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Committees for Alaska's Education Challenge to Meet April 20 in Anchorage

JUNEAU – The committees developing recommendations to transform Alaska's public schools will kick-off their efforts April 20 at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage. The event, which is open to the public, begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

Governor Bill Walker introduced Alaska's Education Challenge in his State of the State Address in January. He challenged Alaskans to establish an efficient, sustainable, and comprehensive system to provide an excellent education for every student.

The ultimate goal is for students to graduate high school ready for career training and college, whether in the workforce, the military, apprenticeships, technical education programs, or associate degree and bachelor's degree programs.

Alaska's Education Challenge builds on the work of the State Board of Education and Early Development, which identified five priorities for public education: improve student learning, ensure excellent educators, modernize the education system, inspire tribal and community ownership of educational excellence, and promote safety and well-being.

For each of the priorities a committee of up to 20 parents, students, educators, tribal members, legislators and others -- co-chaired by State Board of Education members -- will meet periodically into September. The committees will submit their recommendations to the State Board of Education, which will prepare a report for the Governor and Legislature by year-end.

After the meeting on April 20, committee meetings will be held by audio conferences open to the public. Alaskans can follow the process on the <u>Alaska Education Challenge</u> webpage.