

To: **Members of the State Board of
Education & Early Development**

March 2, 2022

From: Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 7A

◆ **ISSUE**

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on a proposed amendment to regulation 4 AAC 31 School Facility Planning and Construction. The amendment updates citations for revised publications in subsection 4 AAC 31.020(a) and paragraph 4 AAC 31.900(2).

◆ **BACKGROUND**

- Proposed amendments to 4 AAC 31.020(a) and 31.900(2) update references to current versions of department publications as described below.
- Changes to the *Guidelines for School Equipment Purchases* (2021 edition) publication included *increased* per-student allowable allocations for equipment and technology, setting a threshold for single item maintenance equipment purchases requiring DEED approval, and other clarifications.
- The *Swimming Pool Guidelines for Educational Facilities* (2019 edition) is a major update to move toward a clearer and more prescriptive document that provides maximum pool tank sizes and maximum facility sizes based on the number of students in the approved instructional learn-to-swim program.
- The update to the *Site Selection Criteria and Evaluation Handbook* (2021 edition) publication was relatively minor, with updates to traffic and access criteria, as recommended by DOT&PF, and updated graphics.
- Updates to these publications were reviewed and approved by the statutory Bond Reimbursement & Grant Review Committee.
- Proposed amendment changes and copies of the referenced publications can be found behind this cover memo. In addition, to allow for an easier review of the changes made, a track changes version of each publication can also be found behind this cover memo.
- Heidi Teshner, Acting Deputy Commissioner, and Tim Mearig, Facilities Manager, will be present to brief the board.

◆ **OPTIONS**

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 12A.