

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

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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 3, State Board of Education; Chapter
6 4, Statewide Goals; Chapter 5, Local Education; and
7 Chapter 6, Government of Schools for Article 1, General
8 Administration regulations.
9 The purpose of this meeting is to hear
10 directly from stakeholders and members of the public
11 regarding regulatory burdens or barriers you believe
12 should be addressed as part of Alaska's AO 360 reform
13 project. Your input is critical in helping us shape
14 meaningful changes that support students and schools.
15 To honor your time today, this session will end
16 promptly on the hour.
17 These stakeholder meetings are
18 opportunities for us to listen to your perspectives
19 before any regulations should be formally drafted,
20 amended, or repealed. This is not the public comment
21 process under the Administrative Procedure Act, or APA.
22 That process would only begin later after draft
23 regulations have undergone official legal review and
24 have been formally approved for public comment.
25 As part of our regulatory reform plan,

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1 the department must create a list of all the comments
2 we receive during this stakeholder process along with
3 whether we intend to implement each recommendation that
4 a stakeholder should make. And if we don't adopt a
5 recommendation, we are required to explain why not.
6 And that's why your feedback is so valuable to the
7 department, is we're shaping our analysis and informing
8 you of the next steps of this project.
9 So to proceed today, we'll first hear a
10 short overview of the regulations for this meeting, and
11 then we'll move into the comment period where you may
12 share your input.
13 Verbal feedback will be recorded,
14 summarized, and included in the department's reform
15 plan. Written feedback will also be accepted for 30
16 days following this session. And please refer to the
17 chat for information on submitting both.
18 So with that I will continue to walk
19 through the regulations as the lead for these chapters
20 for today.
21 So for Chapter 3, State Board of
22 Education, these regulations establish the role of the
23 advisory members on the state board and sets rules for
24 adopting regulations and allows waivers for innovative
25 educational programs.

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1 For Chapter 4, Statewide Goals, these
2 regulations establish Alaska's statewide goals for
3 public education, outlining the knowledge, skills, and
4 abilities students should develop, and adopting by
5 reference, referencing the state's content standards
6 across subject areas. It clarifies that content
7 standards guide expectations for high quality
8 educational outcomes while allowing districts
9 flexibility to design their own local curriculum.
10 The chapter also adopts standards for
11 English language proficiency, library and information
12 literacy, digital literacy, cultural responsiveness,
13 and physical education.
14 In addition, it sets professional and
15 performative standards for teachers, administrators,
16 including expectations for culturally responsive
17 practice. Districts must develop their own performance
18 standards aligned with statewide professional
19 standards.
20 For Chapter 5, Local Education, this
21 chapter ensures that every school-aged eligible child
22 in Alaska has the right to a public education in their
23 local community and cannot be required to leave their
24 community to attend school. It allows districts to
25 enroll part-time students, including those in private,

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1 home, or correspondence schools, provided space and
2 prerequisites are met.
3 Districts are responsible for developing
4 and evaluating curricula, providing annual student
5 assessments, and ensuring compliance with state
6 educational standards. The chapter also establishes
7 requirements and procedures for temporary or permanent
8 school closures, emergency closures, and the minimum
9 instructional time for kindergarten.
10 Key definitions clarify terms such as
11 community, school, superintendent, and local school
12 committee.
13 And finally for Chapter 6, Article 1,
14 Government of Schools regulations, these regulations
15 sets the framework for Alaska school operations
16 focusing on student health, safety, and educational
17 standards. It covers required immunizations,
18 suspension or denial of admission, graduation
19 requirements, alternative completion for students with
20 disabilities, and recognition of bi-literacy.
21 The article also addresses participation
22 in inner-scholastic activities, credit for Alaska Army
23 National Guard training, and student rights to
24 challenge courses.
25 Additionally, it establishes fiscal

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1 accountability, reporting on disciplinary programs, and
2 crisis intervention training to ensure safe and
3 effective school environments.
4 So those are the regulations for today's
5 stakeholder meeting that we're taking comment on. And
6 we're now in the comment period section of this
7 meeting. There is a link in the chat that you can see
8 for a sign-up sheet. If you click on that link and
9 fill out a couple fields of information, we'll then
10 call on you and you'll have two minutes to give your
11 testimony on these regulations. Please state your name
12 and any affiliation you have, of course.
13 If you can't access the link, you can
14 also click on the raise hand icon on the bottom of your
15 Zoom task bar and we can acknowledge you in the same
16 way to speak for two minutes.
17 And we're just here to answer specific
18 questions, but otherwise we're here to hear your
19 comments and we'll not necessarily be engaging in any
20 back and forth, but we just want to hear what you have
21 to say.
22 So at this time we're in the comment
23 period section. If anyone would like to sign up,
24 please do so or raise your hand, otherwise we will wait
25 until about 20 after, and if no one has indicated their

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1 desire to give comment, then we will just end the
2 meeting. So at this time we are on hold for anyone to
3 give testimony, thank you.
4 (Pause)
5 **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, we will now conclude
6 this public stakeholder meeting for Chapter 3, State
7 Board of Education; Chapter 4, Statewide Goals; Chapter
8 5, Local Education; and Chapter 6, Government of
9 Schools, Article 1, General Administration regulations.
10 If you're watching this recording and
11 would like to submit feedback regarding these
12 regulations, you can go to our website at
13 education.alaska.gov/ao360, your comments will still be
14 submitted for the record that way. So thank you so
15 much, and we will now conclude this meeting.
16 (Meeting concluded)
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