

**Mike Hanley**  
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500  
education.alaska.gov



**Eric Fry**  
Information Officer  
907.465.2851  
cell: 907.321.5564  
eric.fry@alaska.gov

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 23, 2014**

#### **State Board Approves Regulations to Implement the Education Opportunity Act**

The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting Sept. 18-19 in Anchorage, approved two regulations and sent out for public comment nine proposed regulations.

The board approved regulations to implement a recently enacted state law, Alaska's Education Opportunity Act.

One adopted regulation repeals the high school exit exam and replaces it with the requirement to take a college-ready or a career-ready assessment as a condition of receiving a high school diploma. These assessments do not have passing scores.

The board also placed in regulation the school year 2014-2015 as the first year for state tests of Alaska's new standards. School districts have been aware of this testing date since summer 2013. It is part of Alaska's waiver from major portions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The waiver allows Alaska to design and implement its own school accountability system, the Alaska School Performance Index, which is now in its third year.

The other adopted regulation allows students in grades 7-12 to challenge courses (test out of them) by demonstrating mastery of the courses' material. Students will receive full credit for a course successfully challenged. The challengeable courses are in math, language arts, science, social studies, and world languages.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations to:

- Align regulations for charter school applications, grants, and pupil transportation with a new state law.
- Align regulations for correspondence study programs, including requirements for learning plans and student allotments, with a new state law.

The logo for the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development is located at the bottom right. It features a circular emblem with a hand holding a torch, surrounded by the text "ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT". Below the emblem, the text "EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

**EDUCATION  
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

- Align regulations with a new state law regarding teacher exemptions for jury service and public reporting of aggregate enrollment and performance data about military children. Also, adjust the Alaska School Performance Index to reflect that WorkKeys assessments are no longer required of all 11<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- Align regulations to a new state law regarding school districts' applications to open residential schools. Also, give districts flexibility in deciding which day of the enrollment period will be used in determining state funding.
- Allow waivers from required college-ready or career-ready tests, and adopt new guidelines for students to participate in various tests.
- Set the criteria for the Alaska State Museum to designate local institutions as repositories of natural history and cultural materials.
- Require students to have three credits of math as a condition for receiving a high school diploma.
- Implement a new state law regarding the restraint and seclusion of students.
- Implement a new state law prohibiting the state from spending money to implement Common Core standards.

The proposed regulations and the process for submitting comment will be available by Sept. 29 at <https://education.alaska.gov/regs/comment.cfm>.

###