This spring students in Alaska will take a new state assessment, the Alaska Measures of Progress, or AMP. This assessment measures the skills and concepts in the Alaska Math and English Language Arts Standards. It replaces the previous assessment, the Standards Based Assessment or SBAs.

AMP is a computer-based assessment. Students will use the device that they use in their classrooms: a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer. Computer-based assessments are more interactive and engaging for students. On paper tests students fill in bubbles to show their answer. On a computer-based test, students might highlight a part of a story, put ideas in order, drag and drop items in a math problem, or draw a graph.

Computer-based tests also have built in tools for students to use while they work. These tools are like the ones teachers use in the classroom. Students can use a highlighter, calculator, or sticky note. Students can also have scratch paper and a pencil to use outside of the computer. Students can listen to the directions for the test being read by the computer.

Some students might have more tools. Students who are not yet reading on grade-level or who have a learning disability can have a tool called “text-to-speech.” Text-to-speech reads the test questions and answer choices to the student. Another kind of tool that some students might have is called “masking.” It allows students to cover up parts of the information on the screen so that it is easier to focus.

Most tools are available for all students. They will be there when they log into the test. Other tools require a teacher to turn them on. If you have questions about what tools your student has on the test, talk to their teacher or the principal.

You can take an AMP technology practice test and see what kinds of questions your student will be answering. Directions for downloading the KITE test engine (the program that the test runs on) and for taking the practice can be found here:

http://education.alaska.gov/akassessments/techpractest.html
Auditory Calming
Plays peaceful, relaxing music

Masking Portion of the Test
Shows answer choices one at a time

Text-to-Speech
Students can start, stop, replay audio of text.