to succeed in the workplace or postsecondary training of their choice.

Because the Alaska Measures of Progress are so different from our old tests, we can't compare results from the two tests. AMP is a new beginning.

Parents and educators will receive reports about their students' results. No data about individual students will be released to the federal government. Alaska has never done so. Each school's test results will help its district and the state decide if the school needs to make improvements and what those should be.

What is my student being tested on?

The Alaska Measures of Progress assess students in our state's standards in English language arts and math. It's easy

A new English language arts and math baseline to achieve a new goal



Students take two tests: English language arts and math

to find the standards that apply to your student's grade. Go to the yellow Parents star on the front page of education.alaska.gov. Click on the Standards tab. You'll see links to Parent Guides and Tips for each grade. The Parent Guides summarize the standards in two pages. The National PTA contributed grade-level tips for helping your students. The Standards tab also contains links to the complete standards for each grade.

See the Parent Guides and Tips

http://education.alaska.gov/akparentscommunity/

Learn more about AMP

http://education.alaska.gov/akassessments/

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

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AMP

ALASKA MEASURES OF PROGRESS

A Parent Guide to Alaska's New Assessments



INTRODUCTION

Alaska will assess students in English language arts and math in grades 3 through 10 in the spring, as it has done for many years. But there are some improvements.

Before, students took separate tests in reading, writing, and math for three days in a row. Combined, the tests had up to 185 questions. The tests were untimed but, typically, students spent two or more hours on each test.

Now, students will take just two tests: English language arts and math, with a combined total of 140 questions. The tests are still untimed. But schools don't have to give the tests on back-to-back days. Also, schools can break up each test into shorter sections and give students just one section a day. If schools do that, students might answer 15 or 25 questions in a sitting.

Students with disabilities may receive accommodations as determined by the student's team. Students with severe cognitive disabilities may be eligible for an alternate test.



New measures to test skills for success in the workplace and postsecondary training



What do the AMP tests look like?

The Alaska Measures of Progress are more challenging and more engaging than our old tests. Students will have fewer multiple-choice questions. Instead, students will have to analyze the question, perform multi-step tasks, solve problems, and apply what they know to new situations. That's the kind of thinking that employers and colleges look for.

Teachers will have AMP assessment tools they can use in their classroom to gauge student progress and gain more information about each student's learning.

Students will take the tests on a computer. In math problems, students might drag and drop items or plot points on a graph. In answering an English language arts questions, students might highlight text or put sentences in a sequence. Using computers, students actively participate in the test.

Students will become familiar with the new tests before they take them. With technology practice tests, students will learn to answer questions using the computer's tools. The technology practice tests are at education.alaska.gov/akassessments/.

Schools that don't have enough technology capacity will use paper for now. The computerized tests and paper tests have the same questions. The state will work with schools to increase their technology capacity.

Who made the AMP tests?

Alaska hired an experienced testing company, Achievement & Assessment Institute, to create tests for our standards. Alaska owns the tests. Alaska educators will review the test questions for clarity, relevance, fairness, and cultural bias. Alaskans will write passages of text for the English language arts test.

How are the AMP tests scored?

The Alaska Measures of Progress are not pass/fail tests. Students' scores will place them in one of four levels of performance defined by Alaska educators. The third-highest level represents meeting the standards, but no level represents failure.

Students' scores on AMP in 2015 will serve as a baseline. As students take AMP tests in future years, we can see whether they are growing in their English language arts and math skills.

We need a new baseline because we have a new goal: Students will graduate with the English language arts and math skills