

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

**April 19, 2023**

**From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 4**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to adopt amended 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 Agenda Item 2.
- 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**

Adopt the proposed regulations.

Amend the proposed regulation and open a period of public comment.

Seek more information.

**◆ ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the proposed regulations.

**◆ SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt the proposed regulation changes to implement House Bill 114 including:

- adding new regulations 4 AAC 06.300 through 4 AAC 06.390 to implement a department reading program;
- adding new regulations 4 AAC 06.400 through 4 AAC 06.490 to implement a district reading improvement program;
- amending teacher certification regulations 4 AAC 12.300(g), 4 AAC 12.305, 4 AAC 12.310, 4 AAC 12.345, 4 AAC 12.407 and 4 AAC 12.900(a), adding new sections to teacher certification regulations 4 AAC 12.310, 4 AAC 12.392, 4 AAC 12.393, 4 AAC 12.409 and repealing 4 AAC 12.900(b) to address teacher certification requirements; and,
- adding new regulations 4 AAC 05.100, 4 AAC 60.190 through 4 AAC 60.990, adopting by reference *Early Education Program Standards*, and repealing 4 AAC 60.037 and 4 AAC 60.180 to implement an early education grant program.