

Mike Hanley
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
education.alaska.gov

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

Eric Fry
Information Officer

907.465.2851
cell: 907.321.5564
eric.fry@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Alaska will pursue new assessment options

JUNEAU - The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development will issue a new Request For Proposals (RFP) to replace the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessment for the 2016-2017 school year. "After careful consideration, I believe that it is in the best interest of Alaska to consider new assessment structures that better align to instructional needs and are allowable due to changes in federal law," said Alaska Education Commissioner Mike Hanley.

While the first administration of the new computer-based assessment went smoothly last spring, multiple issues since then have resulted in increasing frustration among Alaskan educators. These issues included delayed reports, reports needing to be corrected, and an insufficient level of information regarding student performance. While the department has been engaged in problem-solving with school districts to improve the 2016 AMP administration and reports, there has been a growing lack of confidence among educators statewide in the assessment.

The recent passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides new flexibility to states in designing their assessment system. "I believe that Alaska needs to take full advantage of the opportunity the new ESSA provides," said Commissioner Hanley, "and I believe time is of the essence for moving in a direction that better serves Alaska's students."

In order to meet current state and federal requirements, it will be necessary for the AMP assessment to be given again this spring. However, the department will immediately begin collaborating with stakeholders to determine the assessment approach that will work best for Alaska's students, and to inform a request-for-proposal process.

"I sincerely appreciate the efforts of Alaskan educators in helping to develop the AMP assessment," said Commission Hanley, "and I am confident that the lessons learned from AMP will serve us well as we move forward together."

For more information, contact Eric Fry, Information Officer, at 907-465-2851 or eric.fry@alaska.gov.

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