

## **RESOLUTIONS OF ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS (AASB)**

### **5.15 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION QUALIFYING EXAM**

AASB supports the repeal of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.

**Rationale:** The adoption of the new Alaska Standards call for a change in the assessment system of measuring student learning that is linked to the higher standards. Accountability to these higher standards will be monitored with a new assessment system. The current HSQE is not relevant to today's standards. It is one of a number of assessments at the high school level that can be ended realizing a cost savings that can be put towards the new assessment system. Importantly, this gains six additional school days in the high school year that can focus on instruction. It frees up personnel time in administering another assessment. Many students have been misled, believing they have accomplished all high school has to offer once they pass at the tenth grade, which causes them to lose interest in the remaining coursework.  
*Adopted 2010 Amended 2013 (Sunsets Nov. 2015)*

### **5.17 ONLINE TESTING AND COMPUTER-BASED ASSESSMENTS**

AASB strongly encourages the State of Alaska and member School Districts to develop and implement computer-based testing of students for the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam, as well as for other assessments where practicable, as a cost-effective innovation that enables districts personnel and students to receive test results in a more timely fashion. Testing systems should operate on the variety of platforms and equipment currently utilized in Alaska's school districts. The current network capabilities of school districts should be considered throughout the development and implementation process. State funding should be provided to cover the full cost of equipment and network upgrades to meet any mandated assessments as well as life cycle replacement.

**Rationale.** Computer-based testing is a proven technology that can deliver tests in a secure and efficient manner. The cost of mailing paper tests, the extra costs for security, and the delays in serving rural schools all make online testing desirable. While initial start-up costs for a digital testing system may be high in some districts, the financial savings over time should be substantial. The ability to use immediate test results to help teachers gauge student progress and plan future course work can improve academic achievement. Seniors who require last-minute testing for graduation can also benefit from digital testing.

State mandated computer based assessments should be developed that are operable under the current capabilities of school districts instead of taxing the already over burdened financial, human and technological resources to meet this mandate. *Adopted 2011 Amended 2012, 2013 (Sunsets Nov. 2015)*