

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

December 11, 2025  
8:00 a.m.

Pages 1 - 6, inclusive

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20 repealed.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

Page 3

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 you as a stakeholder should make. And if we do not  
5 adopt a recommendation, we are required to explain why  
6 not. And that's why your feedback is so valuable to us  
7 as it will directly shape our department's analysis and  
8 inform you of the next steps of this regulatory  
9 process.  
10            So to proceed today, we'll first hear a  
11 short overview of the regulations for this meeting,  
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 both.  
19            So now I will hand it over to Ms. Deb  
20 Riddle, she's our division operations manager for the  
21 Innovation and Education Excellence division, and she  
22 will walk through Chapter 52 and what the regulations  
23 are at a high level. So over to you, Deb.  
24            **DEBORAH RIDDLE:** Thank you, Jake. And  
25 once again, Deborah Riddle, division operations manager

Page 4

1 for Innovation and Education Excellence.  
2            Today we're going to talk about the  
3 regulations in Chapter 52, the section about education  
4 for children with disabilities. These regulations  
5 provide guidance and clarity to the federal statute and  
6 regulations revolving around students with  
7 disabilities.  
8            As you know, Alaska school districts are  
9 responsible for administering special education and  
10 related services to provide a free and appropriate  
11 public education to all eligible children with  
12 disabilities ages 3 through 21 residing in the school  
13 district.  
14            The process -- the regulations outline  
15 the process that involves helping districts identify  
16 students through the Child Find Program. This allows  
17 them to identify, locate, and evaluate all children  
18 suspected of having a disability. They also -- it also  
19 talks about the Individualized Education Program, our  
20 IEP, and the team that is required to be a part of  
21 that, as well as timelines.  
22            It also talks about -- the regulations  
23 describe the least restrictive environment and what are  
24 the necessary elements, like transition services and  
25 assistive technology, and the timeline for

Page 5

1 re-evaluating those.  
2            These regulations also provide the  
3 process and requirements for identifying students who  
4 need intensive services and how the state supports  
5 districts through the foundation formula.  
6            If you have any questions, please let me  
7 know. Please respond to the survey to provide input on  
8 individual regulations. And back to you, Jake.  
9            **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Thank you for that, Deb.  
10 So we are now in the comment period section of this  
11 stakeholder meeting. And as stated before, you will  
12 find links in the chat to sign up on our sign-up sheet,  
13 and when we see your name we'll call on you. And, of  
14 course, please state any name or affiliation you have,  
15 and you'll have two minutes to give your testimony. If  
16 you can't utilize the link, you can also just click on  
17 your raise hand button on the bottom of your Zoom task  
18 bar and we can acknowledge you in the same manner.  
19            So seeing that no one is currently with  
20 us to give public comment, we will wait on hold for  
21 anyone to join us. And if we do not receive anything,  
22 about 20 after we will conclude the meeting. So at  
23 this time we are on hold, thank you so much.  
24 (Pause)  
25            **JAKE ALMEIDA:** Okay, we will now conclude

1 this public stakeholder meeting for Chapter 52,  
2 Education For Children With Disabilities and Gifted  
3 regulations.  
4       If you're watching this recording and  
5 would still like to submit feedback regarding these  
6 regulations, you can go to our website at  
7 education.alaska.gov/ao360 and your comment will still  
8 be submitted for the record that way. So thank you,  
9 and we will now close this meeting.

10           (Meeting concluded)

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	5:17	2:6;4:4,7,12;6:2		2:2;3:24;5:8,9,25
<b>A</b>	<b>burdens (1)</b> 2:10	<b>disability (1)</b> 4:18	<b>G</b>	<b>join (2)</b> 2:7;5:21
<b>accepted (1)</b> 3:16	<b>button (1)</b> 5:17	<b>district (1)</b> 4:13	<b>Gifted (2)</b> 2:6;6:2	<b>L</b>
<b>acknowledge (1)</b> 5:18	<b>C</b>	<b>districts (3)</b> 4:8,15;5:5	<b>good (1)</b> 2:2	<b>later (1)</b> 2:22
<b>Act (1)</b> 2:22	<b>call (1)</b> 5:13	<b>division (3)</b> 3:20,21,25	<b>guidance (1)</b> 4:5	<b>least (1)</b> 4:23
<b>addressed (1)</b> 2:11	<b>can (3)</b> 5:16,18;6:6	<b>draft (1)</b> 2:23	<b>H</b>	<b>legal (1)</b> 2:23
<b>administering (1)</b> 4:9	<b>changes (1)</b> 2:14	<b>drafted (1)</b> 2:19	<b>hand (2)</b> 3:19;5:17	<b>level (1)</b> 3:23
<b>Administrative (2)</b> 2:4,21	<b>Chapter (4)</b> 2:5;3:22;4:3;6:1	<b>during (1)</b> 3:2	<b>hear (2)</b> 2:8;3:10	<b>link (1)</b> 5:16
<b>adopt (1)</b> 3:5	<b>chat (2)</b> 3:18;5:12	<b>E</b>	<b>helping (2)</b> 2:13;4:15	<b>links (1)</b> 5:12
<b>affiliation (1)</b> 5:14	<b>Child (1)</b> 4:16	<b>Education (8)</b> 2:5;3:21;4:1,3,9,11, 19;6:2	<b>high (1)</b> 3:23	<b>list (1)</b> 3:1
<b>again (1)</b> 3:25	<b>Children (5)</b> 2:5;4:4,11,17;6:2	<b>educationalaskagov/ao360 (1)</b> 6:7	<b>hold (2)</b> 5:20,23	<b>listen (1)</b> 2:18
<b>ages (1)</b> 4:12	<b>clarity (1)</b> 4:5	<b>elements (1)</b> 4:24	<b>honor (1)</b> 2:15	<b>locate (1)</b> 4:17
<b>Alaska (1)</b> 4:8	<b>click (1)</b> 5:16	<b>eligible (1)</b> 4:11	<b>hour (1)</b> 2:16	<b>M</b>
<b>Alaska's (1)</b> 2:11	<b>close (1)</b> 6:9	<b>end (1)</b> 2:16	<b>I</b>	<b>manager (2)</b> 3:20,25
<b>allows (1)</b> 4:16	<b>comment (6)</b> 2:20,24;3:12;5:10, 20;6:7	<b>environment (1)</b> 4:23	<b>identify (2)</b> 4:15,17	<b>manner (1)</b> 5:18
<b>ALMEIDA (3)</b> 2:2;5:9,25	<b>comments (1)</b> 3:1	<b>evaluate (1)</b> 4:17	<b>identifying (1)</b> 5:3	<b>may (1)</b> 3:12
<b>along (1)</b> 3:2	<b>conclude (2)</b> 5:22,25	<b>everyone (1)</b> 2:3	<b>IEP (1)</b> 4:20	<b>meaningful (1)</b> 2:14
<b>amended (1)</b> 2:19	<b>concluded (1)</b> 6:10	<b>Excellence (2)</b> 3:21;4:1	<b>implement (1)</b> 3:3	<b>meeting (7)</b> 2:8;3:11;5:11,22; 6:1,9,10
<b>analysis (1)</b> 3:7	<b>course (2)</b> 2:21;5:14	<b>explain (1)</b> 3:5	<b>included (1)</b> 3:15	<b>meetings (1)</b> 2:17
<b>AO (2)</b> 2:4,11	<b>create (1)</b> 3:1	<b>F</b>	<b>individual (1)</b> 5:8	<b>members (1)</b> 2:9
<b>APA (1)</b> 2:22	<b>critical (1)</b> 2:13	<b>federal (1)</b> 4:5	<b>Individualized (1)</b> 4:19	<b>minutes (1)</b> 5:15
<b>appropriate (1)</b> 4:10	<b>currently (1)</b> 5:19	<b>feedback (4)</b> 3:6,14,16;6:5	<b>inform (1)</b> 3:8	<b>morning (1)</b> 2:2
<b>approved (1)</b> 2:24	<b>D</b>	<b>Find (2)</b> 4:16;5:12	<b>information (1)</b> 3:18	<b>move (1)</b> 3:12
<b>around (1)</b> 4:6	<b>days (1)</b> 3:17	<b>first (1)</b> 3:10	<b>Innovation (2)</b> 3:21;4:1	<b>much (1)</b> 5:23
<b>assistive (1)</b> 4:25	<b>Deb (3)</b> 3:19,23;5:9	<b>following (1)</b> 3:17	<b>input (4)</b> 2:4,13;3:13;5:7	<b>must (1)</b> 3:1
<b>B</b>	<b>DEBORAH (2)</b> 3:24,25	<b>formal (1)</b> 2:20	<b>intend (1)</b> 3:3	<b>N</b>
<b>back (1)</b> 5:8	<b>department (1)</b> 3:1	<b>formally (1)</b> 2:24	<b>intensive (1)</b> 5:4	<b>name (2)</b> 5:13,14
<b>bar (1)</b> 5:18	<b>department's (2)</b> 3:7,15	<b>formula (1)</b> 5:5	<b>into (1)</b> 3:12	<b>necessary (1)</b> 4:24
<b>barriers (1)</b> 2:10	<b>describe (1)</b> 4:23	<b>foundation (1)</b> 5:5	<b>involves (1)</b> 4:15	<b>need (1)</b> 5:4
<b>begin (1)</b> 2:22	<b>directly (2)</b> 2:9;3:7	<b>free (1)</b> 4:10	<b>J</b>	<b>next (1)</b> 3:8
<b>both (1)</b> 3:18	<b>Disabilities (5)</b>		<b>JAKE (5)</b>	
<b>bottom (1)</b>				

<b>O</b>	receive (2) 3:2;5:21	shape (2) 2:14;3:7	4:21 today (3) 2:15;3:10;4:2	360 (2) 2:4,11
official (1) 2:23 once (1) 3:25 one (1) 5:19 only (1) 2:22 operations (2) 3:20,25 opportunities (1) 2:18 Order (1) 2:4 outline (1) 4:14 over (2) 3:19,23 overview (1) 3:11	recommendation (2) 3:3,5 record (1) 6:8 recorded (1) 3:14 recording (1) 6:4 re-evaluating (1) 5:1 refer (1) 3:17 reform (3) 2:11,25;3:15 regarding (2) 2:10;6:5 regulations (14) 2:6,19,23;3:11,22; 4:3,4,6,14,22;5:2,8; 6:3,6 regulatory (3) 2:10,25;3:8 related (1) 4:10	share (1) 3:13 sheet (1) 5:12 short (1) 3:11 sign (1) 5:12 sign-up (1) 5:12 special (1) 4:9 stakeholder (6) 2:4,17;3:2,4;5:11; 6:1 stakeholders (1) 2:9 state (2) 5:4,14 stated (1) 5:11 statute (1) 4:5 steps (1) 3:8 still (2) 6:5,7 students (4) 2:14;4:6,16;5:3 submit (1) 6:5 submitted (1) 6:8 summarized (1) 3:15 support (1) 2:14 supports (1) 5:4 survey (1) 5:7 suspected (1) 4:18	today's (1) 2:3 transition (1) 4:24 two (1) 5:15  <b>U</b>  under (1) 2:21 undergone (1) 2:23 up (1) 5:12 utilize (1) 5:16  <b>V</b>  valuable (1) 3:6 Verbal (1) 3:14  <b>W</b>  wait (1) 5:20 walk (1) 3:22 watching (1) 6:4 way (1) 6:8 website (1) 6:6 welcome (1) 2:3 Written (1) 3:16  <b>Z</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>52 (4)</b> 2:5;3:22;4:3;6:1
<b>P</b>	regulatory (3) 2:10,25;3:8	statute (1) 4:5	valuable (1) 3:6	
part (3) 2:11,25;4:20 Pause (1) 5:24 period (2) 3:12;5:10 perspectives (1) 2:18 plan (2) 2:25;3:16 please (4) 3:17;5:6,7,14 Procedure (1) 2:21 proceed (1) 3:10 process (7) 2:21,22;3:2,9;4:14, 15;5:3 Program (2) 4:16,19 project (1) 2:12 promptly (1) 2:16 provide (4) 4:5,10;5:2,7 public (6) 2:9,20,24;4:11;5:20; 6:1 purpose (1) 2:8	repealed (1) 2:20 required (2) 3:5;4:20 requirements (1) 5:3 residing (1) 4:12 respond (1) 5:7 responsible (1) 4:9 restrictive (1) 4:23 review (1) 2:23 revolving (1) 4:6 Riddle (3) 3:20,24,25  <b>S</b>  same (1) 5:18 school (2) 4:8,12 schools (1) 2:15 section (2) 4:3;5:10 seeing (1) 5:19 services (3) 4:10,24;5:4 session (3) 2:5,15;3:17	steps (1) 3:8 still (2) 6:5,7 students (4) 2:14;4:6,16;5:3 submit (1) 6:5 submitted (1) 6:8 summarized (1) 3:15 support (1) 2:14 supports (1) 5:4 survey (1) 5:7 suspected (1) 4:18  <b>T</b>  talk (1) 4:2 talks (2) 4:19,22 task (1) 5:17 team (1) 4:20 technology (1) 4:25 testimony (1) 5:15 timeline (1) 4:25 timelines (1)	Verbal (1) 3:14  <b>W</b>  wait (1) 5:20 walk (1) 3:22 watching (1) 6:4 way (1) 6:8 website (1) 6:6 welcome (1) 2:3 Written (1) 3:16  <b>Z</b>  Zoom (1) 5:17  <b>2</b>  20 (1) 5:22 21 (1) 4:12  <b>3</b>	
<b>R</b>	services (3) 4:10,24;5:4	testimony (1) 5:15	3 (1) 4:12	
raise (1) 5:17	session (3) 2:5,15;3:17	timeline (1) 4:25 timelines (1)	30 (1) 3:16	