

STATE OF ALASKA RFI FOR ALASKA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS  
AMENDMENT NUMBER 02



Department of Education and Early Development  
Division of Education Support Services  
801 W Tenth Street Suite 200  
PO Box 110500  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500

THIS IS NOT AN ORDER

DATE AMENDMENT ISSUED: August 26, 2016.

RFI for Alaska Statewide Assessments

RFI CLOSING DATE AND TIME: 4:00 PM on Wednesday September 14, 2016

Note: numbering in this amendment continues from the prior amendment.

C. The following questions have been asked. Answers follow each question. All questions received prior to 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 have been answered.

- (9) Page 2, third full paragraph - please provide blueprints for the ELA and Mathematics assessments in addition to those provided for the Science assessment.

*Answer: See page 4 of the RFI. Information on the test design for 2015 can be found in Chapter 6, "Test Design and Development," in the AMP Technical Manual 2015 posted on the DEED website at <https://education.alaska.gov/akassessments/#c3gtabs-amp> . Additional content information can be found in the Alaska Summative Assessment Frameworks at [https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/AMPresources/Summative\\_Assessment\\_Framework.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/AMPresources/Summative_Assessment_Framework.pdf) .?*

- (10) Page 3, last paragraph - This mentions that the ELA and Mathematics assessments were built on targets at the level of broader skills and strategies, rather than on individual standards or discrete skills. If a shelf test is being proposed, is this the level of analysis (broader skills and strategies) desired for alignment to the Alaska content standards?

*Answer: Alaska requires an assessment that is aligned to and measures the depth and breadth of the Alaska content standards. An off the shelf test is not required to be built on the same blueprint as the prior assessments.*

Questions 11 through 13 relate to the first full paragraph on page 4.

- (11) Are current Alaska-owned ELA and Mathematics items also available in QTI and APIP format?

*Answer: Items used in the 2015 & 2016 ELA and Mathematics assessments are available in QTI and APIP format. Alaska does not own all items used on the 2015 and 2016 assessments. The state has joint ownership of items developed under its previous contract and has rights to use those items in a future assessment. Many of these items are used in summative assessments in other states, and must be used according to the agreement established with those states and the prior vendor. All parties using these items would be required to agree to maintain appropriate security of the items, such as only releasing operational items with prior agreement of all parties.*

STATE OF ALASKA RFI FOR ALASKA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS  
AMENDMENT NUMBER 02

(12) Do the Science items include APIP Text to Speech tagging?

*Answer: Yes.*

(13) What percentage of second scoring is required for SCR and ECR items?

*Answer: While no specific percentage is required, Alaska would look for use of best practices in scoring constructed response items. 10% of responses were planned to be double-scored for the previous assessment.*

(14) Page 4, Accommodations and Paper-Based Assessments - the information provided here seems to suggest that all but 12 schools were able to test online in 2015, and that only a small number of exceptions (as listed) were necessary. Please confirm that this understanding is correct. Does the State anticipate similar capability and capacity for online testing in 2017?

*Answer: It is expected that the number of paper-based tests needed for accommodation purposes will be similar. The state's capability and capacity for online testing in 2017 is expected to be similar to what it was in 2016 based on the technical specifications noted on pages 5-6 of the RFI. Some districts may choose to use paper-based testing in 2017 and DEED hopes to accommodate district preferences.*

(15) Page 5, Technology - please provide a summary from the State's most recent technology survey showing devices, operating systems, and network capacity by school, if possible.

*Answer: The information provided on pages 9-10 of the RFI outlines the technology requirements that schools were expected to meet. There is no more recent information available from a technology survey.*

(16) Page 6, Data Management, third paragraph - does EED feed the DIASA system from a data file provided by the assessment vendor? If not, how is that system populated with assessment data?

*Answer: The vendor would be expected to provide a file to the subcontractor for the DIASA system that includes assessment results and the student demographic and participation data from DEED.*

(17) Page 6, Reports, first paragraph - Does EED have any data from 2016 that could be used to link or equate the 2017 assessments? If not, would 2015 items and data be available?

*Answer: No data is available from the 2016 assessments. Data is available from 2015. Some items are available for grades 3-10 to use in the spring 2017 assessment for purposes of equating scores to the 2015 assessment. They would include IRT parameters based on the 2015 calibration.*

(18) Page 7, first paragraph - would you be able to provide samples of the 2016 reports that were designed but not used? What other reports besides the Student Report would be desired?

*Answer: Final sample designs for the 2016 reports have not been published. The information provided in Attachment 2, Report Subcategories for ELA and Math shows the categories in which subscore information was planned to be reported. Samples of the 2015 student reports are available online in the Interpretive Guide at [https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/AMPResults/Interpretive\\_Guide.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/AMPResults/Interpretive_Guide.pdf). Other reports desired include school and district summary reports that represent the aggregate results for each content and grade level, as well as for the entire school and district. Vendors may propose additional reports.*

(19) Page 8, Training and Support - Is on-site training required for 60 people total, or is it that 60 people would need travel and per-diem reimbursements? If the latter, how many people would attend in total? Is overnight lodging required and if so for how many people?

*Answer: Up to 60 participants including district test coordinators and DEED staff would need travel and per-diem reimbursements. Overnight lodging would be required for most participants. Estimated travel and per diem costs for the DTCs staff would be approximately \$60,000. Per-diem payments would be reduced*

**STATE OF ALASKA RFI FOR ALASKA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS**  
**AMENDMENT NUMBER 02**

*for any meals provided. Total attendance is expected to be up to 75 people including DEED staff and any contractor staff providing the training.*

(20) Are the 2016 paper-based forms available for all grades/subjects in an electronic format that could easily be updated for use in spring 2017 testing?

Answer: DEED does not have electronic versions of the paper based forms. Those forms were created and printed by the previous vendor. Both paper and computer based forms used the same items and Alaska only has access to a portion of these items for use in future assessments.

<End of Amendment 02>



---

Robert Roys  
Procurement Officer