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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Department of Education & Early Development Plans for Partial Shutdown of Services

JUNEAU – The Department of Education & Early Development has developed a contingency plan for a partial shutdown of its services if a fully funded state budget is not passed by July 2.

Governor Walker is hopeful the legislature will reach a compromise so this shutdown does not occur. But out of an abundance of caution, he wants Alaskans to understand how services provided by the Department of Education & Early Development would be affected.

The child nutrition services unit, which organizes summer feeding programs for children, will continue to operate because it is not funded by state general funds.

For the same reason, the teacher certification unit, the Professional Teaching Practices Commission, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, and the Alaska Student Loan Corporation will continue to operate.

With available funds, the department can cover three of 12 monthly payments to school districts during fiscal year 2016, which coincides with the school year. The department can cover approximately the first quarter of funding for schools in juvenile detention centers, grants to boarding schools, and the Alaska School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The department can cover one of three annual payments to school districts for student transportation. The contract for inspections of school buses will be fully funded to assure student safety.

However, the state general funds for early learning will be reduced by \$5.7 million, potentially closing Head Start programs in Alaska because they rely on those funds to meet a federal requirement for a state contribution.

The Alaska State Library and the Alaska State Archives will not operate. The staffing of the Alaska State Museum will be sufficient to support the State Libraries, Archives and Museums (SLAM) ongoing construction project in Juneau.

Continuing to operate will be Live Homework Help, a tutoring service for students, and Online With Libraries, a program that improves the computing capabilities of public libraries.

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