

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Education & Early Development
Assessments & Accountability

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To: District Test Coordinators

From: Les Morse, Director



Date: September 8, 2006

Subject: Spring 2007 Science Assessment Field Test

In preparing for the 2006-2007 school year, we want to make you aware of the schools within your districts that were selected to participate in the Science Assessment field test during the spring 2007 Standards Based Assessment administration. Attached to this memo is a list of schools and the grade levels that will be required to assess students in science within your district. Grade levels affected are 4, 8, or 10.

Dates of the science field test will fall within the same dates each district establishes for their Standards Based Assessments (SBAs) during the allotted test window of April 2 – 16, 2007.

The science assessment is required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The science assessment must test three grade levels within specific grade spans, and the State Board of Education & Early Development adopted regulations in 2005 requiring the assessment to be given to students in grades 4, 8 and 10. The field test in the spring 2007 is an essential part of developing an operational assessment that will be administered to all students in those grades in 2008. The state approved a plan to field test 40% of the students in the effected grade levels. All districts selected will field test students in at least one grade level. The field test sample was drawn based on demographic needs to generate data necessary to build test forms. All students in the grades within the school must take the field test, unless the student uses Braille. We will not provide a Braille version of the field test as the population that uses that version is so small we are unable to gain reliable data for test development.

cc: Superintendents

Attachment: District list of schools selected for Science Assessment field test