

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

March 2, 2022

From: Michael Johnson, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 7B

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.737, Standards-based test, and 4 AAC 06.775 (b)(1) & (b)(2), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities. The amendments update the grades at which students are assessed for proficiency of the Science standards and updates the cut-scores for students who use the alternate assessment for students with disabilities.

◆ BACKGROUND

- When DEED updated the Science Standards, the committee noted that the elementary grade bands for the Science standards were across 4th and 5th grade, but that the assessment occurred at the end of 4th grade. As this meant that the assessment was occurring in the middle of the content, educators recommended that DEED adjust assessment to 5th grade to better align.
- In Spring 2021, DEED piloted a new Science Assessment. Based on the feedback from educators, DEED adjusted the Science Assessment to assess at grades 5, 8, and 10.
- This regulation update will better align the Science Assessment with the Science Standards grade bands to ensure students have received the full range of instruction before being assessed at the end of 5th grade.
- In 2021, DEED's alternate assessment provider, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), updated the cut scores used to determine proficiency.
- In order to align DEED's cut scores with the vendor recommendations, DEED is seeking to update the alternate assessment cut scores identified in regulation.
- The proposed regulations can be found behind this cover memo.
- 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 12B.