hand it over to Ms.
17 Kathy Moffitt with our Innovation and Education
18 Excellence division, and she will walk through Chapter
19 67 and what the regulations are specifically. Over to
20 you, Kathy.
21 **KATHY MOFFITT:** Thank you, Jake, I
22 appreciate it. Chapter 67 establishes the Alaska
23 Distance Learning Consortium within the Department of
24 Education and Early Development. The purpose of the
25 consortium is to make high quality virtual education

Page 4

1 and professional development resources available to
2 students and teachers across Alaska. Membership in the
3 consortium is voluntary and open only to school
4 districts operating in the state. Member districts may
5 access consortium resources, submit courses for
6 inclusion in the virtual course database, and designate
7 representatives to receive communication and
8 participate in governing board elections.
9 The consortium is governed by a board
10 made up of the commissioner of education or a designee,
11 and up to six representatives elected by member
12 districts. When possible, representation should
13 include each of the four judicial districts, an
14 at-large member, and at least one representative from a
15 regional education attendance area.
16 The governing board may prepare bylaws
17 which must include a statement of purpose, mission,
18 vision, governance rules, and meeting requirements, and
19 must be reviewed and approved by the State Board of
20 Education every three years.
21 The board may also adopt resolutions
22 containing proposed regulations for state board
23 consideration. All governing board meetings are
24 subject to the Open Meetings Act and follow Robert's
25 Rules of Order.

Page 5

1 The Department of Education and Early
2 Development provides administrative and technical
3 support to the consortium; establishes standards for
4 consortium resources; and through a selection process
5 that includes a governing board, employs a reading
6 specialist. If recommended by the governing board, the
7 department may establish a school district
8 participation fee.
9 The consortium has several
10 responsibilities. It must maintain a statewide
11 database of virtual education courses that meet
12 Alaska's content standards and national online course
13 quality standards. It provides training and
14 professional development for teachers delivering
15 virtual instruction and may adopt policies that
16 recognize prior teacher experience.
17 The consortium also works within the
18 department to employ reading specialists, may recommend
19 a participation fee that reflects administrative costs,
20 and may provide recommendations to the state board on
21 matters related to consortium operations.
22 Courses in professional development
23 offered through the consortium must meet Alaska's
24 standards as well as the national standards for quality
25 online courses.

Page 6

1 Chapter 67 also provides definitions for
2 terms such as commissioner, consortium, department,
3 governing board, school district, state board, and
4 virtual education. And that concludes today's
5 overview, thank you, Jake.

6 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Thank you so much, Kathy,
7 appreciate that.

8 So we are now in the comment section of
9 the stakeholder meeting. And as stated before, you can
10 find a link in the chat to sign up for verbal comment.
11 You just fill out a couple fields of information, and
12 then I refer to the sign-up sheet and we'll announce
13 your name. And of course please state your name and
14 any affiliation. You'll have two minutes to give your
15 comment. If you have a specific question about the
16 regulations, we can answer them, but as far as your
17 comments go for stating an opinion, we're just here to
18 listen.

19 And additionally, you can always click on
20 the raise hand icon as well, and we can acknowledge you
21 that way.

22 So with that, seeing no one in the chat
23 right now, we will go ahead and just be on standby to
24 see if anyone joins us and wishes to give comment.
25 Thank you so much.

Page 7

1 (Pause)

2 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, we will now conclude
3 this public stakeholder meeting for Chapter 67, Virtual
4 Education Consortium regulations. If you're watching
5 this recording and would still like to submit feedback
6 regarding these regulations, you can go to our website
7 at education.alaska.gov/ao360, and your comments will
8 be submitted to the record that way. Thank you so
9 much, and we will now close this meeting.

10 (Meeting concluded)

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	2:20		2:3	icon (1)
A	board (12)	D	Excellence (1)	6:20
accepted (1)	4:8,9,16,19,21,22, 23;5:5,6,20;6:3,3	database (2)	3:18	implement (1)
access (1)	burdens (1)	4:6;5:11	experience (1)	3:1
4:5	2:9	days (1)	5:16	include (2)
acknowledge (1)	bylaws (1)	3:13	explain (1)	4:13,17
6:20	4:16	definitions (1)	3:3	included (1)
across (1)	C	6:1	F	3:11
4:2		delivering (1)		includes (1)
Act (2)	can (7)	5:14	far (1)	5:5
2:19;4:24	3:9,12;6:9,16,19,20; 7:6	department (6)	6:16	inclusion (1)
additionally (1)	changes (1)	2:24;3:23;5:1,7,18; 6:2	fee (2)	4:6
6:19	2:12	department's (2)	5:8,19	inform (1)
addressed (1)	Chapter (5)	3:5,11	feedback (5)	3:5
2:10	2:5;3:18,22;6:1;7:3	designate (1)	3:4,10,12,15;7:5	information (2)
Administrative (4)	chat (3)	4:6	fields (1)	3:14;6:11
2:4,19;5:2,19	3:14;6:10,22	designee (1)	6:11	Innovation (1)
adopt (3)	click (1)	4:10	fill (1)	3:17
3:2;4:21;5:15	6:19	Development (5)	6:11	input (3)
affiliation (1)	close (1)	3:24;4:1;5:2,14,22	find (1)	2:4,11;3:10
6:14	7:9	directly (2)	6:10	instruction (1)
ahead (1)	comment (7)	2:8;3:5	first (1)	5:15
6:23	2:18,22;3:9;6:8,10, 15,24	Distance (1)	3:7	intend (1)
Alaska (2)	comments (3)	3:23	follow (1)	3:1
3:22;4:2	2:24;6:17;7:7	district (2)	4:24	into (1)
Alaska's (3)	commissioner (2)	5:7;6:3	following (1)	3:9
2:10;5:12,23	4:10;6:2	districts (4)	3:13	J
ALMEIDA (3)	communication (1)	4:4,4,12,13	formal (1)	
2:2;6:6;7:2	4:7	division (1)	2:18	JAKE (5)
along (1)	conclude (1)	3:18	formally (1)	2:2;3:21;6:5,6;7:2
2:25	7:2	draft (1)	2:22	joining (1)
always (1)	concluded (1)	2:20	four (1)	2:6
6:19	7:10	drafted (1)	4:13	joins (1)
amended (1)	concludes (1)	2:17	G	6:24
2:17	6:4	during (1)		judicial (1)
analysis (1)	consideration (1)	2:25	good (1)	4:13
3:5	4:23	E	2:2	K
announce (1)	Consortium (14)	Early (2)	governance (1)	
6:12	2:5;3:23,25;4:3,5,9; 5:3,4,9,17,21,23;6:2; 7:4	3:24;5:1	4:18	Kathy (4)
AO (2)	containing (1)	Education (11)	governed (1)	3:17,20,21;6:6
2:4,10	4:22	2:5;3:17,24,25;4:10, 15,20;5:1,11;6:4;7:4	4:9	L
APA (1)	content (1)	educationalaskagov/ao360 (1)	governing (6)	
2:19	5:12	7:7	4:8,16,23;5:5,6;6:3	later (1)
appreciate (2)	costs (1)	elected (1)	H	2:20
3:22;6:7	5:19	4:11	hand (2)	Learning (1)
approved (2)	couple (1)	elections (1)	3:16;6:20	3:23
2:22;4:19	6:11	4:8	hear (2)	least (1)
area (1)	course (3)	employ (1)	2:7;3:7	4:14
4:15	4:6;5:12;6:13	5:18	helping (1)	legal (1)
at-large (1)	courses (4)	employs (1)	2:11	2:21
4:14	4:5;5:11,22,25	5:5	high (1)	link (1)
attendance (1)	create (1)	end (1)	3:25	6:10
4:15	2:24	2:13	honor (1)	list (1)
available (1)	critical (1)	establish (1)	2:13	2:24
4:1	2:11	5:7	hour (1)	listen (2)
B		establishes (2)	2:14	2:16;6:18
barriers (1)		3:22;5:3	I	M
2:9		everyone (1)		
begin (1)				maintain (1)

5:10 matters (1) 5:21 may (7) 4:4,16,21;5:7,15,18, 20 meaningful (1) 2:12 meet (2) 5:11,23 meeting (7) 2:7;3:8;4:18;6:9;7:3, 9,10 meetings (3) 2:15;4:23,24 Member (3) 4:4,11,14 members (1) 2:8 Membership (1) 4:2 minutes (1) 6:14 mission (1) 4:17 Moffitt (2) 3:17,21 morning (1) 2:2 move (1) 3:9 much (3) 6:6,25;7:9 must (5) 2:24;4:17,19;5:10, 23	5:21 opinion (1) 6:17 opportunities (1) 2:16 Order (2) 2:4;4:25 out (1) 6:11 over (2) 3:16,19 overview (2) 3:8;6:5		responsibilities (1) 5:10 review (1) 2:21 reviewed (1) 4:19 right (1) 6:23 Robert's (1) 4:24 rules (2) 4:18,25	stated (1) 6:9 statement (1) 4:17 statewide (1) 5:10 stating (1) 6:17 steps (1) 3:6 still (1) 7:5 students (2) 2:12;4:2 subject (1) 4:24 submit (2) 4:5;7:5 submitted (1) 7:8 submitting (1) 3:14 summarized (1) 3:11 support (2) 2:12;5:3
		Q		
		quality (3) 3:25;5:13,24		
		R		
		raise (1) 6:20 reading (2) 5:5,18 receive (2) 2:25;4:7 recognize (1) 5:16 recommend (1) 5:18 recommendation (2) 3:1,3 recommendations (1) 5:20 recommended (1) 5:6 record (1) 7:8 recorded (1) 3:10 recording (1) 7:5 refer (2) 3:13;6:12 reflects (1) 5:19 reform (3) 2:10,23;3:11 regarding (2) 2:9;7:6 regional (1) 4:15 regulations (9) 2:6,17,20;3:8,19; 4:22;6:16;7:4,6 regulatory (2) 2:9,23 related (1) 5:21 repealed (1) 2:18 representation (1) 4:12 representative (1) 4:14 representatives (2) 4:7,11 required (1) 3:3 requirements (1) 4:18 resolutions (1) 4:21 resources (3) 4:1,5;5:4	S	
	P			
	part (2) 2:10,23 participate (1) 4:8 participation (2) 5:8,19 Pause (1) 7:1 period (1) 3:9 perspectives (1) 2:16 plan (2) 2:23;3:12 please (2) 3:13;6:13 policies (1) 5:15 possible (1) 4:12 prepare (1) 4:16 prior (1) 5:16 Procedure (1) 2:19 proceed (1) 3:7 process (4) 2:19,20,25;5:4 professional (3) 4:1;5:14,22 project (1) 2:11 promptly (1) 2:13 proposed (1) 4:22 provide (1) 5:20 provides (3) 5:2,13;6:1 public (4) 2:8,18,22;7:3 purpose (3) 2:7;3:24;4:17			
				T
				teacher (1) 5:16 teachers (2) 4:2;5:14 technical (1) 5:2 terms (1) 6:2 three (1) 4:20 today (2) 2:13;3:7 today's (2) 2:3;6:4 training (1) 5:13 two (1) 6:14
N				
name (2) 6:13,13 national (2) 5:12,24 next (1) 3:6				
				U
				under (1) 2:19 undergone (1) 2:21 up (3) 4:10,11;6:10
				V
offered (1) 5:23 official (1) 2:21 one (2) 4:14;6:22 online (2) 5:12,25 only (1) 4:3 open (2) 4:3,24 operating (1) 4:4 operations (1)				valuable (1) 3:4 Verbal (3) 3:10,14;6:10

<p>Virtual (7) 2:5;3:25;4:6;5:11, 15;6:4;7:3 vision (1) 4:18 voluntary (1) 4:3</p>				
<p>W</p>				
<p>walk (1) 3:18 watching (1) 7:4 way (2) 6:21;7:8 website (1) 7:6 welcome (1) 2:3 wishes (1) 6:24 within (2) 3:23;5:17 works (1) 5:17 written (2) 3:12,14</p>				
<p>Y</p>				
<p>years (1) 4:20</p>				
<p>3</p>				
<p>30 (1) 3:12 360 (2) 2:4,10</p>				
<p>6</p>				
<p>67 (5) 2:5;3:19,22;6:1;7:3</p>				