



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Director, Elementary Education/Professional Development

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To: Principals and PD Site Facilitators at KPBSD Schools

From: Christine Ermold, Director of Elementary Education & Professional Development

Re: New Standards & KPBSD Curriculum

During the May 2013 KPBSD Leadership Academy, sites were expected to draft a professional development plan to help teachers become familiar with the new standards during the course of the 2013-14 school year. Although the new standards will not be fully assessed until the spring of 2016, teachers throughout the state are expected to begin transitioning their students to the new standards beginning this year.

The KPBSD has already taken steps to support our teachers and students in this endeavor.

- The math curriculum adopted by the Board in November was written with the new standards in mind, so they are fully embedded into both the curriculum and the new materials purchased.
- The quarterly math assessments were written to reflect the new standards.
- The new standards have all been loaded into PowerSchool, and the report cards for students in K-3 as well as the 4-6 pilot sites have all been updated to reflect the new standards. (Grade 4-6 teachers at non-pilot sites will see report card changes in the community skills reported, the performance scale for community skills, and the performance scale for Specials. Other aspects of the “regular” report card are unchanged for 2013-14.)
- The science and social studies curriculum review committees have begun their work and have made sure both the Alaska Content Standards and the English Language Arts (ELA) Standards for Literacy in Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects are fully embedded in the new curriculums.
- The Performance Series assessment has been updated to reflect the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which are very similar to our own Alaska Standards.
- The adoption of a shortened school day each month during six months of the school year is being provided to support our collaborative work.

There is still a great deal of work to complete before this transition will near its successful completion, and we look forward to working with our principals and teachers to accomplish everything. Some areas we are already aware of include:

- The language arts and other curriculums will need to be reviewed and possibly updated. In the meantime, teachers should review the [Alaska Standards](#) to ensure their instructional plans are incorporating the standards not yet reflected in our curriculum guides.
- The [K-3 report card tools](#) and other [common assessments](#) will need to be reviewed and possibly updated.
- Tools for student, parent, and community education about the new standards need to be developed.
- Professional development for teachers related to the instructional shifts required in the new standards needs to be planned and carried out.

If your site has specific needs related to the implementation of the new standards, please work through your Director or your PD Site Facilitator to determine what support is available to best meet your needs.

The Alaska Standards adopted in June 2012 can be viewed online at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/GLEHome.html>. The KPBSD adopted Curriculum can be viewed online at <http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/departments.aspx?id=36>. Additionally, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has included links to the Smarter Balanced Consortium information and practice tests at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/sbac.html>.