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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State announces results of performance incentive program

Five hundred staff members at 32 schools in 14 school districts will receive a total of \$1,011,375 under the Alaska Public School Performance Incentive Program for the 2007-2008 school year.

The Performance Incentive Program pays bonuses to all staff members at schools that have shown significant improvement in student scores, or whose scores have remained at high levels, in the state standards-based reading, writing and math assessments.

The program also rewards school district staff members, excluding superintendents, who have contributed to an awarded school's improvement. This year, districts will receive a combined \$50,568.75 to distribute to such district staff members.

The program is intended to encourage the entire school staff to collaborate on practices that increase student achievement in skills that are critical for success in school, postsecondary education, and employment.

The program is in the second year of a three-year pilot authorized by the Alaska Legislature. In the 2006-2007 school year, 949 people shared a payout of \$1,888,187.

The law allows an incentive payment to up to 850 certificated staff (such as teachers, principals and librarians) and to all non-certificated staff (such as custodians and secretaries) at awarded schools. The law was funded for up to \$3.9 million for the 2007-2008 school year.

This year, 309 certificated staff and 191 non-certificated staff will receive incentive payments. Awarded districts have not yet reported how they will disburse the money set aside for district staff.

The program compares the assessment results for each student in grades 4-10 with his or her assessment results from the previous year. The assessments -- which are also used for the No Child Left Behind accountability system -- are given to nearly all students in



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grades 3-10. Students who do not have two consecutive years of assessment results are not included in the schools' calculations for the incentive program.

Schools receive points based on whether each student has moved forward, remained stable, or moved backward among seven levels of achievement on the assessments. The points are totaled, divided by the number of tests taken, and compared to a table of performance levels.

There are four performance levels and therefore four levels of incentive payments. From the lowest-ranking to the highest, they are:

Strong: \$2,500 certificated, \$1,000 non-certificated.

High: \$3,500 certificated, \$1,500 non-certificated.

Excellent: \$4,500 certificated, \$2,000 non-certificated.

Outstanding: \$5,500 certificated, \$2,500 non-certificated.

For detailed background information on the program, see:

www.eed.state.ak.us/spip/AKSPIP.ppt.

For detailed results for the 2007-2008 school year, see the incentive media packet after 9 a.m. August 8 at www.eed.state.ak.us. Look under Headlines in the upper-left corner of the web site's front page.

For more information on August 8: Assessment & Accountability Director Les Morse, 321-3809; Information Officer Eric Fry, 321-5564.

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