

Board of Education asks Bilingual Plan Extension

The state board of education has requested a postponement of an administrative hearing scheduled for July 20 by the Office of Civil Rights concerning the non-compliance of the state with federal requirements for an acceptable plan to provide equal education opportunity to students with difficulties understanding English.

"We feel that this matter can be resolved, but that we can not do the job if we are working under a very tight time constraint," state commissioner of education Marshall Lind said.

Federal funds to Alaskan school districts will not be released unless an acceptable plan to guarantee equal opportunity to non-English speaking students is developed.

The demands of the federal agency for school districts to adopt a different approach to bilingual education stem from a 1974 U.S. Supreme Court decision.