

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

January 17, 2024

From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 6B

◆ **ISSUE**

The board is being asked to approve proposed 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 March 2022.
- In July 2023, the Alaska Reads Act went into effect, a component of which is a required early literacy screener to be administered statewide.
- The State selected mCLASS with DIBELS 8th edition in partnership with Amplify, as our state-adopted early literacy screener. mCLASS will be administered in 51 districts across the state this school year.
- Between July and August 2023, DEED worked with Amplify to update the *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* to reflect this new assessment.
- The final document was completed in August 2023.
- A public comment period was held from December 8, 2023, through January 8, 2024. No public comment has been received as of December 26, 2023. Any public comment received will be provided after the public comment period concludes.
- The proposed regulations and proposed *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments*, can be found behind Agenda Item 3B. 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.
- Dr. Elizabeth Greninger, Assessments Administrator; Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; and Carol Boatman, Director of the Alyeska Reading Institute, will be present to brief the board.

◆ **OPTIONS**

Adopt the proposed regulation.

Amend the proposed regulation and adopt the amended regulations.

Seek more information.

◆ **ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the proposed regulation changes.

◆ **SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve amendments to 4 AAC 06.775 (a), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities, whereby an updated version of the *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* is proposed to be adopted by reference.