

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Education & Early Development
Office of the Commissioner

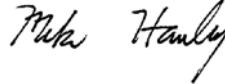
SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

*Goldbelt Place
801 West Tenth Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500
(907) 465-2800
(907) 465-4156 Fax*

MEMORANDUM NUMBER 2012-003

To: Superintendents

From: Mike Hanley, Commissioner



Date: September 20, 2011

Subject: TerraNova Waivers

The purpose of this memorandum is to offer districts an alternate route to meeting the regulatory requirements for norm-referenced testing, as I had discussed with you during the Superintendents' Fly-In in August. The regulations require that the commissioner select a norm-referenced test for use in the state. Currently the test selected by the commissioner under 4 AAC 06.730 is the TerraNova. State regulations 4AAC 06.730, 4AAC 06.735 and 4AAC 06.895(e) require districts to administer a norm-referenced test in grades 5 and 7, and provide a public report on test results, including the number and percentage of students in the top and bottom quartile, and the national percentile of the district's mean normal curve equivalent.

A district may request permission to assess its students in grades 5 and 7 using a standardized norm-referenced test other than the TerraNova. A district that makes a request for an alternate norm-referenced assessment must read and fully understand the requirements of regulations 4AAC 06.730, 4AAC 06.735 and 4AAC 06.895(e) before requesting an alternate assessment. The commissioner may approve the use of a standardized norm-referenced assessment if it meets the requirements of the regulations.

Districts that receive approval for the use of an alternate norm-referenced assessment are still required to report test results to the public both locally and by providing summarized test results to the department. If a district selects a test other than the Terra Nova, the district must pay all costs for acquiring and administering the test.

Please address your requests to my attention. The request must be from the Superintendent and include the name of the assessment, evidence that the district can produce norm-referenced assessment results, and proof that the assessments will cover reading, writing and mathematics for grades 5 and 7. A completed *Application for Waiver Variance for Standardized Norm Referenced Assessment 2012 Test Administration*, EED form #05-12-014, is also required for consideration.

Thank you.