

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

**July 13, 2022**

**From: Heidi Teshner, Deputy Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 2A**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.739(b) and (c), achievement levels for English Language Arts, Math, and Science; 4 AAC 06.822(b) and (e), accountability sub scores; and 4 AAC 06.899 (24), “alternative school” definition. The amendments update the terms for achievement level titles, the cut scores used to determine proficiency by grade, and the sub scores used to determine the accountability growth indicator. The percentage of students meeting the different levels of achievement will inform the accountability system, as the results will be used in determining the Academic Achievement indicator and the Growth indicator. The changes to the achievement level titles are reflected across several regulations, so these adjustments ensure alignment of terminology across assessment and accountability regulations.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- The Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) and Alaska Science Assessment are new summative assessments administered operationally for the first time in the Spring of 2022. With a new assessment, the department must conduct a standard setting review based on student performance against the standards. Standard setting study results inform the proficiency levels that determine student achievement on the assessment.
- Student achievement on the assessment will inform two accountability measures. The Academic Achievement indicator is the proportion of students that are proficient or advanced on the state summative assessment. The Growth indicator is the proportion of the students that increase on the sublevels of the achievement level descriptors as described in 4 AAC 06.822.
- The achievement level titles were reviewed by a panel of department staff as well as the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in November of 2021. The TAC suggested that updated achievement level titles that emphasize growth and progression might better incentivize student performance. The proposed achievement level titles are designed to reflect a clear representation of student performance to educators and parents while also encouraging student engagement.
- The department administered the AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment summative assessments from March 28 through April 29, 2022.
- Standard Setting was conducted by panels of educators during the month of June, with separate panels convened to review each of the content areas.
- Standard setting was completed by June 23 and cut scores were provided to department on June 30.

- DEED reviewed the cut scores to ensure alignment to department policies and used the final cut scores to generate the sub-scores for accountability.
- The proposed regulation can be found behind this cover memo.
- Susan McKenzie, Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, 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 a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 3A.