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**Press Release**

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 25, 2012**

## **State Board Approves Freeze on Proficiency Targets**

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting by video/teleconference on July 24, approved a one-year freeze of the targets for student proficiency in language arts and math.

The targets are school and district goals for the percentage of students who score proficient on state assessments in English and math in grades 3 to 10, under the accountability system of No Child Left Behind. Without the freeze, the targets were scheduled to increase for assessments administered in April 2012.

The U.S. Department of Education offered states the one-year freeze if they were applying for a waiver to certain provisions of NCLB. Alaska expects to submit its application by Sept. 6, 2012. Under the waiver, Alaska would implement its own system of accountability, replacing the targets of NCLB.

In other action, the State Board approved new bachelor's degree and master's degree programs in special education at the University of Alaska Southeast, and approved the closure of UAS's early childhood education programs.

The State Board also approved a settlement with the Yupiit School District regarding its appeal of the board's denial of a waiver from a state statute that requires districts to budget and spend at least 70 percent of their operating expenditures on instruction.

See [http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State Board/pdf/12\\_july\\_packet.pdf](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State_Board/pdf/12_july_packet.pdf)

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