

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

January 26, 2021

From: Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 5

◆ ISSUE

The board will hear a report on the 2020-2021 Assessment windows and updates.

◆ BACKGROUND

- From October 12 through October 15, members of the assessments team met with the Technical Advisory Committee, a panel of national experts in assessment and accountability. Topics covered included the spring 2021 PEAKS administration, post equating for spring 2021, the statewide accountability system in 2021, and development of the PEAKS Science assessment, and ELP assessment proficiency results.
- Plans are moving forward with preparations for the spring 2021 PEAKS assessments. States received a letter from US Department of Education Secretary DeVos in September stating that waivers for spring 2021 assessments will not be granted. It is the expectation that states will administer summative assessments this year, consistent with requirements of the law and following the guidance of local health officials.
- Field testing for the new PEAKS Science assessment will take place during the spring 2021 PEAKS testing window.
- The Assessments team held a virtual training on October 28 for new District Test Coordinators and another webinar for all District Test Coordinators on November 3rd. The next training webinar is scheduled for December 3rd. DEED will also host, along with our test vendor DRC, a webinar for Technology Coordinators on December 1.
- After being initially postponed for one year, NAEP Long Term Trend assessment for 17-year-old students will not take place in 2021.
- Statutes and regulations requiring the Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP), Alaska's kindergarten entrance observation have been suspended for 2020. The ADP will not take place in 2020.
 - August 3 – September 25, 2021: special window for eligible students to complete WIDA ACCESS for ELLs
 - January 25 – March 5: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
 - February 1 – March 31, 2021: WIDA ACCESS for ELLs
 - March 15 – April 30, 2021: Dynamic Learning Maps alternate assessment
 - March 29 – April 30, 2021: Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS), Computer-based
 - April 5 – April 16, 2021: Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS), Paper-based
- Director Tamara Van Wyhe and Division Operators Manager Deb Riddle will be present to update the board.

◆ OPTIONS

This is an information item. No action is required.