

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

July 26, 2023

From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner

Agenda Item: 4

◆ ISSUE

The department will provide a presentation on the Validation Study of the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) cut scores conducted in May 2023.

◆ BACKGROUND

- Cut scores that mark the proficiency levels for the standardized assessment were established through an evidence-based standard setting process in June 2022. Alaska educators from around the state participated in the process and established cut scores based on Alaska standards for grades 3-9 in English Language Arts, Math, and Science.
- Identified cut scores were presented to the State Board of Education in June 2022 and submitted for a 30-day public comment period.
- In July 2022, the identified cut scores were approved by the State Board of Education and established in regulation.
- As AK STAR was administered as the first summative, state-wide assessment following the COVID-19 pandemic, and as AK STAR had only been administered once when the cut scores were established, the department determined that conducting a Validation Study to validate that the cut scores were an accurate reflection of student achievement would be advisable.
- In May 2023, using the data from Spring 2022 and Spring 2023 AK STAR assessments, the department conducted an evidence-based validation study process. This process was used to evaluate the accuracy of the existing cut scores and determine if any changes needed to be made in the Alaska assessment cut scores.
- DEED is currently conducting a policy review with State leadership to evaluate the final cut scores.
- Susan McKenzie, Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; and Dr. Elizabeth Greninger, Assessments Administrator, will be present to brief the board.

◆ OPTIONS

This is a work session item. No action is required by the board.