

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner



Department of Education
and Early Development

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEED to Receive Waiver for Assessment and Accountability Requirements from U.S. Department of Education

JUNEAU – In an effort to support school districts in response to Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Education (US ED) to waive certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, section 1111) related to assessment and accountability requirements. US ED has reviewed the request and intends to issue a formal approval of the waiver request in the coming weeks. DEED will begin work to implement the waiver while US ED processes the formal approval.

In the near-term for Alaskan schools, this means the immediate cancellation of statewide assessments: PEAKS content area assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and the Alaska Science Assessment; the alternate assessment, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM); and the English language proficiency assessment, WIDA ACCESS for ELLs (including Alternate ACCESS). In addition to waiving requirements for assessments, certain requirements for school accountability and reporting will also be waived by US ED.

DEED's assessments and accountability teams, and the entire staff at DEED, will continue to work to support Alaska's school districts towards the best outcomes for students, now and into the future, as we work through the challenges ahead.

For the latest updates on COVID-19 relating to schools, please follow DEED on social media at @AlaskaDEED and visit our website at education.alaska.gov/safeschools/infectiousdisease.

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development provides information, resources, and leadership to support over 130,000 students in 503 public schools across Alaska. The mission of the department is to ensure an "Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day."

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The logo for the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, featuring a stylized hand holding a globe, with the text "ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT" around it.

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