

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education & Early Development**

March 2, 2022

From: Michael Johnson, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 8B

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to approve amendments to 4 AAC 06.775 (a), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities. The amendments update the *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments*, which define the assessment criteria of all Statewide Alaska Assessments.

◆ BACKGROUND

- The *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* were last updated in 2020.
- In Spring and Summer 2021, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) piloted a new statewide Science Assessment and conducted appropriate standard setting and alignment studies to ensure an equitable, Alaska standards aligned assessment. The Science Assessment was developed by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). The new Science Assessment will be administered statewide in Spring 2022.
- In June 2021, DEED contracted with a new vendor, NWEA, to develop and administer a new statewide assessment for English Language Arts and Math beginning in Spring 2022.
- Between July and September 2021, DEED worked with NWEA and DRC to update the *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* to reflect these updates to the Alaska Statewide Assessment system.
- The final document was completed in September 2021.
- The proposed regulation and proposed *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* can be found behind this cover memo. In addition, to allow for an easier review of the changes made, a track changes version of the proposed *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* can also be found behind this cover memo.
- A public comment period for this regulation change was opened on December 27, 2021 and closed on January 26, 2022 and no public comment was received.
- Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, will be present to brief the board.

◆ OPTIONS

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 13B.