



Yukon Koyukuk School District
Administrative & Support Offices
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Dear YKSD Parents and Community Members,

We are looking forward to a successful year working with our students and communities of Yukon Koyukuk School District. As we begin our school year, I want to share important information with you regarding the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development's announcement last week unveiling the state's new accountability and support system for Alaska's public schools.

As of the 2013-2014 school year, the state will no longer be using Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Alaska will now use the Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) as an accountability system for schools. With the new accountability system, our district and schools will be embracing several changes to best educate our students.

Alaska School Performance Index

Each school will earn a score on a 100-point scale. This year's ASPI scores are based on student performance from the school year 2012-2013. The score is based on:

- ✓ student proficiency in state reading, writing, and math assessments in grades 3 to 10;
- ✓ the degree to which a school's students are improving, remaining the same, or declining in reading, writing, and math scores;
- ✓ attendance;
- ✓ graduation rates if the school has 12th-graders;
- ✓ student scores on SATs and ACTs (college-readiness) and WorkKeys (career-readiness) assessments in high school; and
- ✓ student participation rates in WorkKeys assessments.

Each school earns a rating from one star to five stars with five stars being the highest rating. Fifty-two of 503 rated schools across Alaska earned five stars, the highest rating; 190 schools are four-star schools; 162 schools are three-star schools; 49 schools are two-star schools; and 50 schools are one-star schools. Collectively, nearly 92 percent of students attended schools in 2012-2013 that earned three stars or above. All schools within Yukon Koyukuk School District have a three star rating with the exception of one two star school. We are looking forward to using this new system to identify areas in which we can improve upon.

New for 2013-2014

Required Early Learning Literacy Screening

All students in Kindergarten through second grade and third grade students who are not proficient in reading will be required to participate in literacy screening. The good news is that we are already in the practice of screening our primary students with AIMSweb. Beginning this year we will not

use AIMSweb, instead we will be using Primary Measures of Academic Performance (PMAP) for all students in Kindergarten to second grade and third grade students who are in need of extra assistance.

New Standards for English Language Arts and Math

Alaska adopted new English Language Arts and Mathematics standards that are more rigorous than the standards previously in place; Alaska did not adopt the common core standards. These newly adopted standards will be assessed for the first time using the Smarter Balanced Assessment in the spring of 2015.

New Assessments Spring 2015

Smarter Balanced Assessment will take the place of the Standard Based Assessments (SBA). The new computer adaptive assessment will be administered to all students in grades 3-11. We are preparing our students for this assessment with the use of Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) for Kindergarten-12th grade.

New Teacher Evaluation by 2015-2016

Regulations require school districts to consider student achievement when evaluating teachers. The district will be forming a teacher evaluation team that will build a tool that will best reflect the needs of the district and teachers. The new evaluation tool will be in alignment with the new regulations. By 2015-2016 school year, at least 20% of student learning data will be factored into the evaluation with 50% factored in by 2018-2019.

YKSD has worked hard to build a team of exceptional educators and will hold your students to high expectations. We hope that you will participate in student conferences and community meetings that will help us reach this goal of creating five star schools. Please continue to speak with your child about the importance of being on time to school everyday and the importance of completing homework.

The District will be providing more details regarding ASPI as they become available. Additionally, you can find more information about ASPI on our website at www.yksd.com. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kerry Boyd".

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent