



**Alaska’s Education Challenge Committee Co-Chairs
February 28, 2017**

Alaska’s Education Challenge presents real opportunity to put forth bold and innovative recommendations to transform the public education system and close our state’s tragic achievement gap.

To begin this process, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) surveyed the public, asking Alaskans to share their ideas for topics for public education reform. During the month-long survey, 1,356 Alaskans from 108 communities across the state have contributed 18,179 ideas. The survey will close at 11:59 p.m. Alaska Time tonight. In a survey to be published in mid-March, DEED will ask the public to rank those topics by priority.

It is those priority topics that will drive the discussion of five committees and lead to meaningful 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.

The Chair of the State Board of Education, James Fields, will designate state board members to co-chair each committee. They are:

| Student Learning Committee | Educator Excellence Committee | Modernization and Finance Committee | Tribal and Community Ownership Committee | Safety and Well-Being Committee |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Sue Hull | John Harmon | James Fields | Kenny Gallahorn | James Fields |
| Barbara Thompson | Rebecca Himschoot | Sue Hull | John Harmon | Dr. Keith Hamilton |
| | | | Lt. Col. Jason Toole | |

For more information about the Governor’s State Board of Education please visit <https://education.alaska.gov/State Board/>.

Commissioner Michael Johnson will establish the five committees no later than March 31st. The committee co-chairs will lead their committees through a process of listening, gathering, and refining input, leading to meaningful recommendations to improve Alaska’s public education system. Each committee’s recommendations will be compiled into a final report for review and adoption by the full State Board of Education and submitted to the Governor and Legislature by year’s end.