

# **State of Alaska FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Education and Early Development Teacher Certification Component Budget Summary**

## **Component: Teacher Certification**

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## **Component Mission**

1. To ensure that only qualified applicants are awarded credentials to teach in Alaska.
2. To ensure that teacher education programs in Alaska conform to nationally recognized standards.

## **Component Services Provided**

Receive, review, analyze, and evaluate all applications for initial, renewal, addition and removal of credentials and endorsements for the teaching profession as required by regulation and AS.14.20.370. Issue, deny, and/or notify applicant of the determination regarding their credentials. Submit fingerprint cards to the Department of Public Safety and FBI for background checks on all initial and renewal applicants. Notify applicants and monitor any resubmitted fingerprint cards. Deny credentials for applicants that have a criminal disclosure. Exchange revocation information with the National Clearinghouse for teacher licensure records. Issue Alaska credentials to all eligible applicants for teacher, administrator, special service, and limited license specialty areas. Review and approve all Alaska teacher education training programs in institutions of higher education. Register K-12 private & religious schools that operate in Alaska. Monitor the status of obligors to Child Support Enforcement and Postsecondary Education.

## **Component Goals and Strategies**

1. Teacher Certification
  - a) Issue regular, provisional or temporary credentials or letters of academic eligibility within 90 days of receipt of application to all eligible applicants for teacher, administrator, special services and the limited certificates.
  - b) Administer the background check as set forth in AS 12.62.035(e) and identify applicants with criminal convictions which make applicants ineligible for Alaska licensure; deny or revoke licenses accordingly.
  - c) Identify and evaluate applicants that apply for but do not meet requirements for licensure; deny licenses accordingly.
  - d) Maintain records received from the national clearinghouse on revocations. Notify the clearinghouse of all revocations in Alaska.
  - e) Review and approve/disapprove non-academic credit for renewal of teacher licenses.
  - f) Syllabus reviews for multicultural and cross cultural communication courses.
2. Teacher Education
  - a) Review and recommend to the State Board of Education & Early Development approval of teacher and administrator education programs at institutions of higher education in Alaska.
  - b) Issue student teacher authorizations.
  - c) Coordinate with Institutions of Higher Education to ensure that (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) NCATE standards are met.

## **Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003**

### **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

There continues to be a nationwide shortage of education professionals that is making it increasingly difficult for Alaska school districts to attract and retain highly qualified teachers. Even with the most optimistic projections, Alaska's university system will only be able to supply a quarter of our teachers over the next five to ten years. Given that three-quarters of our teaching work force will need to come from outside of Alaska, we must be able to compete with other states who are offering a number of incentives to new teachers including signing bonuses and housing allowances. The State is working to ensure that these professionals who choose to work in Alaska are trained in Alaska's standards and educational policy issues.

The State Board of Education and Early Development has approved an incentive package that includes lower fees for teacher certification and renewal, providing federal subsidies to help defray the cost of national board certification, reciprocity with other states, assisting with mentorship programs for new educators, and teaching certificates suitable for framing and display in classrooms. In addition, proposed legislation includes financial incentives including a loan forgiveness or a loan assumption program.

#### **Self Sufficiency of the Teacher Certification and Education Unit**

Lowering of the fees for teacher certification and renewal has created funding issues for the Teacher Certification and Education Unit, with regard to generating enough funding to maintain operations. In FY2001, most of the fees related to certification and renewal were reduced from \$165 to \$90 as part of the teacher incentive package. Unless there is a significant increase in the number of applicants, the teacher certification unit will not be able to maintain this reduced fee. The Teacher Certification Component receives no state general funds and is expected to operate from the revenues generated by fees.

This unit is exploring ways to provide better customer service for applicants and school district staff such as a new phone answering system, ongoing customer service training; and an on-line application system. The department is analyzing the current and projected revenues for teacher certification and will make recommendations to the State Board for the appropriate level of fees.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2001**

- Accepted passing Praxis II for endorsements in French and German.
- Amended regulations to clarify criteria and requirements for special education endorsement waivers.
- Amended and realigned fingerprint regulations to comply with requirements from the Department of Public Safety.
- Issued a total of 4,476 credentials.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 12.62.160  
4 AAC 12.010 - .900  
AS 14.20.010 - .040

## Teacher Certification

### Component Financial Summary

*All dollars in thousands*

	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	226.6	291.2	281.5
72000 Travel	7.1	19.0	19.0
73000 Contractual	380.3	353.3	369.6
74000 Supplies	6.1	10.0	10.0
75000 Equipment	0.1	15.1	15.1
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>620.2</b>	<b>688.6</b>	<b>695.2</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	0.0	2.6	0.0
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	16.4	16.4	16.4
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	7.7	0.0	0.0
1156 Receipt Supported Services	596.1	669.6	678.8
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>620.2</b>	<b>688.6</b>	<b>695.2</b>

### Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2002 Cash Estimate	FY2003 Governor	FY2004 Forecast
<b><u>Unrestricted Revenues</u></b>						
Investment Loss Trust Fund	51393	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Fund	68515	0.0	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>7.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b><u>Restricted Revenues</u></b>						
Interagency Receipts	51015	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4
Receipt Supported Services	51073	596.1	669.6	669.6	678.8	678.8
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>612.5</b>	<b>686.0</b>	<b>686.0</b>	<b>695.2</b>	<b>695.2</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>620.2</b>	<b>688.6</b>	<b>688.6</b>	<b>695.2</b>	<b>695.2</b>

## Teacher Certification

### Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003

Over the past few years, a number of new types of credentials have been introduced through statute and regulation. The work of the Teacher Certification and Education Unit has become more complex, and during the busiest times of the year, delays related to issuing credentials and responding to applicant questions occur. The teacher certification unit is exploring ways to provide better customer service for applicants and school districts such as a new phone system, customer service training, and developing an on-line application system.

### Summary of Component Budget Changes

#### From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2002 Authorized</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>686.0</b>	<b>688.6</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Correct Funding Source	-2.6	0.0	2.6	0.0
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2002	0.0	0.0	6.6	6.6
<b>FY2003 Governor</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>695.2</b>	<b>695.2</b>

## Teacher Certification

## Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>		
	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	5	5	Annual Salaries	209,152
Part-time	0	0	COLA	5,618
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	72,289
			<i>Less 1.94% Vacancy Factor</i>	(5,559)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>281,500</b>

## Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Education Admin II	0	0	1	0	1
Education Assoc III	0	0	1	0	1
Education Prog Assistant	0	0	3	0	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>