

Invitation for Public Comment

Southwest 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, the Southwest Region REAA has two sections containing a total of seven school board seats. Section I has four seats and includes the Cities of Clark’s Point, Manokotak, and Togiak and the community of Twin Hills. Section II has three seats and includes the Cities of Aleknagik, Ekwok, and New Stuyahok and the communities of Koliganek and Portage Creek. The existing school board apportionment scheme has an overall deviation of 1.61%. The Southwest Region REAA’s current section and apportionment scheme appears to be compliant with AS 14.08.051.

The recommendation for the Southwest Region 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 Southwest 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 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=N0VRTXE5Y2l4cVBCem9oTjRpMkZlZ09>

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>