

## Invitation for Public Comment

### Pribilof

#### 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.

Pribilof REAA has two sections containing a total of five school board seats. Section I includes the City of Saint Paul has four seats. Section II includes the City of Saint George has one seat. Under the existing school board apportionment scheme for the Pribilof REAA, the overall deviation is 37.76 percent.

While an overall deviation of 37.76% is higher than what is generally considered acceptable, the two means of reducing the deviation are to either reduce the number of sections from two to one or to increase the number of school board seats from five to seven, which would reduce the deviation to 2.67%. A single REAA section is likely to result in Saint George having no local representation on the school board, while increasing the number of school board seats should only be initiated by the voters of the REAA.

**Based on the REAA's demographic, socio-economic, linguistic, transportation, cultural, and communication considerations, the recommendation for the Pribilof REAA is to maintain the existing section and apportionment scheme.**

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 Pribilof 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=N0VRTXE5Y2l4cVBCem9oTjRpMkR3Zz09>

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>