



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2017

State Board Proposes Score Ranges for New State Assessments

The State Board of Education and Early Development, meeting June 7-8 by audio conference, adopted three regulation projects and sent out for public comment three proposed regulation projects.

To conform to state statute, the board adopted regulations that will limit the department's health and safety oversight of pre-elementary schools to those that receive public funding, such as programs in school districts and Head Start centers. Private schools, which will no longer be overseen by the department, will continue to be overseen by the Department of Health and Social Services.

To conform to recent state statutes, the board repealed requirements that school district staff undergo a physical examination periodically, and repealed requirements that students take a career and college readiness assessment as a condition of high school graduation.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations that: 1) set the range of students' scores in the four achievement categories of new statewide assessments of English language arts and mathematics; 2) set the range of students' scores in the four achievement categories of science assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities; and 3) allow the state the flexibility to assess students annually in English language arts and mathematics in grades three through eight and at least once in grades nine through twelve. Current regulations specify grades three through ten.

The board also sent out for public comment proposed regulations to: 1) adopt the most recent national and state safety standards for school buses, and 2) expand the definition of vocational education to include grades seven and eight, as well as nine through twelve. The latter proposal allows school districts to use state and federal vocational education funds in grades seven and eight.

The board appointed Mary Huntington of Koyuk and Michelle D. Martin of Juneau to the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board for three-year terms.

The next meeting of the board will be an audio conference on July 14, starting at 8:00 a.m. to consider the proposed regulations regarding assessment, referenced above. The comment form will be posted next week at

<https://education.alaska.gov/regs/comment.cfm>

The packet for the June 7-8 meeting is at

https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/17-June-Packet.pdf.

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