

4 AAC 06 is amended by adding new sections to read:

**4 AAC 06.715. Work ready/college ready transitional skills curriculum and benchmark assessments.** (a) The commissioner shall select for use in the state a curriculum designed to prepare students to make the transition to work or college. The curriculum must include benchmark assessments that measure a student's current level of performance on the subject areas described in (b) of this section. The curriculum must be administrable electronically, and must be compatible with the assessment described in 4 AAC 06.717. After selection, the curriculum may be used for up to five consecutive years. At the end of the five years, and after review, if the commissioner determines that continued use of the curriculum is in the best interests of the state, the commissioner may select the curriculum again.

(b) Beginning in school year 2009 - 2010, and in each school year for which the state obtains the license described in (c) of this section, each school district in the state shall require that all students in grades six and eight take the benchmark assessments described in (a) of this section in

- (1) applied mathematics;
- (2) reading for information; and
- (3) locating information.

(c) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the department will

(1) obtain a license that allows school districts to administer the curriculum and the benchmark assessments with no charge assessed to the district by the vendor of the curriculum and benchmark assessments;

(2) provide training and support to districts in administration of the curriculum and benchmark assessments; and

(3) regardless of whether a district chooses to administer the curriculum in its classrooms, make the curriculum available to all students enrolled in a public school in the state.

(d) The benchmark assessments described in (b) of this section shall be administered and scored electronically, unless electronic administration is not practicable. Students may take the benchmark assessments more frequently than is required under (b) of this section. Each student who participates shall be provided a score report. (Eff. \_\_/\_\_/2008, Register \_\_)

**Authority:** AS 14.03.123 AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060

**4 AAC 06.717. Work ready/college ready transitional skills assessment.** (a) The commissioner shall select for use in the state an assessment designed to measure students' current level of preparedness to make the transition to work or college. The assessment must be administrable electronically. After selection, the assessment may be used for up to five consecutive years. At the end of the five years, and after review, if the commissioner determines that continued use of the assessment is in the best interests of the state, the commissioner may select the assessment again.

(b) Beginning in school year 2009 - 2010, and in each school year for which the state obtains the license described in (c) of this section, each school district in the state shall require students in grade 11 to take the assessment described in (a) of this section in

- (1) applied mathematics;
- (2) reading for information; and
- (3) locating information.

(c) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the department

(1) will obtain a license that allows school districts to administer the assessment described in (a) of this section with no charge assessed to the district by the vendor of the assessment;

(2) will provide training and support to districts in administration of the assessment; and

(3) may provide a certificate to students that is based on nationally-recognized criteria for evaluating a student's readiness for transition to work or college.

(d) The assessment described in (a) of this section shall be administered and scored electronically, unless electronic administration is not practicable. Each student who participates shall be provided a score report. A student's best score report shall be included under 4 AAC 07.060(a)(5) in the student's cumulative record.

(e) A student who has taken the assessment described in (a) of this section may take the assessment again at no charge from the vendor to the district or student if, after receiving the score report described in (d) of this section for the student's most recent assessment, the student has taken one or more additional benchmark assessments described in 4 AAC 06.715, and has obtained a score that demonstrates an improvement in the score obtained on the score report described in (d) of this section. A district may permit a student to take the assessment additional times at the district's or the student's expense. (Eff. \_\_/\_\_/2008, Register \_\_)

**Authority:** AS 14.03.123 AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060