

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

**December 8, 2022**

**From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 11A**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on regulations related to the qualification and certification of Alaska educators.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- The proposed regulation is in response to the statutory changes to teacher certification requirements made by House Bill (HB) 19 Limited Teacher Certificate; Languages that became law on October 5, 2022 (Chapter 73, SLA 2022). The effective date of this new law is December 15, 2022.
- HB 19 provides for a limited teaching certificate, sponsored by an Alaska public school district, for individuals teaching in a world language immersion school.
- The proposed regulation repeals the current limited world language expert limited teacher certificate and readopts a limited world language immersion teacher certificate.
- The proposed regulation provides a menu of options for demonstrating an applicant's expertise in the world language, the competency in the specific subject areas to be taught, and the necessary instructional skills.
- HB 19 prohibits requiring an applicant to achieve a minimum score on an examination unless it is given in the instructional language for which the certificate is valid and eliminates the requirement that an applicant complete a teacher preparation program and hold a bachelor's degree. Proposed regulations allow an applicant to demonstrate these qualifications, but also provide alternative pathways to demonstrate expertise, competency, and skills.
- Other ways to demonstrate expertise, competency, and skills include assessment processes recognized by school districts and tribal governments, evaluation of coursework completed, and letters of reference.
- A district that sponsors an applicant for this new certificate is required to provide the applicant with an experienced mentor for at least the first two years of the applicant is employed with the school district.
- Applicants for this new license are required to submit a fingerprint card and complete the four mandatory training courses.
- The proposed regulations can be found behind Agenda Item 7A.

- Susan McKenzie, Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Education & Certification; and Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General will be present to brief the board

◆ **OPTIONS**

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation.

Amend the proposed regulation and open a period of public comment.

Seek more information.

◆ **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation changes.

◆ **SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on the repeal and readoption of 4 AAC 12.388 Limited world language immersion teacher certificate, and corresponding updates to 4 AAC 12.397(e) (Mandatory training requirements) and 4 AAC 12.405 (Renewal of certificates).