

**Instruction**

**STANDARDIZED TESTING**

BP 6162.5(a)

**Note:** Alaska has a statewide student assessment system consisting of standards-based tests and college and career readiness assessments. The standards-based assessments are selected by the Commissioner of Education and are intended to measure each student’s mastery of the academic performance standards for reading, writing, mathematics and science. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development scores the tests and provides each district with results. Effective October 9, 2015, the year in which there is a new or significantly changed standards-based assessment that requires new proficiency scores shall be considered a base year for purposes of reporting and accountability on those assessment. A student’s test results must be kept confidential by the district except that within 20 days of receiving the results, or before the end of the school year, whichever is earlier, the district must distribute the class and individual results to each teacher for that teacher’s students, and the individual student results to each student’s parents. If the district is unable to distribute results to teachers before the end of the school year, the district must distribute the results to teachers no later than the first day that school is in session in the next school year.

Effective June 30, 2016 the requirement that a secondary student may not be issued a diploma unless he or she takes a college and career readiness assessment or receives a waiver from the School Board is repealed. See AR 6146.3. If, prior to June 30, 2016, a student fails to take a college and career readiness assessment (SAT, ACT or Work Keys) by the end of the student’s final semester of attendance but has met all other graduation requirements, the school shall award a certificate of achievement to the student. The IEP team for a student with a significant cognitive disability may determine whether the student will take the college and career readiness assessment based on the IEP team’s determination of whether the assessment supports the transitional plan of the student’s IEP. Qualifying students with disabilities, who are not able to complete either regular curricular offerings or substitute courses under 4 AAC 06.078 that would lead to a diploma, may take alternative assessments instead of the required standardized testing. See BP 6146.5. 4 AAC 06.775

The School Board believes that schools must consider each student as an individual and that testing, by itself, cannot determine the best educational choices for a student.

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance Services)

Standardized tests measure student performance related to state or national norms and often measure only the most commonly tested skills. Since such tests may not always take racial, cultural or gender differences into account, misinterpreting or overemphasizing the results of these tests can limit curricular options and the richness of district programs. The Board believes that major conclusions about students and district programs always must be based upon a variety of evaluation measures.

The district shall administer all tests required by state law. When district test scores are published, the Superintendent or designee shall provide supplementary information to interpret the results.

(cf. 6162.8 - Research)
(cf. 6146.3 – College and Career Readiness Assessments)
Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES
14.03.110 Questionnaires and surveys administered in public schools
14.03.075 Secondary Pupil Competency Testing
14.07.020 Duties of the Department

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
4 AAC 05.080 School curriculum and personnel
4 AAC 06.700 - 4 AAC 06.790 Statewide student assessment
4 AAC 06.755 High School Graduation Qualifying Exam
4 AAC 06.758 High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Results
4 AAC 06.761 Test Administration
4 AAC 06.765 Test Security; Consequences of Breach
4 AAC 06.771 - 790 High School Graduation Qualifying Waivers and Appeals