

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

July 26, 2023

From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner

Agenda Item: 7A

◆ **ISSUE**

The board is being asked to approve proposed regulations to establish a virtual education consortium and associated governing body 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.
- Virtual Education is the component of the Alaska Reads Act (Section 37, AS 14.30.800) that directs the department to establish a consortium to share access to virtual education resources between Alaska school districts.
- In order to govern and organize the consortium, vet content, and approve teacher training for providing instruction through the consortium, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) proposes the establishment of a governing body for the consortium.
- DEED proposes a governing body of nine members to represent a range of partners, districts, and geographic regions of the state.
- DEED proposes the establishment of a database to establish a mechanism for compiling approved content for the purpose of cataloging options for districts to access.
- This initial round of regulations will establish the consortium governing body and the database. Once convened, the governing body of the consortium will work from stakeholder input, current practice from other states, and guidance from DEED to further define the consortium model, identify any forms, agreements, processes, and/or fees necessary to implement the consortium, and draft further regulations to guide the implementation of the consortium for use by participating members.
- The proposed regulations, and publications to be adopted by reference (the *National Standards for Quality Online Courses* and the *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching*) can be found behind this cover memo.
- Regulations were posted for public comment for thirty days, and one public comment was received on these proposed regulations and can be found behind this cover memo.

- Susan McKenzie, Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, and Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, will be present to brief the board.

◆ **OPTIONS**

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 10A.