

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

**March 2, 2022**

**From: Michael Johnson, Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 12B**

---

**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.737, Standards-based test, and 4 AAC 06.775 (b)(1) & (b)(2), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities. The amendments update the grades at which students are assessed for proficiency of the Science standards and updates the cut-scores for students who use the alternate assessment for students with disabilities.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- When DEED updated the Science Standards, the committee noted that the elementary grade bands for the Science standards were across 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but that the assessment occurred at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade. As this meant that the assessment was occurring in the middle of the content, educators recommended that DEED adjust assessment to 5<sup>th</sup> grade to better align.
- In Spring 2021, DEED piloted a new Science Assessment. Based on the feedback from educators, DEED adjusted the Science Assessment to assess at grades 5, 8, and 10.
- This regulation update will better align the Science Assessment with the Science Standards grade bands to ensure students have received the full range of instruction before being assessed at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- In 2021, DEED's alternate assessment provider, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), updated the cut scores used to determine proficiency.
- In order to align DEED's cut scores with the vendor recommendations, DEED is seeking to update the alternate assessment cut scores identified in regulation.
- The proposed regulations can be found under Agenda Item 7B.
- Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, will be present to brief the board.

**◆ OPTIONS**

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation changes.  
Amend the proposed regulations and open a period of public comment.  
Seek more information.

**◆ ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation changes.

**◆ SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 06.737, Standards-based test, and 4 AAC 06.775 (b)(1) & (b)(2), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities, whereby the Alaska Science Assessment will be administered at grades 5, 8, and 10 and the alternate assessment cut scores will be updated to align with vendor recommendations.