

**Mike Hanley**  
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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **State Releases Results from AMP Student Assessment**

JUNEAU – School, district, and statewide results from Alaska's assessment of English language arts and mathematics are now available online at <https://education.alaska.gov/TLS/Assessments/Results/results2015.html>. School districts will begin distributing student-level reports to parents later this month.

The Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assesses students in grades 3 to 10 in the state's current English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards, adopted in June 2012. In spring 2015, approximately 72,300 students participated in AMP's first administration. In future years, results will be available earlier in the school year.

AMP is not a pass/fail assessment. Students score on a scale that is divided into four achievement levels, Level 1 to 4, from low to high. Students in Level 3 and Level 4 are meeting the standards. Students in Level 1 and Level 2 are partially meeting the standards.

Statewide, results varied from grade to grade. In English language arts, the percentage of students who met the standards ranged from approximately 29 percent to 42 percent. In mathematics, the percentage of students who met the standards ranged from approximately 21 percent to 41 percent. The remaining students partially met the standards, to varying degrees.

Alaska's current standards are more demanding than the former standards. As a result, AMP is a more difficult assessment than the state's former assessment. The goal is to better prepare students academically for careers and further education after high school, whether it is a job, the military, an apprenticeship, a technical certificate, a two-year college degree, or a four-year college degree.

AMP gives families, educators, and the public a more accurate understanding of whether students are on track to graduate with the academic skills they need to have choices in an ever-changing economy.

A large, faint watermark logo of the Department of Education and Early Development is visible in the background. It features a circular emblem with a hand holding a torch, surrounded by the text "DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT". Below the emblem, the words "EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT" are written in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

**EDUCATION**  
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT

“We have recognized the need to set higher expectations for our students to better ensure that they are prepared when they leave our schools,” said Alaska Education Commissioner Mike Hanley. “In doing so, we are recalibrating Alaska’s learning trajectory so that Alaskan graduates are able to fill Alaskan jobs. I am confident that over time, we will see significant increases in the percentage of students meeting the standards, fewer students needing remedial courses in college, and a stronger Alaskan workforce.

Results released today form a new baseline from which to measure growth in achievement in English language arts and mathematics. Results from AMP are not comparable to Alaska’s former assessments because AMP measures higher standards, using more difficult questions and different scoring.

AMP is not a high-stakes assessment for students. Results do not affect classroom grades, grade advancement, or graduation. The only outcome for students is positive: They will receive support to improve their learning. In addition, because AMP is a computer-based assessment, students will spend two to three hours less in testing than with the previous state assessment.

Alaska educators have been significantly involved in Alaska’s new standards and assessments. More than 200 Alaska educators reviewed and recommended the state’s English language arts and mathematics standards. More than 900 Alaska educators reviewed AMP’s test questions to be sure they adequately measured the state’s standards and were appropriate for Alaska’s students. Thirty-five Alaska educators decided what quality of student work would constitute Level 1, 2, 3 and 4, and 128 educators recommended the range of scores for each achievement level.

A toolkit to help the public understand AMP is available at <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/AMPResults/AMPResultsToolkit.html>

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