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ABSTRACT

Recommendations made by the Alaska State Board of Education for achieving Alaska 2000 goals are presented in this document. Standards are outlined for the following areas: assessment; school choice; finance; laws and regulations; facilities planning, maintenance, and construction; the use of technology; teachers and staff; and new programs. Recommendations for preschool services are not included because they are currently provided by other agencies.
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Alaska 2000 Recommendations

advanced by the State Board of Education, July 15, 1992

Public comments invited.

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Designation	Recommendation
Standards 1 (Childhood) (Tech)	<p>Vision. Adopt the following vision for an Alaska public education: The vision of Alaska 2000 is to graduate world-class students from our public school system who will communicate effectively, think logically and critically, discover and nurture their own creative talents, possess essential vocational and technological skills, be responsible citizens, be committed to their own health and fitness, accept personal responsibility for sustaining themselves economically, and have self-esteem.</p>
Standards 2 (Tech) (Acct)	<p>Performance Standards. Develop high performance standards for students and assessment methods in the following subject areas: (1) English; (2) Math; (3) Science; (4) Geography; (5) History; (6) Skills for healthy life; (7) Government & citizenship; (8) Fine arts; (9) Technological competence; (10) World languages (A standard is a measurable definition of what students should know or be able to do. Standards guide the student testing system.)</p>
Standards 3	<p>Student Testing. Measure student achievement of academic standards at three benchmark levels: (1) ages 8-10; (2) ages 12-14; and ages 16-18. Measures will be tied to standards. Repeal state regulations requiring the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.</p>

Standards 4	<p>Certificates of Mastery. Issue state "Certificates of Mastery" to students who reach the standards of the third benchmark and guarantee their knowledge and abilities. (<u>Certificate of Mastery</u>: a state-issued warranty that a student has met state standards, guaranteeing that schools will reteach students who are lacking these skills.)</p>
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Designation	Recommendation
Choice 1	<p>Charter Schools. Implement a three-year pilot program authorizing teachers and parents to establish charter schools. (Charter schools operate under a contract between teachers, parents and local school boards to expand educational choice.)</p>
Choice 2	<p>School Choice. Make existing public school choice programs available to all Alaska students by encouraging student transfers between school districts, boarding home arrangements, and a choice of correspondence schools.</p>
Choice 3	<p>Allowing Choice. Amend statutes and regulations to: (1) allow schools of choice; (2) enable high school students to attend appropriate college classes as part of their high school program.</p>
Choice 4	<p>Vocational Programs. Encourage school districts to establish business-supported vocational programs that will prepare students to enter specific trades or businesses upon graduation.</p>

Designation	Recommendation
Finance 1	Sharing Costs. Each school district should pay a portion of the cost of an Alaska education and the total cost of programs beyond the Alaska education.
Finance 2	Per Capita Funding. Fund school districts based on a per capita amount for the average number of students enrolled rather than instructional units.
Finance 3	School Price Index. Develop an Alaska school price index to provide funding equity to the diverse geographical regions of the state.
Finance 4	Financial Standards. Adopt state standards for financial reporting by school districts.
Finance 5 (Workforce)	Reporting Student Contact Time. Allow school districts to report student contact time in hours instead of days.
Finance 6	Transportation Costs. School districts should be reimbursed for transportation at the lower of the district operated rate or the competitive bid rate for pupil transportation.
Finance 7 (Board)	Rental Provision. Include a rental provision in the foundation program so school districts can rent schools instead of owning them.
Finance 8 (Board)	School Tax. Levy a school tax of 1/2 of 1 percent of gross pay, not to exceed \$200 per person.

Designation	Recommendation
Laws 1 (Acct)	Regulation Review. Review Alaska education regulations every three years.
Laws 2	Withholding funds. Withhold state funds from school districts that violate regulations and statutes.
Laws 3	Sunset Review. Subject all new education statutes to a five-year sunset review.
Laws 4	Approval of Regulations. Establish shorter timelines for regulation approval process.
Laws 5 (Tech)	Waivers from Regulations. Establish waivers for state education regulations so that school districts can use innovative approaches to improve student achievement.

Designation	Recommendation
Facilities 1	<p>Capital Funding Priorities. Fund the following priorities on the state's school construction list: Priority 1 (Health/Life/Safety) & Priority 3 (Protection of Structures) to clear a backlog exceeding \$100 million.</p>
Facilities 2	<p>New Schools and Classrooms. Fund the following priority on the state's school construction list: Priority 2 (Unhoused Students), which will cost \$100 million annually in addition to a backlog of \$250 million.</p>
Facilities 3	<p>Sharing Capital Costs. Change state capital projects funding from 100% grants to state and local sharing on a sliding scale, based on a community's ability to pay.</p>
Facilities 4	<p>Two-Phased Funding. Adopt a two-phased funding scheme for school capital construction—Phase 1: planning and site development; Phase 2: construction.</p>
Facilities 5	<p>School Construction Standards. Adopt state standards for school construction including space, quality of materials, and costs.</p>
Facilities 6	<p>Funding Major Maintenance. Provide annual set-aside for Major Maintenance of \$20-\$40 million annually. (Major Maintenance is a proposed new category of funding that combines the current Priority 3, Protection of Structures, and Priority 4, Code Upgrades.)</p>

Facilities 7	Preventive Maintenance. Require school districts to demonstrate ongoing preventive maintenance as a condition for state funding of Major Maintenance.
Facilities 8	Audit. Require an independent audit of state-funded school construction projects and preventive maintenance projects to control cost and quality.
Facilities 9	Facility Inventory. Conduct a statewide educational facility inventory.
Facilities 10	Construction Oversight. Give the Department of Education oversight of the school construction process from contract award until the building is occupied.
Facilities 11 (Tech)	Construction Standards. Adopt construction standards for new schools to make possible the most effective use of current and anticipated information technologies. (For example, telecommunications access for all classrooms.)
Facilities 12 (Choice)	Residential High Schools. Assess the need and feasibility for building additional residential high schools and adding dormitories at existing high schools.

Designation	Recommendation
Tech 1	Technology Training. Provide statewide training and support in educational technology for teachers.
Tech 2 (Acct)	Telecommunications Network. Combine existing networks to create a statewide educational telecommunications network, accessible to all schools, that will support audio, video, and data.
Tech 3	Telecommunications Reporting System. Implement a statewide administrative telecommunications reporting system.

WORKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

July 22, 1992

Designation	Recommendation
Workforce 1	<p>Teacher Training Standards. Adopt state standards for teacher training institutions requiring: (1) earlier and more responsible field experience for prospective teachers; (2) classroom teaching experience every five years for university professors involved in teacher education; (3) standardized education skill tests for applicants before admission to teacher education programs.</p>
Workforce 2 (Acct)	<p>Additional Certification Requirements. Add the following state certification requirements for new teachers: (1) a satisfactory score on a standardized teacher assessment test (for example, the National Teacher Exam), and (2) one year of satisfactory teaching experience or one year of successful internship under a mentor teacher prior to receiving a Type A certificate.</p>
Workforce 3 (Tech)	<p>Knowledge of Technology. Require competency in educational technology for initial teacher certification and certification renewal.</p>
Workforce 4	<p>Staff Evaluation. Revise certificated staff evaluation process to include parent and student comments, training for evaluators, and an independent audit of the evaluation process every three years.</p>

Workforce 5 (Acct)	Teacher Tenure. Amend the Alaska teacher tenure law as follows: (1) application for tenure may be made after two years of service in a school district under a regular teaching certificate; (2) Evaluations and recommendations must be presented with application; (3) local tenure review board must approve the application, subject to final approval by the local school board; (4) unsuccessful applicants may reapply annually; (5) tenure expires after seven years but may be renewed.
Workforce 6	Master Teachers. Establish a mentor/master teacher certificate endorsement.

Designation	Recommendation
New Programs 1 (Choice)	Student Incentive Grants. Provide grants for effective student incentive programs.
New Programs 2 (Covey)	Thirteen-Year Funding. Fund students for 13 years of education through the age of 19, including tuition reimbursement for college credits.
New Programs 3 (Choice)	Increased Student Contact Time. Require a minimum of 180 days of student contact annually exclusive of staff inservice days and approved school closures. Increase student contact days to 200 by the year 2000.
New Programs 4 (Finance) (Tech)	Research and Development. Provide funding to support research and development.
New Programs 5 (Covey)	School Conservation Corps. Create a School Conservation Corps, combining public service work with school work for drop-outs and at-risk students.
New Programs 6 (Accountability) (Self-renewal)	Advisory Boards. Establish advisory boards or committees for each school in Alaska.
New Programs 7 (Early Childhood)	Encouraging Parental Responsibility. Conduct a public information campaign reminding parents of their responsibility for their children's welfare.

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NOTE: Three of the ten Alaska 2000 committees are not listed here with recommendations. Recommendations from the Accountability, Shared Decision-Making/Self-Renewal, and Early Childhood committees were regrouped under other headings or combined with similar recommendations for clarity. In addition, the State Board of Education felt that some recommendations, although worthy, went beyond the purview of public education. This was especially true of recommendations from the Early Childhood committee. The Board decided to limit education funding to 13 years of schooling beginning with kindergarten and not expand into preschool services, which are presently provided by other agencies.

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