

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education & Early Development**

April 19, 2023

From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner

Agenda Item: 2

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to adopt regulations related to the Alaska Reads Act.

◆ BACKGROUND

- The proposed regulations are in response to the passage of House Bill (HB) 114, Education: Schools; Funding; Programs, also known as the Alaska Reads Act, that became law on July 15, 2022 (Chapter 40, SLA 2022). The effective date of this new law is July 1, 2023.
- The Alaska Reads Act created four new programs in the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED): an early education grant program; a department reading program; a district reading improvement program; and a virtual education consortium.
- The proposed regulations included in the board packet address three of the four programs (an early education grant program; a department reading program; and a district reading improvement program), as well as amendments to teacher certification regulations tied to the Alaska Reads Act.
- The written public comment period started on February 3, 2023, and ended March 3, 2023. All comments were considered.
- The summary of changes and updated proposed regulations and the Early Education Program Standards can be found behind this cover memo.
- Susan McKenzie, Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Education & Certification; and Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General, will be present to brief the board.

◆ OPTIONS

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 4.