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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 11, 2012**

### **State Board adopts new English and math standards**

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting June 7-8 in Anchorage, adopted new standards in English/language arts and mathematics for public school students.

They are Alaska's first standards to extend from kindergarten through grade 12, and they are more rigorous than the state's previous standards. The standards were designed so that high school graduates who are proficient in them will not need remediation in English and mathematics in the workplace, the military, technical schools, associate degree programs, and bachelor's degree programs.

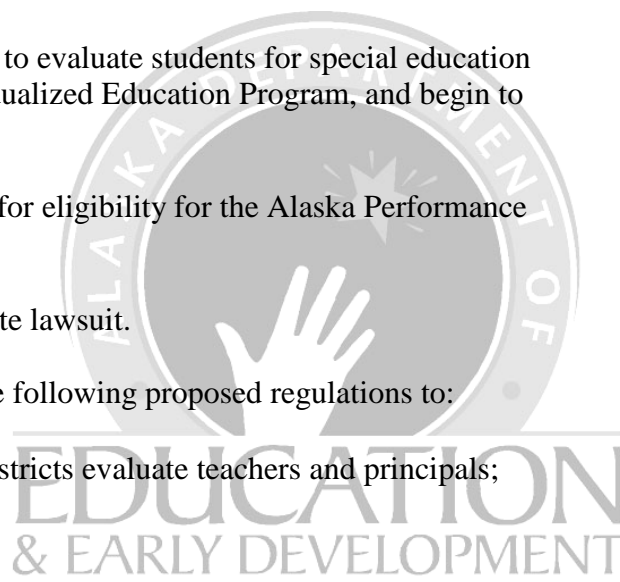
The Department of Education & Early Development will create guides to the new standards for parents and teachers. The department also will prepare tools to help school districts transition to the new standards. The department expects that students will first be assessed in the new standards in spring 2016.

In other actions, the State Board adopted regulations to:

- Update the titles and minimum scores of Praxis II tests, which are used to certify teachers;
- Set a 90-day timeline for school districts to evaluate students for special education and related services, complete an Individualized Education Program, and begin to provide services;
- Change the minimum WorkKeys scores for eligibility for the Alaska Performance Scholarship; and
- Adopt the settlement of the Moore v. State lawsuit.

The State Board sent out for public comment the following proposed regulations to:

- Overhaul the process by which school districts evaluate teachers and principals;



- Clarify the in-kind services that school districts can use in their Chart of Accounts;
- Adopt a table that calculates academic growth among a school's students, to determine which schools will be eligible for services under the Moore settlement; and
- Apply the Annual Measureable Objectives from last year to this year's student assessment results under the accountability system of No Child Left Behind.

The State Board approved renewal of charters for the Family Partnership Charter School, Aquarian Charter School, and Alaska Native Cultural Charter School in Anchorage; Ketchikan Charter School; and Birchtree Charter School in Mat-Su. The State Board adopted changes to the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Policy Manual. The State Board approved Mark Lewis as the department's Administrative Services Director.

The State Board named its officers for the upcoming fiscal year: Jim Merriner, Chair; Esther Cox, First Vice Chair; and Janel Keplinger, Second Vice Chair.

The State Board set the dates and location of its meetings for the upcoming fiscal year: Sept. 12-14, 2012, in Kodiak; Oct. 29, 2012, teleconference; Dec. 6-7, 2012, in Anchorage; Jan. 28, 2013, teleconference; March 6 visit Sitka and March 7-8, 2013, in Juneau; and June 6-7, 2013, on the Kenai Peninsula.

For the board meeting's packet, see [http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State\\_Board/pdf/12\\_june\\_packet.pdf](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State_Board/pdf/12_june_packet.pdf)

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