



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEED Submits Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan to U.S. Department of Education

JUNEAU -- The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) today submitted its state plan to the U.S. Department of Education for how it intends to implement the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The [state plan](#) and an [executive summary](#) are posted on DEED's [ESSA webpage](#).

"We are pleased to submit Alaska's ESSA plan, which is the culmination of over a year and a half's worth of hard work and thoughtful conversations about Alaska's education system," said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson.

"While today's submission marks a major milestone, it is less a final step than a starting point. Our stakeholders have been key to this process, and these strong partnerships are absolutely critical as we move forward and shift our attention to implementation."

The plan builds off Alaska's ongoing commitment to ensuring an excellent education for every student every day. Commissioner Johnson lists the accountability system as a highlight of the plan, "It will provide important information for all communities to focus their efforts on improvement, as well as identify the schools and districts that most need technical assistance and support from DEED. Our goal is to support all communities in their efforts to improve their local schools."

Today marks the deadline for states to submit their plans to the U.S. Department of Education. Alaska's state plan was reviewed by the State Board of Education and Early Development and many stakeholders.

DEED received more than 4,000 stakeholder comments submitted through online surveys, its ESSA Advisory Committee, discussion groups and webinars, and community conversations. DEED previously released three preliminary drafts of its state plan for public comment before submitting its final plan. The valuable input received was critical to ensuring Alaska's plan will support the state's public education mission to provide an excellent education for every student.

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