

## Instruction

### PUBLICATIONS

BP 6145.3

While serving to instruct students in the basic skills of responsible journalism, official school publications shall be free to provide thoughtful, relevant commentaries on all topics within the bounds of good taste.

Student editors in journalism, newspaper, yearbook, and writing classes shall assign and edit the news, editorial and feature content of their publications. Faculty advisors shall help the student editors judge the literary value, newsworthiness and propriety of materials submitted for publication. All statements and editorials must be substantiated by fact. Editorials may freely aim constructive criticism at school organizations, procedures, and policies, but such criticism should reflect the opinions of a cross-section of the publication staff. Editorial columns which express only the opinion of the writer shall be bylined.

As space permits, editorial pages shall be open to any students wishing to express their ideas or to rebut editorials in a letter. School newspapers shall print a fair selection and accurate representation of the letters they receive.

Faculty advisors shall supervise student publications so as to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to assure that their content is not obscene, libelous, or slanderous, and does not incite students to commit unlawful acts, violate school rules, or disrupt school operations.

(cf. 1325 - Advertisements and Promotions)  
(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### ALASKA STATUTES

*14.18.010 Discrimination based on sex and race prohibited*  
*14.18.050 Discrimination in course offerings prohibited*  
*14.18.090 Enforcement by board of education*

*Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986)*  
*Hazelwood School District v. Chummier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)*

##### ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

*4 AAC 06.520 Recreational and athletic activities*  
*4 AAC 06.530 Guidance and counseling services*  
*4 AAC 06.540 Course offerings*  
*4 AAC 06.600 Definitions*  
*4 AAC 51.270 Equal opportunities*

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

## Instruction

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS

BP 6145.5

Note: If a public secondary school allows one or more noncurriculum-related groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time, the federal Equal Access Act (Title VII, Public Law 98-377) states that any other student-initiated group also must be allowed to meet in a "limited open forum" without regard to its religious, political or philosophical views. As amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, after adopting a facility use policy, districts must ensure that the policy is applied equitably to all groups, including the Boy Scouts and other affiliated groups. Option #1 below may be used by districts that have a limited open forum. Option #2 is for districts that have established a "closed forum," permitting access only to student organizations that are tied directly to the curriculum. In that elementary schools are not addressed by the Equal Access Act, elementary districts may use and/or modify language from either option without regard to establishing open or closed forum.

#### Limited Open Forum

The Iditarod School Board believes that curriculum and noncurriculum-related student organizations have an important place in students' lives. Besides extending and reinforcing the instructional program, such groups can give students practice in democratic self-government and provide wholesome social and recreational activities. Student organizations also serve to honor outstanding student achievement and to enhance school spirit and students' sense of belonging.

Since the district allows schools to sponsor student groups not directly tied to the curriculum, student-initiated groups not sponsored by the school district have the right to meet on school premises during times established for a limited open forum in accordance with provisions of the federal Equal Access Act.

*(cf. 1321 - Solicitation of funds)*  
*(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)*  
*(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)*  
*(cf. 3452 - Student Activity Funds)*  
*(cf. 3554 - Other Food Sales)*  
*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### *ALASKA STATUTES*

*14.03.060 Elementary, junior high and secondary schools*

*14.30.510 Alaska student leadership development fund*

*TITLE VII - THE EQUAL ACCESS ACT, 20 U.S.C.A. Section 4071 et seq., as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 7905*

*Prince v. Jacoby, 303 F.3d 1074 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002)*

*Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 110 S.Ct. 2356 (1990)*

*Student Coalition for Peace v Lower Merion School, (1985) 776 F.2d 431 (3rd Cir. 1985)*

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

## **Instruction**

### **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS**

**AR 6145.5 (a)**

#### **School-sponsored Organizations**

School-sponsored student organizations must be organized at the school, have a certificated advisor, be composed completely of current student body members and be approved by the Superintendent or designee in accordance with Iditarod School Board policy. They shall hold the majority of their meetings at school and have a democratic plan for the selection of members. Organization activities shall not conflict with the authority and responsibilities of school officials.

#### **Limited Open Forum**

Note: The following option is largely based upon the provisions of the federal Equal Access Act. Once a high school district allows any noncurriculum-related student group to meet on school premises, it is deemed to have a limited open forum under this law, even if the School Board has not officially established such a forum.

Note: The Equal Access Act prohibits the district from discriminating on the basis of meeting content. By ruling that this law does not violate the first amendment's ban on state establishment of religion, the Supreme Court has clearly protected students' right to hold religious club meetings. The School Board still has authority, however, to maintain order and protect students and staff; it may deny the use of facilities to any groups that threaten to disrupt the school program or threaten the health and safety of students and staff. As amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, after adopting a facility use policy, districts must inform school officials that they are required to apply the policy equitably to all groups, including the Boy Scouts or other affiliated groups.

The Superintendent or designee shall not deny any student-initiated group access to school facilities during noninstructional time on the basis of religious, political, philosophical or any other content to be addressed at such meetings. The Superintendent or designee shall provide for a limited open forum during noninstructional time so that any such meetings do not interfere with regular school activities.

Note: In Student Coalition for Peace v. Lower Merion School, 776 F.2d 431 (3rd Cir. 1985), the court has clarified that a school is not required to permit any and all outsiders to use its facilities or even to permit student groups indiscriminately to invite outsiders to its activities. To enable all students to use school facilities on the same terms as all other students, however, the Equal Access Act does allow student groups to invite nonstudents onto school property if the school's limited open forum encompasses nonstudent participation in student events. Persons so invited must not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend such activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall insure that student meetings are voluntary, with no direction, control or regular attendance by nonschool persons, and that students leave the meeting place in a clean, orderly and secure condition after their meetings.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

## **Instruction**

### **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS (continued)**

**AR 6145.5 (b)**

School staff shall not promote or participate in these meetings, but may be assigned voluntarily to observe them for purposes of maintaining order and protecting student safety.

Meetings held within the limited open forum shall entail no expenditure of public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the meeting space. Any announcement of meetings shall clearly state that the group is not sponsored by the school or school staff. Such announcements may be posted in accordance with Iditarod School Board policy and state law applicable to all students, but students shall not use the school's equipment or public address system to publicize the meetings of groups not sponsored by the school.

*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*

## **Instruction**

### **SUBCHAPTER VIII - THE EQUAL ACCESS ACT**

**E 6145.5 (a)**

#### **4071. Denial of Equal Access Prohibited**

**(a) Restriction of limited open forum on basis of religious, political, philosophical or other speech content prohibited**

It shall be unlawful for any public secondary school which receives Federal financial assistance and which has a limited open forum to deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

**(b) "Limited open forum" defined**

A public secondary school has a limited open forum whenever such school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more noncurriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time.

**(c) Fair opportunity criteria**

School shall be deemed to offer a fair opportunity to students who wish to conduct a meeting within its limited open forum if such school uniformly provides that:

- (1) the meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
- (2) there is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
- (3) employees or agents of the school or government are present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity;
- (4) meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
- (5) nonschool persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups.

**(d) Construction of subchapter with respect to certain rights**

Nothing in this title shall be construed to authorize the United States or any State or political subdivision thereof –

- (1) to influence the form or content of any prayer or religious activity;
- (2) to require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity;
- (3) to expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings;
- (4) to compel any school agent or employee to attend a school meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee;

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

## Instruction

### SUBCHAPTER VIII - THE EQUAL ACCESS ACT (continued)

E 6145.5 (b)

- (5) to sanction meetings that is otherwise unlawful;
- (6) to limit the rights of groups of students which are not of a specified numerical size;  
or
- (7) to abridge the constitutional rights of any person.

**(e) Federal financial assistance to schools unaffected**

Notwithstanding the availability of any other remedy under the Constitution or the laws of the United States, nothing in this title shall be construed to authorize the United States to deny or withhold federal financial assistance in any school.

**(f) Authority of schools with respect to order, discipline, well-being and attendance concerns**

Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the authority of the school, its agents or employees, to maintain order and discipline on school premises, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

#### **4072. Definitions**

As used in this title –

- (1) The term "secondary school" means a public school which provides secondary education as determined by State law.
- (2) The term "sponsorship" includes the act of promoting, leading, or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator, or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.
- (3) The term "meeting" includes those activities of student groups which are permitted under a school's limited open forum and are not directly related to the school curriculum.
- (4) The term "noninstructional time" means time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

**4073. Severability** If any provision of this title or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is judicially determined to be invalid, the provisions of the remainder of the title and the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

**4074. Construction** The provisions of this title shall supersede all other provisions of federal law that are inconsistent with the provisions of this title.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

## Instruction

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

BP 6146.1 (a)

**Note:** Transfer students who have earned 13 unit credits in another district may, at the district's discretion, be excused from the district's subject area units-of-credit requirements. 4 AAC 06.075

**Note:** Effective July 1, 2014, the requirement that no secondary student be issued a diploma unless he or she has passed the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam was repealed. That requirement was replaced with the requirement that a secondary student take a college and career readiness assessment or receive a waiver in order to receive a diploma. At the request of the student, the district shall retroactively issue a high school diploma to a student who did not receive one because of failure to pass all or a portion of the HSGQE and instead received a certificate of achievement. AS 14.03.075. The district is to mail a notice of this option to each student who qualifies for a diploma to the student's last known address.

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare for Iditarod School Board approval a plan consisting of district graduation requirements.

The Iditarod School Board has adopted the following requirements as the *minimum* for graduation. Students shall be encouraged to move beyond these minimum requirements to reach their greatest potential. A high school diploma will be awarded by the District when a student satisfactorily completes the 22 credits **as well as taking a college and career readiness assessment or receiving a waiver from the Iditarod School Board:**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Units of Credit</u>
<b>Language Arts</b>	<b>4</b>
English I	1
English II	1
Speech	1/2
Composition	1/2
Language Arts Elective	1
<b>Social Studies*</b>	<b>3.5</b>
United States in a Global Context	1
Alaska Studies/Land Claims	1
World Studies	1
U. S. Government	1/2
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>3</b>
Algebra I – or – Applied Math	1
Geometry	1
Math Elective	1

*Graduation requirements continued on the following page.*

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DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

## Instruction

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

BP 6146.1 (b)

<b>Science</b>	<b>3</b>
Biology	1
Earth Science	1
Science Electives	1
<b>Health/Physical Education</b>	<b>2</b>
Health/PE 1	½ credit Health; ½ credit PE
Health/PE 2	½ credit Health; ½ credit PE
<b>Vocational Education</b>	<b>2</b>
Practical Living Skills	½
Information Technology Core	1/2
Vocational Education Electives	1
<b>Electives</b>	<b><u>4.5</u></b>
<b>Total Required Credits:</b>	<b>22.0</b>

### Electives

Electives will be selected from an approved list of courses.

The additional two years of health/physical education required for by Board Policy 5040 will be recorded as electives.

### High School Credit for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Eighth grade students may receive high school credit for Algebra I at the student's, teacher's and the parent's discretion. The student must have tested at the proficient level on standardized tests at their grade level in order to be considered for placement into Algebra I. (Exceptions to this policy may be considered on a case-by-case basis.)

### High School Student Placement

<b>Freshman</b>	<b>0 – 5 credits</b>
<b>Sophomore</b>	<b>6 – 10 credits</b>
<b>Junior</b>	<b>11 - 15 credits</b>
<b>Senior</b>	<b>16 and up</b>

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**



## **Instruction**

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

**BP 6146.1 (c)**

#### **Credit Awarded**

Credits may be awarded according to the Carnegie Unit System:

- 130 hours of instruction equals 1 credit
- 65 hours of instruction equals 1/2 credit
- 32.5 hours of instruction equals 1/4 credit

For mastery level courses, credit will be awarded upon successful completion of a prescribed number of objectives or quantity of work.

#### **Special Awards**

Special certificates of achievements and/or attendance may be awarded in addition to a diploma.

#### **Alaska Accreditation Standards**

The Iditarod Area School District will work towards meeting graduation requirements established by Alaska accreditation standards.

#### **Local Graduation Requirements**

The Advisory School Board, in consultation with District staff, may propose local graduation requirements in addition to districtwide requirements. Such requirements must be proposed, discussed and approved in local public meetings. Local proposals to increase graduation requirements must be approved by the Iditarod School Board.

#### **Graduation Requirement Review**

Graduation requirements will be periodically reviewed and modified to meet current Alaska Department of Education requirements and District goals.

**\*Note: The three units of credit in social studies must include one-half unit of credit in Alaska history or demonstration that the student meets the Alaska history performance standards. This requirement will not apply to a student who (1) transfers into your school after the student's second year of high school; or (2) has already successfully completed a high school state history course in another state. 4 AAC 06.075.**

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

## **Instruction**

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

**BP 6146.1 (d)**

*(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*  
*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance and Counseling Services)*  
*(cf. 5040 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity)*

*ALASKA STATUTES:*

*14.03.075 College and career readiness assessment; retroactive issuance of diploma*

*ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE*

*4 AAC 06.075 High school graduation requirements*

*4 AAC 06.721 College and career readiness assessment waivers*

*4 AC 06.755-790 statewide assessment program for students with disabilities*

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

## **Instruction**

### **HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST**

**BP 6146.2**

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that individuals may obtain an Alaska high school diploma by successfully completing the Alaska General Educational Development Test. However, the Iditarod School Board desires that every student have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma through successful completion of district graduation requirements and encourages students to remain in school.

*(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*

In accordance with law, persons under age 16 who have withdrawn from school and who have parent/guardian permission may request a recommendation from the Iditarod School Board to be allowed to take the Alaska General Educational Development Test. The Iditarod School Board shall consider such requests based on the individual circumstances leading to the request.

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

*4 AAC 39.110 - 4 AAC 39.190 High school equivalency test*

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

## Instruction

### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ASSESSMENTS

BP 6146.3

Note: Effective July 2014, AS 14.03.075 was repealed and reenacted to remove the requirement that a secondary student may not be issued a diploma unless he or she has passed the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (“HSGQE”). Now a district may not issue a secondary school diploma to a student unless the student takes a college and career readiness assessment or receives a waiver from the School Board. There is requirement that a student receive a minimum score on a college and career readiness assessment, only that the exam be taken.

The Iditarod School Board shall provide for college and career readiness assessments in the areas of reading, English, and math. The exams shall be administered in accordance with state law and regulations. A student who successfully completes the district’s graduation requirements shall be issued a diploma so long as a college and career readiness assessments has been taken. A diploma may also be issued to students with an approved waiver. The Superintendent shall implement a waiver process in compliance with law.

*(cf. 5127 Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*  
*(cf. 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements)*  
*(cf. 6146.4 Reciprocity on Graduation Requirements)*  
*(cf. 6146.5 Differential Requirements for Individuals With Exceptional Needs)*  
*(cf. 6162.5 Standardized Testing)*

A school shall award a certificate of achievement to a student who fails to take a college and career readiness assessment by the end of the student’s final semester of attendance, but who has met all other district and state graduation requirements.

The IEP team for a student with a significant cognitive disability may determine whether the student will take the assessment. The IEP team’s determination should consider whether the assessment supports the transition plan set forth in the student’s IEP.

#### *Legal Reference*

##### ALASKA STATUTES

*14.03.075 College and career readiness assessment*

##### ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

*4 AAC 06.710 Statewide student assessment systems*  
*4 AAC 06.717 College and career readiness assessment*  
*4 AAC 06.765 Test Security; Consequences of Breach*  
*4 AAC 06.721 College and career readiness assessment waivers*  
*4 AAC 06.775 Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities*  
*4 AAC 06.790 Definitions*

*Revised 3/2015*

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

## **Instruction**

### **COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ASSESSMENT**

**AR 6146.3 (a)**

Note: AS 14.03.075 provides that a school may not issue a secondary school diploma to a student unless the student takes a college and career readiness assessment or receives a waiver. Regulations governing waivers are found at 4 AAC 06.775.

A college and career readiness assessment means the SAT, ACT or certain sections of the WorkKeys assessment. If a student takes the WorkKeys assessment, he or she must take the following sections: applied mathematics; reading for information; and locating information.

The Department of Education and Early Development will provide for the college and career readiness assessment to be administered one time per year at no charge to students. A student may take the assessments additional times at the student's expense.

A waiver may be granted in two instances: 1) when a student has arrived late into the Alaska public school system; or 2) in rare and unusual circumstances as defined by the Department of Education and Early Development.

#### **Procedures for Requesting a Waiver**

The district shall maintain in the district office and the office of its high schools a Department approved form for requesting a waiver of the college and career readiness assessment. A student must complete this form and include all required documentation. The waiver request will be considered by the Superintendent or designee who shall make a recommendation to the Iditarod School Board for approval or denial of the waiver. The recommendation shall be based solely on whether the criteria for granting a waiver under state law has been met for the individual student. The Iditarod School Board may not grant a waiver unless the student has demonstrated that all other state and district requirements for graduation will be met.

##### ***A. Waiver for Late Arrival into the School System***

A student arrives late into the state public school system if the student arrives in Alaska after the completion of all scheduled college and career readiness assessments in the student's year of intended graduation. A student who resides in the state but attends a private school or is home schooled and then transfers to the district after the completion of all scheduled administrations in the student's year of intended graduation may also be eligible for a waiver.

A student's request for a waiver must be submitted on the approved form, must demonstrate that the student has met all other requirements for graduation, and must include the following:

1. Documentation from the school in which the student is currently enrolled which identifies the student's initial enrollment date;

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

## **Instruction**

### **COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ASSESSMENT WAIVERS (continued)**

**AR 6146.3 (b)**

2. Documentation from the out-of-state school district, Alaska private school or home school program from which the student transferred, which includes both the enrollment date and exit date; and
3. Documentation that verifies the date of the student's physical presence in Alaska prior to enrollment in any of the schools in the state. Verification may include: records or receipts of airlines, the Alaska Marine Highway System, or other carriers; hotel receipts; or affidavits or certifications by persons acquainted with or related to the applicant who have personal knowledge of the applicant's physical presence in Alaska.

#### ***B. Waiver for Rare and Unusual Circumstances***

A waiver may be granted for a rare and unusual circumstance only if the circumstance is beyond the control of the student, the student's parents, and the school. Additionally, the timing of the circumstance must be such that no other recourse or remedy exists to address the situation before the student's expected graduation date.

A waiver may be granted only for the following reasons:

1. The death of the student's parent occurring within the last semester of the student's year of intended graduation.
2. A medical condition that is a serious and sudden illness or physical injury that prevents the student from taking the college and career readiness assessment and occurs in the last semester of the student's year of intended graduation. The waiver request must be supported by an affidavit or certification from the student's treating licensed medical provider that the diagnosed condition prevented the student from taking the assessment and was beyond the control of the student or parents. The condition cannot be: 1) pregnancy or childbirth, unless the affidavit or certification verifies that an emergency occurred; 2) treatable depression, stress, or stress-related conditions, unless the affidavit or certification verifies that a qualifying emergency occurred; or 3) a condition caused by illegal alcohol or substance abuse.
4. A disability arising in the student's high school career that arises too late to apply for a meaningful accommodation from the testing vendor. A waiver may be granted only if consistent with the student's IEP team recommendations and the student's principal and the district's superintendent support the waiver request.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

## Instruction

### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ASSESSMENT WAIVERS (continued)

AR 6146.3 (c)

5. A significant and uncorrectable system error which is limited to one of the following:
  - a. A student's completed exam from the last administration of the assessment in the student's year of intended graduation is lost in transit between the school district and the testing vendor. A waiver request must be supported by: 1) documentation from the district verifying that the test materials were mailed to the Department; and 2) documentation from the U.S. Postal Service, or other carrier, that the exam materials are lost.
  - b. The student's school or district failed to administer the assessment on a scheduled administration date during the student's senior year.

### Iditarod School Board Action Approving or Denying a Waiver

The Iditarod School Board's decision approving or denying the request for a waiver will be in writing and delivered to the student by registered mail. The reasons for approving or denying the waiver will be stated in the written decision. The Iditarod School Board may deliver courtesy copies of the decision to the student or the student's parents/legal guardians by other methods. The Iditarod School Board will also provide a copy of the decision to the Department. The Iditarod School Board's written decision will notify the student that denial of the waiver may be appealed to the Department of Education and Early Development.

Note: The following language can be used by the School Board in its written notice to comply with the requirement that the student be notified of the right to appeal in the event the School Board denies a waiver. 4 AAC 06.721 and 06.724. Any form of notification should include notice that the student only has thirty (30) days to appeal: "This decision may be appealed by the student, or student's parent or legal guardian, to the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Enclosed is the required form that must be used for an appeal. This appeal form must be postmarked no later than thirty (30) days from your receipt of this decision. State law requires that an appeal request state the grounds for the appeal, including a brief summary of the nature of the original waiver request and an explanation of how the School Board erred in denying the waiver. Also enclosed is a copy of 4 AAC 06.724 which further explains the appeal procedures."

Within twenty (20) days of an appeal being filed, the Iditarod School Board shall forward to the Department the entire record of the student's waiver request, including the following documents:

1. The student's waiver application and any supporting documents included in support of the waiver request;
2. A copy of the Iditarod School Board's graduation requirements; and
3. A copy of the student's most current official transcript.

*Revised 3/2015*

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

## **Instruction**

### **RECIPROCITY ON GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

**BP 6146.4**

Note: 4 AAC 06.075 authorizes the district to exempt transfer students with at least 13 units of credit from graduation credit requirements.
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#### **Credit Requirements**

The Superintendent or designee may exempt students transferring into the district from meeting district credit requirements for graduation upon verification of equivalent credits received elsewhere.

*(cf. 5118 - Transfers; Withdrawals)*

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE  
*4 AAC 06.075 High School graduation requirements*

*Revised 3/2015*

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: March 2015**



## **Instruction**

### **DIFFERENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS**

**BP 6146.5 (a)**

#### **Course Requirements**

Note: Under 4 AAC 06.078, a substitute course in the same subject area may be designed and provided as determined by the IEP team. A substitute course may be noted on the student transcript by a number code known only to the IEP team and institution offering the course.

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that regular course requirements may not be appropriate for all students enrolled in district special education programs. Students with exceptional needs should meet the regular district requirements to the extent that their handicaps or disabilities permit. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team will determine if a student's disabilities preclude the student from attaining the district's regular standards. Students with disabilities that prevent them from regular course requirements may complete substitute courses. The determination and development of appropriate differential standards will be included in the student's IEP.

#### **Standardized Assessment**

Under 4 AAC 06.775, a school district must provide a program of statewide assessment for every student with a disability enrolled in the district or attendance area. The assessment program must include the availability of accommodations required in a student's IEP or section 504 plan for every required standards-based or norm-referenced test, and be consistent with the Department's Participation Guidelines for Alaska Students in State Assessments, dated June 2011. When administering the college and career readiness assessment, a district shall follow the Department's Alaska Supplement for WorkKeys Assessment, dated June 2014. In the following policy language, "accommodation" and "modification" are terms that have been defined by the Department of Education and Early Development as follows: "accommodation" means a change made to a testing situation to ensure that information obtained from a statewide assessment is an accurate reflection of what the assessment is intended to measure rather than a measure of a student's disability and that has been approved by the Department and recommended for use by the student's IEP team for the taking of a standardized test; and "modification" means a change to the setting, timing, presentation, or response format of a standardized test approved by the Department and recommended for a student by the student's IEP team that alters what a test measures.

Every student with a disability will participate in statewide assessments as required by law. Student participation will be facilitated by the provision of accommodations as identified in a student's Section 504 plan or IEP.

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DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

## Instruction

### DIFFERENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS (continued)

BP 6146.5 (b)

Students with disabilities must take all statewide standards-based tests, with or without accommodations, unless an alternate assessment is necessary. An alternate assessment may be conducted for students whose cognitive abilities and adaptive skills prevent completion of the standard academic curricula, even with modifications and accommodations as determined by the IEP team. Alternate assessments may also be conducted for those students enrolled in a curriculum focused on functional life skills where the student requires direct instruction in multiple settings to apply and transfer skills. In such instances, an alternate assessment shall be provided as specified in the IEP or Section 504 plan.

Note: The alternate assessment must be based on alternate performance standards under 4 AAC 04.160, which incorporates and refers to DEED publication "Alaska Alternate Assessment & Alternate Performance Standards for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities." An alternate assessment may not be given to a student whose inability to complete the standard curricula is the result of (a) extended absences; (b) visual, auditory, or physical disabilities; (c) emotional behavioral disabilities; (d) specific learning disabilities; or (e) social, cultural, or economic differences

### College and Career Readiness Assessment

Note: Effective July 1, 2014, secondary students must take a college and career readiness assessment or receive a waiver from the School Board as a condition to receiving a diploma. However, the IEP team for a student with a significant cognitive disability may determine whether the student will take the assessment based on the IEP team's determination of whether the assessment supports the transition plan set forth in the student's IEP.

The IEP team for a student with a significant cognitive disability may determine whether the student will take the college and career readiness assessment. The IEP team's determination should consider whether the assessment supports the transition plan set forth in the student's IEP.

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA STATUTES

*14.03.075 College and career readiness assessment*

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

*4 AAC 06.717 College and career readiness assessments*

*4 AAC 06.775 Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities*

*4 AAC 06.078 Alternative completion requirements; students with disabilities*

*Revised 3/2015*

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

## Instruction

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTAL PROFILE

BP 6146.6

Note: Beginning in 2000, each school district must submit to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development a developmental profile for each student entering kindergarten or first grade in each school in the district, including charter schools. A student whose profile is submitted upon entering kindergarten does not need an additional profile upon entering first grade. The profile should be completed on a form provided by the Department and must be submitted to the Department by November 1 of each year.

The Iditarod School Board believes that student assessment is one of the tools that may be considered in determining the best educational choices for a student, and that assessment at an early age may be especially beneficial. The Superintendent or designee shall administer to each incoming kindergarten and first grade student a developmental profile which contains indicators of the student's physical well-being and motor development; language and literacy development; personal-social development; thinking and cognitive development; and child background. Child background includes factors affecting a child's school performance such as pre-school experience, whether the child has an individualized education program, and health data.

At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, a child completing a profile upon entry to kindergarten may not be required to complete an additional profile upon entering first grade.

*(cf. 6159 Individualized Education Program)*

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### ALASKA STATUTES

*14.07.020 Duties of the Department*

##### ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

*4 AAC 06.710 Statewide Student Assessment System*

*4 AAC 06.712 Developmental Profile*

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**