RESOLUTION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

In Support of the Repeal of Alaska's Competency Examination Requirement

Resolution 01-2014

WHEREAS, Alaska law presently requires secondary students to pass a competency examination (also referred to as an "exit exam" or the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam or "HSGQE") in order to receive a high school diploma,

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 139, SB 111, House Bill 220 and HB 278, all presently in front of the Alaska Legislature, would repeal the competency examination requirement,

WHEREAS, the competency examination, fully implemented in 2004, is a test of basic skills,

WHEREAS, the competency examination is not an appropriate means of measuring college and career readiness,

WHEREAS, the Department of Education & Early Development has, in the years since the enactment of the competency evaluation, developed a system of statewide assessments that allows both the Department and school districts to accurately measure academic competency and growth,

WHEREAS, the administration of the competency evaluation results in a significant loss of instructional time for students and teachers,

WHEREAS, the administration of the competency evaluation costs in excess of two million dollars annually,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board of Education & Early Development respectfully requests that the Alaska Legislature repeal the statutory competency examination requirement.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE January 27, 2014.

Jim Merriner, Chair
On behalf of the State Board of Education