

Alaska is requesting a waiver from measuring speaking and listening standards in English Language Arts assessments

Alaska is planning to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to delay implementation of the measurement of speaking and listening standards in English Language Arts assessments until the 2017-18 school year at the earliest.

The U.S. Department of Education is allowing states to request a waiver from assessing speaking and listening as part of their English language arts assessments. In June 2012, the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development adopted the Alaska English Language Arts Standards, which include standards for speaking and listening. Federal law requires that assessments measure all adopted content standards; however, measuring the full range of speaking and listening in a statewide summative assessment is not practical at this time.

As a result, Alaska is seeking a waiver from this requirement pursuant to section 8401(b) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended by the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). Specifically, Alaska is requesting a limited waiver of section 1111(b)(3)(C)(ii) of the ESEA, as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), so that the state's assessment system need not measure the full range of standards in the speaking and listening strand at this time.

The requested waiver would be effective through the 2016-17 school year. Alaska will continue to develop best practices with respect to measuring assessable elements of its speaking and listening standards on state-wide assessments, though it may request an extension of the waiver for subsequent years.

The public may submit comment on this potential waiver to eric.fry@alaska.gov. The comment period is open until 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 27, 2016.



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