



## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

*Dr. Deena M. Paramo*

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

April 9, 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 supports the passage of House Bill 80. Our district favors providing Mat-Su families the opportunity to choose the college readiness test (ACT, SAT, or WorkKeys) which they feel best suits the future need of their student. Additionally we believe the cost of taking the test should be a family's responsibility and not the school district's, as it was prior to FY15.

An unintended consequence for requiring all students to take an ACT, SAT or WorkKeys test has created a significant burden on school counselors in their role as test site coordinators and requires a disproportionate amount of their duties to be directed to testing rather than traditional academic counseling duties. Schools will continue to have ample opportunity to facilitate ACT, SAT, and WorkKeys tests in a way that will not impact the instructional day with the passage of HB 80.

Our community as represented by the Mat-Su Borough School Board supports local control for the determination of assessments and curriculum requirements that 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 learning opportunities for the students and families of the Mat-Su Borough School District.

Thank you,

Dr. Deena M. Paramo  
Superintendent