

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Virtual Meeting
Regulatory Revisions - Administrative Order 360

Chapter 3 - State Board of Education
Chapter 4 - Statewide Goals
Chapter 5 - Local Education
Chapter 6 - Government of Schools: Article 1 - General
Administration

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Pages 1 - 7, 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 3, State Board of Education; Chapter
 6 4, Statewide Goals; Chapter 5, Local Education; and
 7 Chapter 6, Government of Schools, Article 1, General
 8 Administration regulations. Thank you for taking the
 9 time to join us.

10 The purpose of this meeting is to hear
 11 directly from stakeholders and members of the public
 12 regarding regulatory burdens or barriers you believe
 13 should be addressed as part of Alaska's AO 360 reform
 14 project. Your input is critical in helping us shape
 15 meaningful changes that support students and schools.
 16 To honor your time, this session will end promptly on
 17 the hour.

18 These stakeholder meetings are
 19 opportunities for us to listen to your perspectives
 20 before any regulations should be drafted, amended, or
 21 repealed. This is not the formal public comment
 22 process under the Administrative Procedure Act as that
 23 process would only begin later after draft regulations
 24 have undergone official legal review and have been
 25 formally approved for public comment.

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1 As part of our regulatory reform plan,
 2 the department must create a list of all the comments
 3 we receive during this stakeholder process along with
 4 whether we intend to implement each recommendation that
 5 you as a stakeholder would make. And if we do not
 6 adopt a recommendation, we are required to explain why
 7 not. That's why your feedback today is so valuable as
 8 it will directly shape our department's analysis and
 9 inform you of the next steps of this project.

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

14 Verbal feedback will be recorded,
 15 summarized, and included in the department's reform
 16 plan. Written feedback will also be accepted for 30
 17 days following this session. And please refer to the
 18 chat for information on submitting both.

19 So now I will walk through the
 20 regulations for today's meeting as a chapter lead, and
 21 I'll just walk through the chapter briefly.

22 Chapter 3, State Board of Education,
 23 these regulations establish the role of the advisory
 24 members on the state board of education and set rules
 25 for adopting regulations and allow waivers for

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1 innovative educational programs.
 2 For Chapter 4, Statewide Goals, these
 3 regulations establish Alaska's statewide goals for
 4 public education, outlining the knowledge, skills, and
 5 abilities students should develop, and adopting by
 6 reference the state's content standards across subject
 7 areas. It clarifies that content standards guide
 8 expectations for high quality educational outcomes
 9 while allowing districts flexibility to design local
 10 curricula.

11 The chapter also adopts standards for
 12 English language proficiency, library and information
 13 literacy, and digital literacy, cultural
 14 responsiveness, and physical education.

15 In addition, it sets professional and
 16 performance standards for teachers and administrators,
 17 including expectations for culturally responsive
 18 practice. Districts must develop their own performance
 19 standards aligned with these statewide professional
 20 standards.

21 For Chapter 5, Local Education, this
 22 chapter of regulations ensures that every school-aged
 23 child in Alaska has the right to a public education in
 24 their local community and cannot be required to leave
 25 their community to attend school. It allows districts

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1 to enroll part-time students, including those in
 2 private, home, or correspondence schools, provided
 3 space and prerequisites are met.

4 Districts are responsible for developing
 5 and evaluating curricula, providing annual student
 6 assessments, and ensuring compliance with the state
 7 educational standards. The chapter also establishes
 8 requirements and procedures for temporary or permanent
 9 school closures, emergency closures, and the minimum
 10 instruction time for kindergarten.

11 Key definitions in these regulations
 12 clarify terms such as community, school,
 13 superintendent, and local school committee.

14 Chapter 6, Article 1, Government of
 15 Schools, these regulations set the framework for Alaska
 16 school operations focusing on student health, safety,
 17 and educational standards. It covers required
 18 immunizations, suspension or denial of admission,
 19 graduation requirements, alternative completion for
 20 students with disabilities, and recognition of
 21 bi-literacy.

22 The article also addresses participation
 23 in inner-scholastic activities, credit for Alaska Army
 24 National Guard training, and student rights to
 25 challenge courses.

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1 Additionally, it establishes fiscal
2 accountability, reporting on disciplinary programs, and
3 crisis intervention training to ensure safe and
4 effective school environments.
5 So at a high level those are the
6 regulations that are being covered in this stakeholder
7 meeting. And we're now in the comment period section
8 of this meeting. As stated before, if you look at the
9 link in the chat, there is a sign-up sheet. You're
10 more than welcome to click on that and fill out the
11 fields of information, and then we'll call on you when
12 we see your name on the sign-up sheet, and you can give
13 two minutes of testimony. As always, of course, please
14 just state your name and any affiliation you may hold.
15 If you can't access the link, then you
16 can also click on the raise hand icon on the bottom of
17 your Zoom task bar and we'll acknowledge you in the
18 same way.
19 So now at this time we're going to wait
20 to see if anyone wants to give comment. And if we
21 don't hear from anyone, at about 20 after we will then
22 just end the meeting. So thank you and we are now on
23 hold.
24 (Pause)
25 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, we will now conclude

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1 this public stakeholder meeting for Chapter 3, State
2 Board of Education; Chapter 4, Statewide Goals; Chapter
3 5, Local Education; and Chapter 6, Government of
4 Schools, Article 1, General Administration regulations.
5 If you're watching this recording and
6 would still like to submit feedback regarding these
7 regulations, you can go to our website at
8 education.alaska.gov/ao360, your comments will still be
9 submitted for the record that way. So thank you so
10 much, and we will now conclude this meeting.
11 (Meeting concluded)
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