STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Virtual Meeting
Regulatory Revisions - Administrative Order 360

Chapter 52 - Education for Children with Disabilities and Gifted

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Transcribed by: Leonard DiPaolo, RPR, CRR, CCP

P R O C E E D I N G S

JAKE ALMEIDA: Okay, good afternoon, everyone. I'd like to welcome you to today's Administrative Order, or AO, 360 stakeholder input session on Chapter 52, Education For Children With Disabilities and Gifted regulations. Thank you for taking the time to join us.

The purpose of this meeting is to hear directly from stakeholders and members of the public regarding regulatory burdens or barriers you believe should be addressed as part of Alaska's AO 360 reform project.

Your input is critical in helping us shape meaningful changes that support students and schools. To honor your time today, this session will end promptly on the hour.

These stakeholder meetings are important opportunities for us to listen to your perspectives before any regulations should be drafted, amended, or repealed. This is not the formal public comment process under the Administrative Procedure Act, or APA. That process would only begin later after draft regulations have undergone official legal review and have been formally approved for public comment.

As part of our regulatory reform plan,

the department must create a list of all the comments we receive during this stakeholder process along with whether we intend to implement each recommendation that you as a stakeholder should make. And if we do not adopt a recommendation, we are required to explain why not. And that's why your feedback is so valuable to us as it will directly shape our department's analysis and inform you of the next steps of this process.

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

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

So now I will hand it over to Ms. Deb Riddle with our IEE division, and she will walk through the regulations at a high level and explain what they are. So over to you, Deb

DEBORAH RIDDLE: Thanks, Jake. This is Deb Riddle, I'm the division operations manager for the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence. And we're going to talk today about Chapter 52, Education

For Children With Disabilities.

Special education regulations are related to services provided by districts to ensure a free and appropriate education, or FAPE, to all eligible children with disabilities age 3 through 21 residing in the district, including highly mobile, home educated, suspended or expelled, and those with various public and private educational settings.

The regulations address procedures associated with Child Find which requires districts to identify, locate, and evaluate all children suspected of having a disability through an annual public notice screening and referral.

Once parental consent is obtained, the district must evaluate the child, determine the eligibility based on the specific disability criteria, and develop an Individualized Education Program, or an EIP.

The regulations address timelines associated with all special education requirements and the role of parents as service providers in the process.

Chapter 52 also addresses the need for districts to provide the least restrictive environment and includes necessary accommodations and elements such

as transition services and assistive technology.

These regulations also provide the process and requirements for identifying students who require intensive services and how the state supports districts through the foundation formula. And back to you, Jake, thanks.

JAKE ALMEIDA: All right, thank you for that, Deb. So we're now in the public comment period of this stakeholder meeting. And as stated before, you can find in the chat a link to the sign-up sheet. If you click on that, you just fill out a couple fields of information, and then I call on you when your name pops up on the sheet. You'll have two minutes to give your comment on these regulations, and of course please state any affiliation -- your name and any affiliation you may have.

If you cannot access the link, you can just click on the raise hand icon on the bottom of your Zoom task bar and you will be acknowledged in the same manner.

So at this time, not seeing anyone on the sign-up sheet and not seeing anyone raising their hand, we will go on hold and wait, and if we do not hear from anyone at about 20 after, then we will just conclude the meeting from there.

So thank you, and we are now on hold awaiting public comment.
(Pause)
JAKE ALMEIDA: Okay, we will now conclude this public stakeholder meeting for Chapter 52, Education For Children With Disabilities and Gifted regulations.
If you're watching this recording and would still like to submit feedback regarding these regulations, you can go to our website at education.alaska.gov/ao360 and your comment will still be submitted for the record that way.
So thank you so much, and we will now conclude this meeting.
(Meeting concluded)

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