

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

**Kick-Off Committee Meeting
Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center
April 20, 2017**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast, Conversation, & Music Join your fellow committee members for informal conversation and enjoy live music by the Service High School Chamber Ensemble, led by Melinda Deal <i>Light continental breakfast and morning beverages</i>	Kahtnu Rooms 1 and 2
9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks Sana Efird, DEED Deputy Commissioner	
9:05 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Message from the State Board of Education Sue Hull, First Vice-Chair	
9:10 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Message from the Governor & Lieutenant Governor The Honorable Bill Walker, Governor of Alaska The Honorable Byron Mallott, Lieutenant Governor of Alaska	
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	The Challenge of Alaska's System of Public Education Dr. Michael Johnson, DEED Commissioner	
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Alaska's Current Context & Public Survey Process Brian Laurent, DEED Data Management Supervisor	
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Transition to Committee Breakouts Student Learning: Tubughnenq' Room 3 Educator Excellence: Kahtnu Room 1 Modernization & Finance: Kahtnu Room 1 Tribal & Community Ownership: Kahtnu Room 2 Safety & Well-Being: Kahtnu Room 2	

An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day

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April 20, 2017

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Committee Introductions	
12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Working Lunch <i>Boxed lunch</i>	
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee Work Session	
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Break	
2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Committee Work Session Continued	
4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Break Student Learning Committee will return to the Kahtnu Rooms for final reflections and closing remarks	
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Reflections & Closing Remarks Dr. Michael Johnson, DEED Commissioner	Kahtnu Rooms 1 and 2

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

Committee Member Preparation

Overview

Committee members participate in individual and group activities that generate, synthesize, and analyze ideas and develop transformative recommendations.

Duties

1. Actively engage in the committee process;
2. Abide by ground rules and meeting processes;
3. Work within constraints and transformational requirements;
4. Focus efforts on recommendations within the committee assignment; and
5. Develop recommendations that meet transformational requirements.

Information for all participants

Types of Change

1. **Incremental change** – involves improvements or enhancements that make current practices, processes, and products more efficient, effective, and/or desirable within an existing system.
2. **Innovative change** – fundamentally changes or replaces existing practices, processes, and products with more suitable substitutes that modify, update, or modernize the system.
3. **Transformational change** – includes practices, processes, and products that anticipate, reflect, or define the needs of a significantly different system or environment. **THIS IS THE ONLY TYPE OF CHANGE WE ARE SEEKING!**

Transformational Change Must:

1. Be systemic and apply to all students, schools, employees, communities, etc.;
2. Not require resources beyond our direct control; and
3. Produce measurable results that can be benchmarked against higher-performing states and countries.

Constraints are Critical for Successful Change

Constraint – a limitation or restriction that guides action

An accurate understanding of constraints relating to individual challenges is a critical step in the development of transformational recommendations.

Types of Constraints

1. **Constraints of foundation** – where we are limited in something that is usually seen as a foundational element for success.
2. **Constraints of resource** – where we are limited in an important resource such as people or money.
3. **Constraints of time** – self-explanatory.

4. **Constraints of method** – we are limited by having to do something in a certain way.

Common Reaction to Constraints

1. Victim – lowers their ambition when faced with a constraint.
2. Neutralizer – refuses to lower ambition, but finds a different way to deliver ambition instead.
3. Transformer – finds a way to use the constraint as an opportunity, possibly even increasing their ambition along the way.

Clarify the Ambition/Understand the Why

We must clearly and specifically define what the ambition is and clarify the explicit need for personal commitment to that ambition.

Propelling Questions

Propelling questions have both a bold ambition and a significant constraint linked together. It's called a propelling question because the presence of those two different elements together in the same question does not allow it to be answered in the way we have answered previous questions. It propels us off the path on which we have become dependent.

Elements of Propelling Questions

1. Propelling questions contain directional tension – constraints are used as a key parameter to stretch and clarify ambitions.
2. The discomfort of propelling questions makes us think differently; they break path dependence and propel us toward new solutions.
3. A propelling question is most powerful when it has specificity, legitimacy, and authority.

Can-If Questions

1. Can-if questions force everyone involved in the conversation to take responsibility for finding answers rather than identifying barriers. Our can-if conversations identify solutions that lead to other barriers, eventually we break through.
2. Can-if questions keep the conversation on the right question. It asks us to determine how something could be possible rather than whether it would be possible.

Planning concepts and strategies are from the book: *A Beautiful Constraint* by Adam Morgan and Mark Barden

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

Committee Member Ground Rules

1. Respect and courtesy for people and ideas.
2. Identify yourself before speaking.
3. ∅ repetition – we do not want to cover the same ground twice.
4. Nothing can change the past – focus forward.
5. Brevity is beautiful – 2-minute time limit when speaking.
6. ∅ interruptions.
7. Decision-making – thumbs up, down, neutral.
8. Your participation is important.
9. No acronyms.
10. Be open-minded.

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

Survey Overview

Alaska's Education Challenge is a comprehensive reevaluation of our state's system of public education. Throughout 2017, a broad range of Alaskans will develop recommendations for transformational change by working together in one of five committees aligned to the State Board of Education's strategic priorities:

1. Amplify student learning
2. Ensure excellent educators
3. Modernize the education system
4. Inspire tribal and community ownership of educational excellence
5. Promote safety and well-being

In February 2017, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) opened Alaska's Education Challenge with a survey that asked Alaskans to provide ideas for topics to be discussed by the five committees. The response was overwhelming. Almost 1,400 respondents from 109 communities across the state offered over 18,000 ideas for topics. DEED then collaborated with Education Northwest to code these ideas into one or more of 47 broad categories.

The tables found below include the five categories in which the most responses were coded for each of the five committees. Several categories appear in the top-five list for multiple committees. Please note that Education Northwest avoided value judgements when creating the broad categories. Education Northwest simply coded responses into categories based on search terms.

Student Learning Committee

5,264 ideas for topics from 1,326 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

<i>Category</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Funding for education	372
CTE and career preparation courses and schools	313
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	309
District and school board roles, organization, schedules, and facilities	287
School accountability and standardized testing	278

Educator Excellence Committee

4,164 ideas for topics from 1,141 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

<i>Category</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Professional development for educators, administrators, and staff	446
Teacher, staff, and principal salaries and benefits	397
Principals/school administrators and their roles	300
District and school board roles, organization, schedules, and facilities	281
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	256

Modernization and Finance Committee

3,408 ideas for topics from 1,045 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

<i>Category</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Technology-based instruction and other technologies	472
Funding for education	363
District and school board roles, organization, schedules, and facilities	353
Community engagement and partnerships	249
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	180

Tribal and Community Ownership Committee

2,582 ideas for topics from 855 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

<i>Category</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Native, local, and rural needs or control	852
Community engagement and partnerships	747
Parent engagement with and role in education	236
District and school board roles, organization, schedules, and facilities	204
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	162

Safety and Well-Being Committee

3,157 ideas for topics from 968 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

<i>Category</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Student support services (trauma, mental health, food services, advising, and well-being)	791
School culture, climate, safety, and discipline	750
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	300
Physical activity (PE, exercise, sports, and recess)	226
Parent engagement with and role in education	222

Alaska's Education Challenge Committee Membership

STUDENT LEARNING COMMITTEE			
Committee Member	Position	District/Organization	Committee Seat
Sue Hull	First Vice Chair	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
Barbara Thompson	Member	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
Daisy Katcheak		Bering Strait School District	Parent
Chad Parsons		Nenana City School District	Parent
Mandy Mallott		Juneau School District	Parent
Mary Suminski		Sitka School District	Parent
Sandy Shroyer-Beaver		Northwest Arctic Borough School District	Parent
Ivy Spohnholz	State Representative	District 16/House Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Harriet Drummond	State Representative	District 18/House Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
John Coghill	State Senator	District B/Senate Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Penny Vadla	School Board Member	Kenai School Board	Association of Alaska School Boards
Deena Bishop	Superintendent	Anchorage School District	Alaska Superintendents Association
Amy Jo Meiners	Teacher	Juneau School District	NEA-Alaska
Andy Teuber	President/CEO	Kodiak Area Native Association	Tribal Representative
Wilfried Zibell	State Board of Education Student Advisor	Alaska Association of Student Governments	Alaska Association of Student Governments
Marcia Olson	Education Specialist/CTE Coordinator	Department of Labor & Workforce Development	Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Jon Clouse	Federal Programs Manager	Southwest Region School District	Career & Technical Education
April Blevins	Early Childhood Coordinator/Migrant Education Specialist	Lower Kuskokwim School District	Early Learning
Lori Roth	Student Services Director	North Slope Borough School District	Special Education
Nicole Schuh	Executive Director, Alaska Business Week	Alaska Chamber	Alaska Chamber
Kim Bautista	Principal	Anchorage School District	Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals

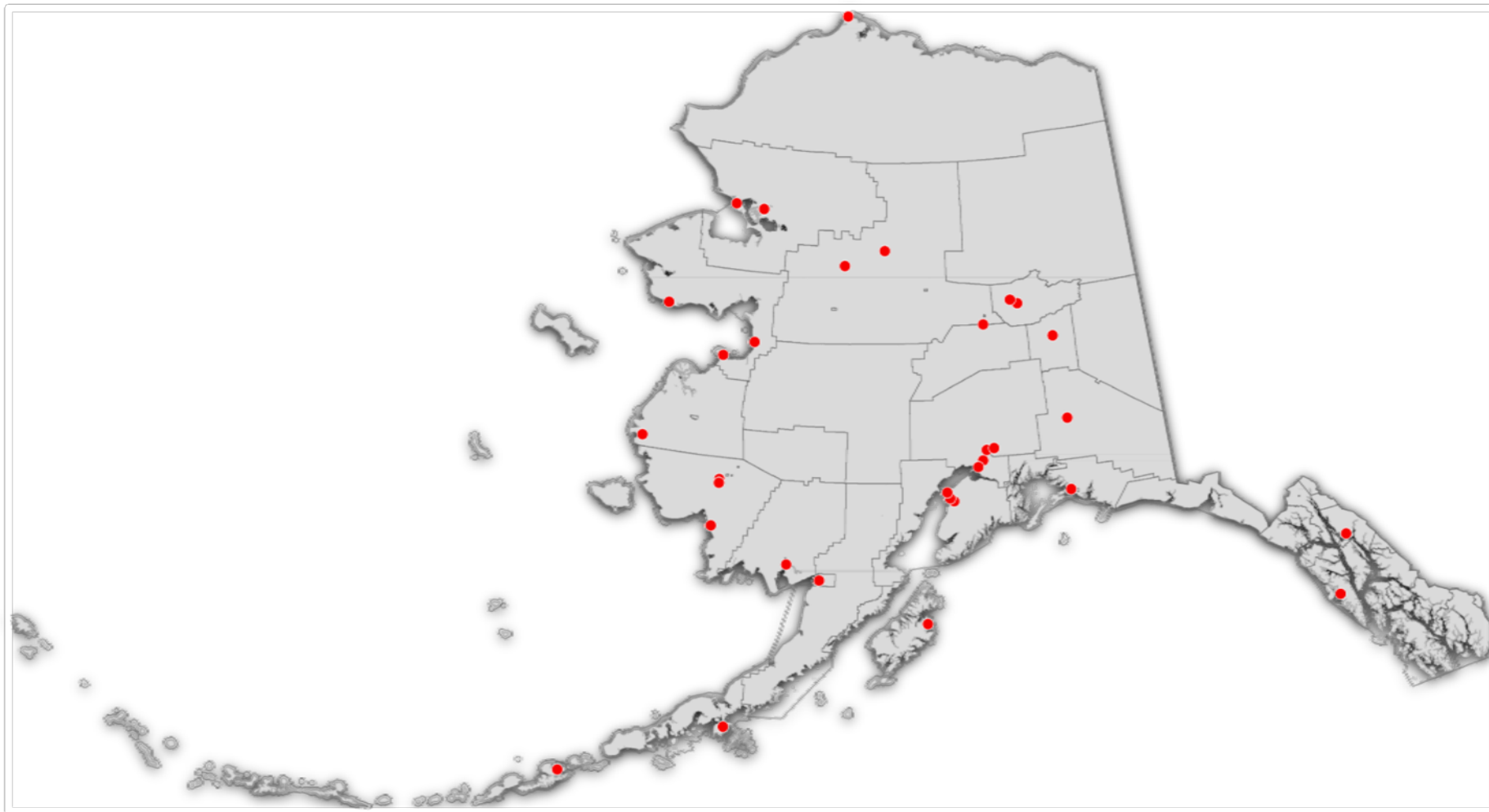
Alaska's Education Challenge Committee Membership

EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE			
Committee Member	Position	District/Organization	Committee Seat
Rebecca Himschoot	Member	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
John Harmon	Second Vice Chair	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
Erica Nelson		Northwest Arctic Borough School District	Parent
Wendy Kolberg		Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District	Parent
Jessica Weiler		Yukon Koyukuk School District	Parent
Gary Stevens	State Senator	District P/Senate Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Justin Parish	State Representative	District 34/House Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Tam Agosti-Gisler	School Board Member	Anchorage School Board	Association of Alaska School Boards
Sean Dusek	Superintendent	Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	Alaska Superintendents Association
Tammy Smith	Teacher	NEA-Alaska	NEA-Alaska
Yatibaey Evans	Director, Alaska Native Education Program	Fairbanks North Star Borough School District	Tribal Representative
Joe Nelson	Chair	Sealaska Board of Directors	Tribal Representative
Student	Student	Alaska Association of Student Governments	Alaska Association of Student Governments
Richard Caulfield	Chancellor	University of Alaska Southeast	University of Alaska
Steve Atwater	Interim Dean	University of Alaska Fairbanks	University of Alaska
Posie Boggs		Literate Nation Alaska Coalition	Literate National Alaska Coalition
Sheryl Weinberg	Executive Director	Alaska's Educational Resource Center (SERRC)	Alaska's Educational Resource Center (SERRC)
Kathy Blanc	Program Administrator	Alaska Staff Development Network	Alaska Staff Development Network
Dan Carstens	Principal	Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals
John Sedor	Attorney	Sedor Wendlandt Evans & Filippi, LLC	Education Attorney
Betty Walters		Alaska Statewide Mentor Project	Alaska Statewide Mentor Project
MODERNIZATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE			
Committee Member	Position	District/Organization	Committee Seat
James Fields	Chair	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
Sue Hull	First Vice Chair	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
Lee Butterfield		Anchorage School District	Parent
Bianca Rogers		Yukon Koyukuk School District	Parent
Lou Pondolino		Anchorage School District	Parent
Cheryl Frasca	Executive Director	Education Matters, Inc.	Education Matters, Inc.
Shelley Hughes	State Senator	District F/Senate Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Jennifer Johnston	State Representative	District 28/House Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Katrina Church-Chmielowski	School Board Member	Copper River School Board	Association of Alaska School Boards
Karen Gaborik	Superintendent	Fairbanks North Star Borough School District	Alaska Superintendents Association
Jessica Cook	Teacher	NEA-Alaska	NEA-Alaska
Edward Alexander	Education Manager	Tanana Chiefs Conference	Tribal Representative
Pearl Brower	President	Ilisagvik College	Tribal Representative
Charles Michael	State Board of Education Student Advisor-Elect	Alaska Association of Student Governments	Alaska Association of Student Governments
Michael Partlow	Budget Analyst	Office of Management and Budget	Office of Management and Budget
Luke Fulp	Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations	Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District	Alaska Association of School Business Officials
Tammy Van Wyhe	Superintendent	Copper River School District	Education Technology
Alexei Painter	Fiscal Analyst	Alaska Legislative Finance Division	Alaska Legislative Finance Division
Tim Navarre	Council Member	City of Kenai	Alaska Municipal League
Rick Luthi	Principal	Bristol Bay Borough School District	Principal

Alaska's Education Challenge Committee Membership

TRIBAL & COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP COMMITTEE			
Committee Member	Position	District/Organization	Committee Seat
Kenny Gallahorn	Member	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
John Harmon	Second Vice Chair	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
LTC Jason Toole	Military Advisor	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
Kathy Commack		Bering Strait School District	Parent
Jerilyn Kelly		Lower Kuskokwim School District	Parent
Rachel Roy		Sitka School District	Parent
Janet Bifelt		Yukon Koyukuk School District	Parent
Tom Begich	State Senator	District J/Senate Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Zach Fansler	State Representative	District 38/House Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Chuck Kopp	State Representative	District 24/House Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Tiffany Jackson	School Board Member	Aleutians East School Board	Association of Alaska School Boards
Kerry Boyd	Superintendent	Yukon Koyukuk School District	Alaska Superintendents Association
Tim Parker	President	NEA-Alaska	NEA-Alaska
Steve Ginnis	Executive Director	Fairbanks Native Association	Tribal Representative
Melanie Bahnke	President/CEO	Kawerak, Inc.	Tribal Representative
Student	Student	Alaska Association of Student Governments	Alaska Association of Student Governments
Chris Hladick	Commissioner	Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development	Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Valerie Davidson	Commissioner	Department of Health & Social Services	Department of Health and Social Services
Kathie Wasserman	Executive Director	Alaska Municipal League	Alaska Municipal League
Deena Mitchell		Great Alaska Schools	Great Alaska Schools
Liz Medicine Crow	President	First Alaskans Institute	First Alaskans Institute
SAFETY & WELL-BEING COMMITTEE			
Committee Member	Position	District/Organization	Committee Seat
James Fields	Chair	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
Keith Hamilton	Member	State Board of Education	Committee Co-Chair
Ishmael Andrew		Lower Kuskokwim School District	Parent
Leona Starr		Yukon Koyukuk School District	Parent
Lily Hinze		Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District	Parent
Jennifer Hall Jones		Anchorage School District	Parent
Cathy Giessel	State Senator	District N/Senate Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
David Talerico	State Representative	District 6/House Education Committee	Alaska State Legislature
Peter Hoepfner	School Board Member	Cordova School Board	Association of Alaska School Boards
Norma Holmgaard	Superintendent	Kashunamiut School District	Alaska Superintendents Association
Laura Mulgrew	Teacher	Juneau School District	NEA-Alaska
Student	Student	Alaska Association of Student Governments	Alaska Association of Student Governments
Marcey Bish	Child Care Program Manager/CCDF State Administrator	Department of Health & Social Services	Department of Health and Social Services
Walt Monegan	Commissioner	Department of Public Safety	Department of Public Safety
Dean Williams	Commissioner	Department of Corrections	Department of Corrections
Mary McMahan	Principal	Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District	Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals
Sarah Sledge	Executive Director	Coalition for Education Equity	Coalition for Education Equity
Maureen Hall	School Nurse	Alaska School Nurses Association	School Nurse
Andrew Lessig	Youth Member	Statewide Suicide Prevention Council	Statewide Suicide Prevention Council
Jeff Lansing	Principal	Delta/Greely School District	School Counselor

Committee Member Locations





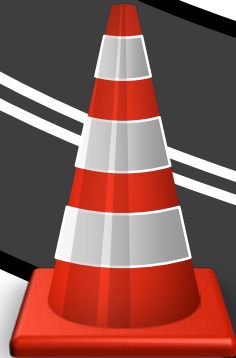
**Meeting 1: Accepting
the challenge**



**Meeting 2: Gaining a
deeper understanding**



**Meeting 3: Gaining a
deeper understanding**



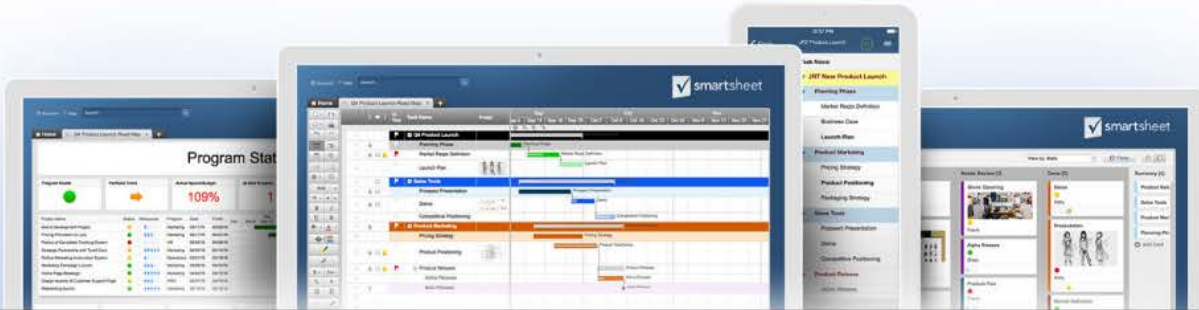
**Meeting 4: Agreement
on the goal and why it
matters**

Committee Roadmap

**Meeting 5: Finalizing
draft recommendations**



ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE



- ✓ **Committee meeting schedule, connection information, and recordings**
- ✓ **Reading materials from DEED and fellow committee members**
- ✓ **Discussion forum for committee members**
- ✓ **...and more!**

Smartsheet offers simplicity, accessibility, and collaboration 24 hours a day.

Each committee has a designated Smartsheet page. Access your committee page by clicking on the email invitation in your inbox. Invitations will be sent out upon conclusion of the April 20 meeting.

Questions? Contact Erin Hardin at erin.hardin@alaska.gov.

