



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Office of the Chief Clerk

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3725
Fax: (907) 465-5334

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Himschoot, Co-chair
Education Committee

FROM: Crystalline Jones, Chief Clerk

DATE: March 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Governor's Appointment(s)

The Speaker referred the following Governor's appointment(s) to the Education Committee:

Professional Teaching Practices Commission

Angie Alston – Fairbanks

Appointed: 3/7/2025

Expires: 3/1/2027

Kathryn Baird – Fairbanks

Appointed: 3/7/2025

Expires: 3/1/2028

Patrick Frymark – Fairbanks

Appointed: 3/7/2025

Expires: 3/1/2028

This letter and a blank committee report are sent electronically. Resumes and contact information for the appointees can be found on the AK Leg Intranet under Miscellaneous Materials. Please cut and paste the board name and appointee(s) from the electronic letter on to the committee report when the committee considers the appointee(s) and return to the Chief Clerk's office. Use a separate committee report for commissioners. Multiple boards/appointees can be put on one committee report. If you have questions or need assistance, please call 465-3725.

Professional Teaching Practices Commission <https://education.alaska.gov/ptpc>

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission deals with matters of professional conduct and certification. It has the responsibility and the power to discipline members of the teaching profession and may issue reprimands, suspensions, and/or revocations of educators' certificates.

Mission Statement

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission's intent is to serve as a preventative and positive force in helping to enhance the professional performance of all educators so that the public's right to the best education possible for all of Alaska's students is adequately protected.

In 1966, the education profession in the state of Alaska was granted the right and responsibility to define and to enforce ethical standards of its members. The Alaska Legislature established and empowered a nine-member Commission to impose sanctions against the certificates of educators who engage in illegal, immoral, or unethical conduct. The Professional Teaching Practices Commission is composed of five teachers, one superintendent, one principal, one representative of the Department of Education & Early Development, and one representative of higher education.

Commission Members

Lem Wheelles (Anchorage)
Teacher Representative, Chair
Anchorage School District

Emma Melkerson (Juneau)
Vice Chair
Juneau School District

Kimberly Bergey (Palmer)
Secretary
Yukon Koyukuk School District

Deborah Riddle (Juneau)
Division Operations Manager, Innovation and Education Excellence
Juneau (DEED)

Adam Reid (Anchorage)
Teacher Representative, Vice - Chair
Anchorage School District

Michael Robbins (Ketchikan)
Superintendent Representative
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Schools

Vacant
Higher Education Representative

Stephanie Green (Wasilla)
Teacher Representative
Matanuska Susitna Borough School District

Heidi Barnes (Wasilla)
Teacher Representative
Matanuska Susitna Borough School District

Sec. 14.20.460. Duties of commission.

The commission shall

- (1) establish procedures, and adopt regulations to implement the purposes of AS 14.20.370 — 14.20.510;
- (2) conduct investigations and hearings on alleged violations of ethical or professional teaching performance, contractual obligations, and professional teaching misconduct;
- (3) review the regulations of the department as they relate to teacher certification and recommend necessary changes;
- (4) review the decisions of the department regarding the issuance or denial of certificates and in its discretion recommend reversal of decisions.

Sec. 14.20.470. Powers of commission.

(a) The commission may

- (1) study proposals developed by regular committees of any existing professional organization whose members are within the teaching profession;
- (2) subpoena witnesses, place them under oath, and maintain written records;
- (3) warn or reprimand members of the teaching profession, if in the judgment of the commission such action is warranted;
- (4) suspend or revoke the certificate of a member of the teaching profession for one of the reasons set out in AS 14.20.030 except that in the case of an administrator, the commissioner must concur;
- (5) make any recommendation to the board or to school boards that will promote an improvement in the teaching profession;
- (6) request assistance through any of the investigative processes of any existing professional teaching organizations when analyzing charges of breach of ethical or professional teaching practices;
- (7) appoint an executive secretary, delegate those ministerial functions to the executive secretary as the commission may decide and set the executive secretary's compensation with a starting salary not exceeding range 26, step B of the pay plan for state employees in AS 39.27.011(a).

(b) A decision issued by the commission with the approval of the commissioner under (a)(4) of this section is final.

Sec. 14.20.475. Applicability of the Administrative Procedure Act.

AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) applies to regulations and proceedings under AS 14.20.370 — 14.20.510.

Sec. 14.20.480. Effect of standards.

Members of the teaching profession are obligated to abide by the professional teaching standards adopted by the commission.

Sec. 14.20.500. Support.

In addition to available state funds, the commission shall also be financed by members of the profession in accordance with regulations adopted by the department including, if necessary, an increase in the fees for certificates.

Sec. 14.20.510. Short title.

AS 14.20.370 — 14.20.510 shall be known as the Professional Teaching Practices Act.

Secs. 14.20.550 — 14.20.610. Negotiation and mediation. [Repealed, § 10 ch 1 SLA 1992. For current provisions on teacher negotiations, see AS 23.40.]

Article 6. Interstate Agreement on Qualification of Educational Personnel.

Sec. 14.20.620. Entry into agreement.

The interstate Agreement on Qualification of Educational Personnel is enacted into law and entered into in behalf of the State of Alaska with all other states and jurisdictions legally joining in it in a form substantially as contained in AS 14.20.630.

Sec. 14.20.630. Terms and provisions of agreement.

The terms and provisions of the agreement referred to in AS 14.20.620 are as follows:

Article 5. Professional Teaching Practices Act.

Sec. 14.20.370. Teaching profession.

Teachers required by state law to be certificated, instructors in institutions of higher learning, school administrators, school program administrators, and school counselors are within the teaching profession.

Sec. 14.20.380. Creation of a commission.

There is a commission of professional educators known as the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

Sec. 14.20.390. Appointment and qualifications.

The commission consists of nine members appointed by the governor and confirmed by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. Each member, in addition to having been actively engaged in the teaching profession for at least five years immediately preceding appointment, shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state.

Sec. 14.20.400. Composition of the commission.

The commission consists of the following members:

- (1) five classroom teachers;
- (2) one principal;
- (3) one superintendent;
- (4) one representative of the office of the commissioner;
- (5) one representative of an Alaska institution of higher learning.

Sec. 14.20.410. Selection of members.

(a) Members of the commission shall be selected as follows:

(1) the five classroom teachers from lists of names submitted by recognized Alaska teachers' organizations, each list not to exceed 12 names; however, in lieu of one of the five, one classroom teacher may be selected from a list of not more than four names signed and submitted by not less than 25 teachers who have no affiliation with any organization qualified to submit nomination lists, with the limitation that no teacher may sign more than one list in any year;

(2) the principal from a list of three names submitted by the Alaska Principals Association;

(3) the superintendent from a list of three names submitted by the Superintendents Advisory Commission;

(4) the representative of the office of the commissioner from a list of three names submitted by the commissioner;

(5) the representative of an Alaska institution of higher learning from lists of names submitted by Alaska institutions of higher learning, each list not to exceed three names.

(b) The lists shall be submitted to the commissioner who shall submit them as a group to the governor's office.

(c) At least 30 days before a position on the commission is due to become vacant, the chairman shall cause notice of the impending vacancy to be published and to be conveyed to each organized group eligible to submit a list of nominees.

Sec. 14.20.420. Term of office.

(a) The term of office for each member of the commission is three years and, except as provided in AS 39.05.080(4), each member serves until a successor is appointed.

(b) Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the governor and, except as provided in AS 39.05.080(4), an appointment to fill a vacancy is for the unexpired term.

(c) An individual may not serve more than a total of two 3-year terms.

(d) The commission shall select a chairman from among its members.

Sec. 14.20.430. Dismissal.

Any member may be removed by the governor for misconduct, malfeasance or nonfeasance in office, or incapacity.

Sec. 14.20.440. Reimbursement.

Members of the commission shall receive per diem according to law and are to be granted administrative leave with full pay by their employer for time spent in the performance of official duties under AS 14.20.370 — 14.20.510. If a member is required to spend more than 15 days in a fiscal year in the performance of official duties under AS 14.20.370 — 14.20.510, the state shall reimburse the employer for costs incurred after the 15th day.

Sec. 14.20.450. Responsibilities of commission.

The commission shall have the initial responsibility of developing, through the teaching profession, criteria of professional practices in areas including

- (1) ethical and professional performance;
- (2) preparation for and continuance in professional services; and
- (3) contractual obligations.