

# Invitation for Public Comment

## Aleutian Region

### Regional Education Attendance Area School Board Recasting

Alaska Statutes at AS 14.08.051(c) require that within 90 days of the Federal decennial census, the Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development, in consultation with the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and the local communities, must review the school board apportionment scheme of each Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA) to determine if it meets the standards contained at AS 14.08.051(a). The standard is that each school board member must represent, “as nearly as practicable, an equal number of persons.”

A generally accepted standard for equal representation is that the population represented by each school board member not vary more than plus or minus five percent from the average. The average is determined by taking the total population of the REAA and dividing it by the total number of school board seats. When current representation varies by more than plus or minus five percent, the Commissioner must recast the boundaries of each section to more closely meet the standard.

Under the existing school board apportionment scheme for the Aleutian Region REAA, the overall deviation is 107.94 percent. Accordingly, to more closely meet the equal representation standard, the options identified below (*see attached map*) are being put forth for discussion and public comment. One of these options, or an option identified through the public comment process, may be recommended to the Commissioner for adoption as a replacement for the existing apportionment scheme.

The Aleutian Region REAA has two sections containing a total of five school board seats. Section I has two seats that include the City of Atka, the community of Nikolski, Attu Station, and Eareckson Station. Section II has three seats and contains the City of Adak.

- Option B keeps the same boundaries but assigns three seats to Section I and two seats to Section II, reducing the overall population deviation to 24.60%.
- Option C moves Adak into Section I and assigns three seats to that section while Eareckson Station moves to Section II and is assigned two seats. Option C has an overall population deviation of 26.44%.
- Option D moves Eareckson Station from Section I to a newly-formed Section III. Under Option D, Section I has one seat, Section II has two

seats, and Section III has two seats. Option D has an overall population deviation of 30.62%.

**Based on the REAA's demographic, socio-economic, linguistic, transportation, cultural, and communication considerations, the recommendation for the Aleutian Region REAA is to implement Option A. The reason for this recommendation is based on the distribution of students in Atka and Adak, and the lack of students in Eareckson Station. Ten students were enrolled in Atka and fifteen in Adak in SY2021, so two seats representing the Atka region and three seats representing the Adak region is, arguably, the most equitable distribution despite the population deviation.**

More information on the REAA recasting can be found at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/>

If you are interested in the apportionment of the Aleutian Region REAA school board, you are invited to submit comments. You may do so verbally or in writing.

Verbal comments may be submitted by calling 907-465-5541 on October 11-15, 2021, between the hours of 10:00 am and noon, or by voicemail at that number.

Written comments should be emailed to [reaa.recast.2020@alaska.gov](mailto:reaa.recast.2020@alaska.gov) or mailed to:

Attn: REAA Recasting  
Robert Pearson  
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
PO Box 110809  
Juneau AK 99811-0809

A public hearing on all recommendations will be held on Oct. 14, 2021 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm by electronic means. The public hearing can be accessed by going to:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83069788829?pwd=N0VRTXE5Y2l4cVBCem9oTjRpM DA3Zz09>

Written comments must be received by October 15, 2021. Notice can be viewed on the State of Alaska web site at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/News.aspx>