

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

**April 19, 2023**

**From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 1**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 06.710 Statewide student assessment system. The amendments include the addition of a statewide screening tool as described in 4 AAC 06.400.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- As part of the Alaska Reads Act, [AS 14.30.760 of House Bill 114 \(Chapter 40, SLA 2022\)](#), it is described that the department shall adopt a statewide screening tool to administer to students in grades kindergarten through three to identify students with reading deficiencies, including students with characteristics of dyslexia; the screening tool must evaluate phonemic awareness, letter naming fluency, letter sound fluency, and letter word sound fluency of students in kindergarten; letter word sound fluency and oral reading fluency of students in grade one; vocabulary and oral reading fluency of students in grades two and three. The law specifies that teachers of grades kindergarten through three will administer the statewide screening tool three times each school year, once in the fall, once in the winter, and once in the spring, to all students in grades kindergarten through three, with the exception of students who demonstrate sufficient reading skills on the first screening of the school year.
- Through a formal solicitation of interested vendors in a request for proposals in summer 2022, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) selected the vendor Amplify to administer the mCLASS with DIBELS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition as the statewide screening tool. Beginning in fall 2022, DEED and Amplify began their collaboration and started working with selected districts to establish a pilot implementation of mCLASS. The pilot intends to gain insights, establish processes, and build capacity in preparation for full statewide implementation in the 2023-2024 school year.
- The proposed regulation can be found behind this cover memo.
- Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, and Elizabeth Greninger, Assessments Administrator, will be present to brief the board.

**◆ OPTIONS**

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 3.