



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Education & Early Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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March 3, 2026

The Honorable Alyse Galvin  
Chair, House Finance Subcommittee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 502  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Galvin,

This letter serves as a response to questions addressed to the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) at the Friday, February 27, 2026, House Finance Subcommittee meeting.

**1. How does Alaska compare to other states in the completion rate of Nationally Board-Certified Teachers?**

The DEED has reached out to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to collect information on this request.

**2. What is the process of funding the bill if there isn't enough funding to cover the cost of the stipends?**

The DEED is required by statute to fund stipends that cover the costs of obtaining board certification, while incentive stipends are optional. Because of this distinction, if available funding is insufficient, the DEED would prorate the available funds across all candidates, prioritizing the required certification-cost stipends and ensuring equitable distribution.

**3. Did the department request funding to support the bill? Why not?**

No, the department did not request funding for this law.

The Legislature did not fund this law in FY2024. In FY2025 the Legislature funded the law, but those funds were vetoed by the Governor.

**4. Please provide the regulations associated with the Nationally Board-Certified Teachers.**

The board passed the following regulations in March 2025:

<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/aac.asp#4.12.412>. The DEED will determine the prorated

calculation based on the annual appropriation, ensuring equitable funding for all candidates submitted according to the required deadlines.

**5. How many Nationally Board-Certified Teachers have left Alaska?**

The DEED has reached out to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to collect information on this request.

**6. Which districts are offering local stipends for Nationally Board-Certified Teachers?**

The DEED does not collect this information and is reaching out to districts for any information on what is currently offered.

**7. Provide information regarding the change from a 10-year certification to a five-year certification.**

The DEED has reached out to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to collect information on this request.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Deena Bishop, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

cc: Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office