

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

**March 11, 2025**

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

**Agenda Item: 12B**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board being asked to open a 30-day public comment period on proposed regulations addressing Alaska Native Language Standards 4 AAC 06.140 Alaska Native Language for K-3 Reading Standards.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- The Alaska Native Language Arts K-3 Reading Standards were developed to reflect the worldview of Alaska Native peoples and to encourage reading proficiency. These standards were developed by Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) in collaboration with TIDES Education Associates and a group of statewide Indigenous stakeholders.
- The project started in December 2023 when SHI was awarded the contract for developing the standards and was completed in September of 2024.
- The standards were developed to work hand in hand with a literacy screener aligned with indigenous languages in Alaska to support language immersion programs across the state. The Alaska Reads Act directed the department to work with districts to create screeners to support indigenous language education efforts.
- A copy of the proposed regulations can be found behind the cover memo.

**◆ OPTIONS**

Open a period of public comment.  
Seek more information.

**◆ SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a 30-day public comment period for the proposed regulations regarding Alaska Native Language for K-3 Reading Standards.