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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students in 2015 and 2016 Who Received a Certificate of Achievement Have Path to Diploma

JUNEAU –Alaska students who recently completed high school with a certificate of achievement can now take a test and receive their diploma.

State law required the graduating classes of 2015 and 2016 to take the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys assessment in order to qualify for a diploma. To receive a diploma, students also had to meet credit requirements. The law expired June 30, 2016.

Students in the classes of 2015 and 2016 who completed their credits but did not take one of those assessments received a certificate of achievement rather than a diploma. Now out of high school, those former students can receive a diploma by taking the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys at their own expense. The SAT and ACT tests cost about \$55. The WorkKeys test costs about \$22.

There are a few rules. Students must apply in writing to the school district that issued their certificate of achievement; submit a score report from a test vendor; and pay the district's fee, if any, to issue a diploma.

If a district administers the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys to its students, it must allow holders of a certificate of achievement to take the test at school if they meet registration requirements and pay any fees.

Students do not have to receive a particular score on the assessments to qualify for a diploma. But they must submit a score report from the test vendor.

Forty-six students from the class of 2015 received a certificate of achievement rather than a diploma. Statistics for the class of 2016 are not available yet. For more information, contact Margaret MacKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, at 907-465-2970 or margaret.mackinnon@alaska.gov.

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