



Alaska's Education Challenge Committee Structure February 15, 2017

Governor Bill Walker has challenged Alaskans to address student achievement gaps and increase our graduation rate by making sure every student has equal opportunity to learn and succeed.

To meet the Alaska Education Challenge, the State Board of Education is leading a highly participatory process with the public. It will result in recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by year's end.

The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) began by surveying the public starting February 1st, asking Alaskans to share their ideas for topics for public education reform. To date, 775 Alaskans have responded to the survey and provided over 11,000 ideas for topics. In a survey to be published in mid-March, DEED will ask the public to rank those topics by priority.

This month, Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson will invite a range of Alaskans to serve on five committees that will turn the public's priorities into recommendations. The five committees will be formed around the State Board of Education's five strategic objectives for Alaska's public education system: improve student learning, ensure excellent educators, modernize the education system, inspire tribal and community ownership, and promote safety and well-being. Two members of the State Board of Education will co-chair each committee.

Each committee will consist of no more than 20 stakeholders and include diverse representation from educational stakeholders and the education community. Each committee will include parents, students, educators, legislators, tribal representatives, and educational partners. DEED will reach out to stakeholder associations and communities to nominate Alaskans for specific seats on each committee. Additionally, once committee topics have been determined, DEED will request presentations to committees from the education community.

Committees will begin meeting in late spring and continue through September, with most meetings scheduled for the school year. The State Board of Education will invite public comment on recommendations.