



# Alaska Measures of Progress

Presentation to Joint Legislative Meeting

January 20, 2016

# Leading up to new assessments

- Alaskans called for a review of the reading, writing and mathematics standards at a statewide education summit, which began a process of review in 2009.
- State Board of Education & Early Development adopted new standards in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in June, 2012.
- New standards required a new assessment to measure student progress.

# Selection of Assessment Vendor

- The department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) through the formal state procurement process.
- The RFP evaluation committee consisted of department staff, a school improvement coach, and a state Representative.
- The RFP evaluation committee recommended selection of the Achievement and Assessment Institute (AAI) of the University of Kansas Research Center as the assessment vendor.
- DEED announced the selection of AAI on January 14, 2014.

# Assessment System Components

- The year end (summative) assessment is called Alaska Measures of Progress, or AMP for short.
  - Administered to students in grades 3-10 in the spring.
  - AMP is computer based.
  - Tests in 2015 and 2016 contain all machine scoreable questions.
  - Listening items will be field tested in 2015-2016 and will be part of the test in 2016-2017.
  - Performance tasks were removed from 2016 test, and are tentatively planned to be field tested in 2017.
  - The test will be “stage adaptive” in 2016-2017, allowing a student to receive the next set of questions that better meet their achievement level.
  - The test will be fully developed by spring 2018.

# Optional Tools for Districts

**Interim assessments** can be used several times a year to check student progress.

- A bank of computer-based testlets (8 – 15 items each) is being expanded.
- Reports from interim assessments will provide information on student growth within the year and may be used to predict achievement on the AMP.
- All districts will have access to these assessments to use at their discretion.

**Formative resources** are instructional tools that a teacher can use to understand the student's knowledge of a specific concept or skill.

- Use of the formative resources can help teachers diagnose student errors and provide remediation.
- Formative resources will be available to all districts to use at their discretion.

# First Administration of AMP

- AMP was administered during a 5-week window from March 30 – May 1, 2015.
- The first on-line administration of AMP was generally successfully.
- 95.9% of students participated in the assessment statewide.

# Establishment of Score Ranges

- Alaska educators met in Anchorage the week of July 6 to participate in a process called standard setting, which is where recommendations are made regarding how well a student must do to meet the standards.
- The State Board of Education & Early Development put the score ranges out for public comment at the August 24 meeting.
- The board took testimony, and adopted the score ranges, at the October 9 meeting.

# Reports and Data Release

- Reports for AMP were made available in a digital format to districts, and by hard copy for parents. Reports include:
  - Student Report
  - School & District Detail Report
  - School & District Summary Report
- Data on the percentage of students scoring at each achievement level is available on the DEED website at <http://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/Results/results2015.html>
- Data on subgroup performance will be available in the near future by viewing the district and school report cards.



# Issues & Concerns

- Several issues were identified by superintendents and others related to reports and data.
- Reports distribution and data files were delayed until late November due to numerous data quality checks and corrections needed to ensure accurate reports.
  - These delays created uncertainty about whether the contractor had the capacity to create timely and accurate data files and reports.
- Reports did not provide sufficient level of detail regarding information on how students were performing on clusters or groups of standards.
  - Concern was raised that students should not be tested if the assessment results could not be used to help teachers improve instruction.

# State Board of Education

- The State Board of Education heard a presentation on AMP at the December 10, 2015 meeting.
- Board members requested that the department work with superintendents and the vendor on resolving the issues of concern.
- Board members also requested a comprehensive review of the assessment system.
- The department will provide an update to the board at the March meeting.

# Actions and Steps to Resolution

- Commissioner Hanley and several department staff met with a working group of the Alaska superintendents on November 20 to hear and understand concerns.
- A follow up meeting with superintendents was held on January 14 to explore some possible resolutions.
- Discussion centered around the use of AMP for 2016 and what options will be made available to the state through the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

# Plan for 2016

- AMP will be used for spring 2016 assessment.
- Issues of timely and accurate reporting for 2016 tests will be resolved through use of a high quality subcontractor with reports delivered by late June.
- Reports will be redesigned to provide more information at a deeper content level on student, school & district reports (to be designed with a working group).
- Improvements have been made to the logistical administration of the test for 2016.
- Any changes to the assessment system for 2017 and beyond will be considered as part of the stakeholder discussions in creating the state plan for assessments and accountability for ESSA.