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SEAL OF THE STATE  
**STATE OF ALASKA**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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**Press Release**

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **State Board Supports Repeal of Graduation Exam**

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting by video/teleconference on January 27, approved a resolution asking the legislature to repeal the statutory high school graduation qualifying exam, in effect since 2004.

The resolution said the high school graduation qualifying exam, as a test of basic skills, is not an appropriate way to measure students' readiness for entry into careers and postsecondary education.

Alaska's public school students first take the high school graduation qualifying exams in reading, writing, and math as 10<sup>th</sup>-graders. They must pass all three subjects to be eligible for a high school diploma.

The resolution said Alaska's system of statewide assessments -- which currently test students in grades 3 through 10 in the state standards in reading, writing, and math -- more accurately measure academic competency and growth. In 2015, Alaska will begin assessing students in grades 3 through 11 in the state's new, more rigorous standards.

The resolution also cited the loss of instructional time and the annual cost of more than \$2 million to administer the high school graduation qualifying exam. For the text, see [http://education.alaska.gov/State\\_Board/resolutions/01-204.pdf](http://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/resolutions/01-204.pdf)

Four bills before the legislature would repeal the high school graduation qualifying exam, including Governor Parnell's omnibus education bills.

In other action, the State Board sent out for public comment proposed regulations to set passing scores for new tests that teachers must take to earn certification or endorsements, or to demonstrate that they are highly qualified. The State Board also approved the FY2015 budget for the Department of Education & Early Development, and approved the appointment of Heidi Teshner as the department's director of administrative services.

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