

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LEARNERS  
IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The proposed amendments would adopt changes regarding the assessment of English learners, including revised exit criteria for English learners and updated English language proficiency standards.

The State Board of Education and Early Development proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 4 of the Alaska Administrative Code dealing with the assessment of English learners under 4 AAC 04.155 English language proficiency standards, 4 AAC 06.820 Participation, and 4 AAC 34.055 Plan of service.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes and the *Alternate Scoring Process Guide*, 2021 edition, proposed to be adopted by reference, are available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System, at <https://education.alaska.gov/regs/comment.cfm>, and by contacting Linda Mattson at (907) 465-2800 or at [linda.mattson@alaska.gov](mailto:linda.mattson@alaska.gov).

The updated standards, *WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards Framework, 2020 Edition: Kindergarten – Grade 12*, proposed to be adopted by reference, are available at <https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/resource/WIDA-ELD-Standards-Framework-2020.pdf> and in the DEED Commissioner's Office located at 801 W 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200, Juneau, Alaska 99801. To schedule a time to review the standards in the Commissioner's Office, please call (907) 465-2800 or email [deed.commissioner@alaska.gov](mailto:deed.commissioner@alaska.gov).

The Department of Education and Early Development invites the public to submit written comments during the written comment period, which begins with the date of this notice and ends on June 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. The written comment period closes in advance of the meeting of the State Board of Education and Early Development at which the board will consider the adoption of the proposed regulation change. This allows the Department of Education and Early Development an opportunity to prepare changes based on written comment and to distribute any proposed changes to the board for its consideration prior to the meeting.

You may comment in writing on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to the Commissioner's Office, Department of Education and Early Development, Attn: Regulations Review, 801 West Tenth Street, Suite 200, PO Box 110500, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500. You also may submit written comments by facsimile at (907) 465-4156; by electronic mail to [linda.mattson@alaska.gov](mailto:linda.mattson@alaska.gov) and online at the website of the Department of Education and Early Development at <https://education.alaska.gov/regs/comment.cfm>. Written comments also may be submitted through the Alaska Online Public Notice System by accessing this notice on the system and using the comment link.

**All written comments must be received not later than 4:30 p.m. on June 2, 2021.**

**After the written comment period has ended, you may submit oral comments to the State Board of Education and Early Development at a hearing to be held by the board on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., by Zoom virtual platform.** The teleconferencing facilities will be operated from the Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner's Office Conference Room, 801 West Tenth Street, Juneau, AK 99801. The public comment period will be held from 9:10 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. but may be extended. You may join the online Zoom meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/99391482721> or by calling 1-253-215-8782 and selecting \*9 on your phone's keypad. To mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, in-

person attendance will not be permitted. When public comment is over, the meeting will continue to be broadcast at the above website.

You may submit written questions relevant to the proposed action to Linda Mattson at [linda.mattson@alaska.gov](mailto:linda.mattson@alaska.gov) or the Department of Education and Early Development, Attn: Linda Mattson, PO Box 110500, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500. If a question is relevant to the proposed change in the regulations and the question is received by May 21, 2021, which is ten days before the end of the public comment period, the department will make a good faith effort to answer the question before the end of the public comment period. The Department of Education and Early Development will aggregate its response to substantially similar questions and make the questions and responses available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and on the website of the Department of Education and Early Development at <https://education.alaska.gov/regs/comment.cfm>. The Department of Education and Early Development may, but is not required to, answer written questions received after the ten-day cut-off date and before the end of the comment period.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Linda Mattson at (907)465-2800 or [linda.mattson@alaska.gov](mailto:linda.mattson@alaska.gov) not later than June 1, 2021, to ensure that any necessary accommodation can be provided.

After the public comment period ends, the Department of Education and Early Development will either adopt the proposed regulation changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulation may be different from that of the proposed regulation. You should comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected. Written comments received are public records and are subject to public inspection.

**Statutory authority:** AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060

**Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific:** AS 14.03.123, AS 14.30.410, AS 14.17.420, AS 14.50.080

**Fiscal information:** The proposed regulation change is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Date: 05/03/2021

  
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Karen Melin, Deputy Commissioner