

**To: Members of the State Board of  
Education & Early Development**

**December 9, 2021**

**From: Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 4**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board will be briefed on the progress being made on key initiatives related to the School Improvement and Support and the Innovative Assessment Development projects.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

School Improvement and Support

- The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) was awarded the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant (CLSD) and is currently in year three of a five-year \$21,000,000 grant for birth to Grade 12 aimed to improve literacy.
- DEED worked closely with the Region 16 Comprehensive Center (R16CC) and Academic Development Institute (ADI) to build a new school improvement plan.
- DEED's school improvement Rural Playbook is in its final draft for piloting with five identified Alaska school districts.
- SERRC was provided a grant to manage the hiring of Empowerment Coaches as part of the new school improvement plan, and over 100 applications were received.
- Susan McKenzie, Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, will be present to brief the board.

Innovative Assessment Development

- DEED contracted with NWEA in June 2020 to develop an innovative, balanced assessment system to better thread standards, assessment, and instruction.
- NWEA is also developing a customized professional learning component to increase assessment literacy and build district capacity to thread assessment and instruction.
- DEED has worked closely with NWEA throughout the first six months of the project to develop the assessment solution and professional learning options.
- Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, and Elizabeth Greninger, Assessment Administrator, will be present to brief the board.

**◆ OPTIONS**

This is an information update. No action is required.