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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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State Board of Education Seeks Comment on Proposed Early-Literacy Screenings

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting April 18 by teleconference, opened a period of public comment on proposed regulations to implement short early-literacy screenings for all students in kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2, and for certain 3rd-graders. The screenings would help teachers identify students experiencing delays in attaining early-literacy skills.

The State Board repealed the requirement for school districts to give students a norm-referenced test in grades 5 and 7. Norm-referenced tests compare students with a sample of students nationwide. Alaska's participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress already allows for a similar comparison for grades 4 and 8.

The State Board approved the University of Alaska Southeast's new endorsement program in distance delivery and e-learning for certificated teachers. UAS will offer an 18-credit program to develop advanced competencies in designing, delivering, and managing effective online instruction.

See http://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/13_april_packet.pdf.

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