

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

**June 03, 2025**

**From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 1**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to provide provisional state approval of the Master of Science in School Psychology – Specialist program at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) through June 30, 2029.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- The University of Alaska Anchorage's Master of Science in School Psychology-Specialist program has been designed to meet workforce needs for School Psychologists in Alaska by preparing graduates to provide assessment, intervention, consultation, and mental health services in Alaska schools.
- Alaska is currently experiencing a significant workforce shortage of school psychologists. The state's current ratio is approximately 1 school psychologist per 1,660 children and youth, which is more than three times higher than the recommended ratio of 1:500 as advised by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Nine out of 54 Alaska school districts rely on contractual workers to provide services.
- In Alaska, the certification requirements for special service providers, including school psychologists, are governed by 4 AAC 12.355 of the Alaska Administrative Code. For the "school psychology" endorsement, the applicant must be recommended for endorsement by an institution whose psychology program has been approved by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, the National Association of School Psychologists, or the American Psychological Association.
  - o [National Association of School Psychologists \(NASP\) standards](#)
- Master of Science in School Psychology-Specialist program accreditation timeline:
  - o July 2025 - Submit for Candidacy Status
  - o September 2028 - Submit for Full Accreditation
  - o April 2029 - NASP complete site visit
  - o June 2029 - NASP informs program of decision
- The following items can be found behind cover memo
  - o UAA's Request for Provisional Approval
  - o Presentation Slides
  - o NASP Program Accreditation Process
- Jenny McNulty, PhD, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Hattie Harvey, PhD, Professor of Psychology & School Psychology Program Director will be present to brief the board.

**◆ SUGGESTED MOTION**

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 12.