



Yukon-Koyukuk School District
Administrative & Support Offices
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Dear YKSD Parents and Guardians,

This Spring YKSD will be administering the statewide assessment, Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools, or PEAKS. The PEAKS assessments will be administered to students in grades 3-10. The assessment measures the Alaska English Language Arts & Mathematics standards adopted in 2012. Students in grades 4, 8, and 10 will also participate in the Science assessment based on Alaska Science Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) adopted in 2006.

To best meet the needs of our students, YKSD has selected to have students participate with the pencil-paper version of the assessment at Allakaket, Jimmy Huntington, Johnny Oldman, MHS Gladys Dart, Minto, Merrelina A. Kangas and Rampart schools. The paper-pencil assessment window is scheduled for March 27th through April 7th. The computer-based assessment (CBA) version will be implemented at Andrew K. Demoski, Ella B. Verneti, Kaltag and Raven schools. The computer-based version window is open from March 28th through April 28th.

What types of questions will the new assessments have?

The tests will include a variety of item types, including traditional multiple choice, nontraditional multiple choice formats such as "choose all that apply," and items such as plotting points on a graph or number line. The computer-based version will also include selecting a response from a drop-down list, or items with drag and drop functionality.

Why should your child participate in PEAKS?

While both state and federal law require an annual assessment, there are other important reasons for students to take the PEAKS tests this year.

- The statewide assessment is a summative assessment, which is just one piece of a balanced assessment system. Summative assessments are designed to give information on a student's understanding of the state's English language arts, mathematics, and science standards. When administered over multiple years, this assessment is even more meaningful because it informs you on how far your child has progressed in their learning.
- Data provided from the PEAKS assessment will provide your teacher information that can help to guide instructional support. Information from student results will help teachers and parents meet the needs of our students.

How will we help to ensure your students are prepared?

Practice tests for students to become familiar with different types of test items will be available in February 2017. Students should have opportunities to practice test taking skills in instructional activities so they are familiar with the assessment format. Students taking the computer-based version should have opportunities to use computers in instructional activities so they are familiar with using a keyboard and mouse, and with reading text on a screen.

The most effective way the District is preparing students for the new assessments is to ensure that the Alaska English, Language Arts and Mathematics Standards are being taught in daily lessons. If you have any questions or concerns about the assessment, please contact your school administrator.

Sincerely,

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent