FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2016

State Board Repeals Student Data Requirement in Educator Evaluations

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting June 16 & 17 in Juneau, repealed the requirement that school districts consider data about student achievement when they evaluate educators. The requirement would have taken effect in Alaska next school year.

Alaska had adopted that requirement in order to receive a waiver from the much-criticized accountability system of the No Child Left Behind Act. Under the new federal K-12 law, the Every Student Succeeds Act, school districts do not have to consider data about student achievement when they evaluate educators. Consequently, Alaska has repealed its requirement.

At its meeting, the board also set qualifying scores for the new version of the SAT in determining students' eligibility for the Alaska Performance Scholarship. The new SAT uses a different scoring system from the former SAT.

The board also will send out for public comment proposed regulations that would:

- Clarify and make more rigorous the requirements for teachers to gain a retired teacher certificate. Holders of retired teacher certificates would be able to substitute-teach only in the areas in which they had at least three years' experience.

- Require school districts to employ a certificated teacher to replace a teacher who will be absent for more than 20 days or to temporarily fill a vacancy at the start of the school year. If a teacher with a regular certificate was not available, districts could use a teacher with a retired teacher certificate as a substitute for up to 90 days.

- Repeal provisions about teacher qualifications under the No Child Left Behind Act, which have been eliminated by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

The packet for the meeting is at https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/16-June-Packet.pdf. The opportunity to comment on proposed regulations will be posted by the end of June at https://education.alaska.gov/regs/comment.cfm

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