



**February 15, 2023**

**House Education Committee – Assessments (REVISED)**

*Follow-up on Committee Member Comments*

Prepared by DEED Staff

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**1. Representative Ruffridge requested the state statutes that mandate each statewide assessment.**

Statutes: AS 14.07.020(b)(2)

(b) In implementing its duties under (a)(2) of this section, the department may not expend any money to implement the set of educational curriculum standards for grades kindergarten through 12 established by the Common Core Standards Initiative and shall develop

(1) performance standards in language arts and mathematics to be met at designated age levels by each student in public schools in the state; and

(2) a comprehensive system of student assessments, composed of multiple indicators of proficiency in language arts and mathematics; this comprehensive system must

(A) be made available to all districts and regional educational attendance areas;

(B) include a developmental profile for students entering kindergarten or first grade; and

(C) include performance standards in language arts and mathematics for students in age groups five through seven, eight through 10, and 11 – 14.

Regulations: 4 AAC 06.700 – 4 AAC 06.790

The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) hosts the following information on its Assessments website<sup>1</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Education and Early Development. Assessments. Alaska's Required Statewide Assessments. February 16, 2023. <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/requiredassessments>

**Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR)**



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| <b>Requirement</b>                 | <a href="#">4 AAC 06.737</a> Standards-based test |
| <b>Content Area Being Assessed</b> | English language arts and mathematics             |
| <b>Students</b>                    | Grades 3-9  |

**Alaska Science Assessment**

*The Alaska Science Assessment is designed to measure a student’s understanding of the skills and concepts outlined in the [K-12 Science Standards for Alaska](#), adopted in 2019. These standards are specific rigorous expectations for growth in students’ skills across all grade levels.*



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|--------------------|---|
| <b>Requirement</b> | <a href="#">4 AAC 06.737</a> Standards-based test |
| <b>Students</b>    | Grades 5, 8, and 10                               |

**ACCESS for ELLs**

In early 2011, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Educational Research to obtain a new English language proficiency assessment. The test, Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) is a product of the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment Consortium (WIDA)



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|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Requirement</b>                 | <a href="#">4 AAC 06.776</a> Assessment of a student that is an English learner |
| <b>Content Area Being Assessed</b> | English language proficiency (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)         |
| <b>Students</b>                    | All EL students in grades K-12  |

**Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP)**

To identify, record, and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate upon entry to school, based on teacher observations.



Student skills and behaviors are defined by whether students are consistently demonstrating 13 goals and indicators in the following five domains from Alaska’s Early Learning Guidelines:

- Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development
- Social and Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Cognition and General Knowledge
- Communication, Language, and Literacy

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| <b>Requirement</b>                 | <a href="#">4 AAC 06.712</a> Developmental profile                       |
| <b>Content Area Being Assessed</b> | Alaska’s Early Learning Guidelines. See list of domains in introduction. |

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| <b>Students</b> | All entering kindergarten students and any first graders who did not complete any kindergarten instruction during school year 2020-21. |
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**National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as “the Nation’s Report Card,” is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas. Its two major goals are to measure student achievement and to report change in performance over time.



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| <b>Requirement</b>                 | <a href="#">4 AAC 06.710(3)</a> Statewide student assessment system              |
| <b>Content Area Being Assessed</b> | Content varies for National Assessment years but most commonly math and reading. |
| <b>Students</b>                    | Sample of students across Alaska in grades 4, 8 and sometimes 12.                |

**Dynamic Learning Maps**

Dynamic Learning Maps or DLM, is Alaska’s alternate assessment. DLM is administered to those students who have significant cognitive disabilities and cannot participate in AK STAR or the Alaska Science Assessment.



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| <b>Requirement</b>                 | <a href="#">4 AAC 06.775</a> Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities                   |
| <b>Content Area Being Assessed</b> | English language arts, mathematics, and science  |
| <b>Students</b>                    | Students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-9: ELA and math, grades 5, 8, and 10: science |

**2. Representative Ruffridge requested information about the demographics and representation requirements of the NAEP exam.**

NAEP participation is approximately 200 schools sampled for NAEP in math and reading for grades 4 and 8. Sample size for Alaska was between 1,600 and 1,800 students per content area. Participation rates were lower than previous years ranging from 82%-89%.

Participants were stratified by school size, achievement, and student demographics- random at student level.

- Reading Grade 4: 120 participating schools- 89% student participation rate- approximately 1600 students assessed
- Reading Grade 8: 90 participating schools- 82% student participation rate- approximately 1500 students assessed
- Mathematics Grade 4: 120 participating schools- 89% student participation rate- approximately 1700 students assessed
- Mathematics Grade 8: 90 participating schools- 84% student participation rate- approximately 1500 students assessed

NAEP was administered from January 24, 2022 - March 31, 2022 and the participation rates reflect the challenging conditions during the assessment window - between weather, quarantines, and staff and student illness. *Enclosure 3 – NAEP Sample Selection* provides a summary of how schools and students are selected for NAEP.

**3. Representative Himschoot requested information about whether adding the science exam to NAEP test administration would be possible.**

NAEP is assessing Science in 2024, however it is only being assessed at the national level and it has yet to be determined if any Alaska schools will be selected. In 2015, NAEP assessed Science at the state level and Alaska was asked to participate but chose to opt-out. According to the NAEP schedule of assessments, science will be assessed at the state level in grades 4 and 8 in 2028.

- 4. Representative Allard requested a comparison to Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Arizona.**

NAEP comparison results for Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Arizona may be found in *Enclosure 1 - NAEP State Comparisons Over Time By Grade Content*.

- 5. Representative Himschoot requested information about the statewide transition from elementary school to middle school/junior high? (i.e., do students transition to middle school in 6<sup>th</sup> grade? 7<sup>th</sup> grade?)**

DEED is gathering information and will provide it to the House Education Committee as soon as possible.

- 6. Representative Ruffridge requested the budget information by funding source for all assessments.**

DEED's summary of each assessment's budget by funding source may be found in *Enclosure 2 – FY2023 Assessment Budget 2-16-2023*.