



OFFICE OF EDUCATION & INSTRUCTION
Gene Stone, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Mission: Mat-Su Borough School District prepares students for success

March 3, 2015

Legislature of the State of Alaska
Twenty-Ninth Legislature – First Session

Dear Members of the Twenty Ninth Legislature:

The Mat-Su Borough School District would like to offer support for House Bill 80, with one suggestion. We support the elimination of requiring testing as a condition of receiving a high school diploma. We do however support that funding be provided to each student wishing to take an ACT, SAT or WorkKeys test on a one-time basis.

We believe each student should have the opportunity to take a college or career readiness assessment primarily because it is a typical requirement for accessing colleges and universities. A one-time funding for ACT, SAT or WorkKeys demonstrates equitable treatment for all students and acts as an incentive to have the students prepare well for their test as they will have to pay for any additional tests. Additionally, parents and students will see this as a significant financial benefit that directly supports their families.

We believe our community as represented by our Mat-Su Borough School Board supports local control for the determination of the assessments and curriculum requirements that will lead to a high school diploma. Because of this belief we support language in HB 80 that eliminates the requirement of taking an ACT, SAT or WorkKeys test as a requirement to receive a high school diploma.

We look forward to our continued work with our legislature to find ways to build opportunities for the students and families of the Mat-Su Borough School District.

Thank you,

Gene Stone
Assistant Superintendent
Mat-Su Borough School District

