

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

March 16, 2023

From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner

Agenda Item: 7

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to meet with and select up to five Tribal partners that will be grant funded to negotiate with the board to develop a legislative report that contains a recommendation relating to state-tribal education compacting and demonstration state-tribal education compact schools.

◆ BACKGROUND

- Alaska's Education Challenge identified state-tribal education compacting as a strategic priority to inspire Tribal and community ownership of educational excellence. The board subsequently established a compacting committee to build board and department capacity to carry out this strategic priority.
- The department issued a grant award to the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) to provide technical and community engagement support for scoping out options for state-tribal education compacting in Alaska. The department issued a second grant to the Cook Inlet Tribal Council to develop an accessible way to communicate indigenous education models and what education success looks like from a Tribal voice.
- The 32nd Alaska State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 34, State-Tribal Education Compact Schools, which become law on July 28, 2022 (Chapter 43, SLA 2022). SB 34 directs the board to negotiate with up to five Tribal or Tribal organization partners. The board is required to meet with the Tribal partners to begin negotiations no later than March 31, 2023 and the outcome of the negotiation is a legislative report that can include draft bill language for a process to establish state-tribal education compact schools.
- The department issued a request for applications to provide a \$100,000 grant award to each of the up to five selected Tribal applicants. The grant application period opened on October 6, 2022, and closed on December 30, 2022. The department received five resolutions requesting to negotiate. The board's compacting committee and a separate three department staff member team reviewed the applications.
- Behind this cover memo are the following items: (1) request for application, (2) the applicant scoring rubric, and (3) the Tribal resolutions requesting to negotiate with the board along with the grant applications that were received prior to December 30, 2022.
- The Tribal applicants will be virtually present to meet with the board.
- Joel Isaak, Director of Tribal Affairs, will be present to brief the board.

◆ OPTIONS

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 11.