

The Alaska Standards-Based Assessments (SBA's) are proficiency-based criterion referenced tests developed specifically for Alaska. Test administration will occur **April 1 through April 3, 2008 for Reading, Writing, and Math. Students in grade 4 also take an SBA in Science on April 4.**

Testing will occur on the following schedule at all grades and schools:

Reading—Tuesday, April 1

Writing—Wednesday, April 2

Math—Thursday, April 3

Science—Friday April 4 (4th grade only)

Parents are asked to help by having their students rested and ready for testing on the testing days. Eating a nutritious breakfast is important. Please have your student **to school on time and avoid scheduling appointments on April 1, 2, and 3 (and 4 for 4th graders).**

Makeup testing is April 4 through April 9, 2008.

The Alaska SBA's are not timed tests. Student who are making progress but have not completed the session within the estimated time will be given as much time as needed to finish within the same testing day. Students who do not finish an exam on the testing day may not use the makeup session to finish the exam.

The SBA's are designed to estimate the degree to which the students have mastered the academic performance standards for reading, writing, and mathematics outlined in the grade level expectations. These assessments are the foundation of the Alaska school accountability system.

The SBA's are part of the Alaska Comprehensive System of Student Assessment (CSSA) mandated by the legislature under the Quality Schools Initiative.

The information from the SBA's helps us determine how individual children are progressing as well as how our school is doing in the area of reading, writing, and math. The information will also help our school staff identify areas in which our students are learning successfully as well as those areas we want to address in training and staff development. SBA's require the students to read, write, calculate mathematically and explain in writing how they figure out solutions to mathematical problems.

SBA and the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination will be the focus for the entire District during the testing period. In addition to measuring individual student performance, **the results are used to determine whether our school meets the “adequate yearly progress” in the federal legislation, No Child Left Behind.** Under the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, **we must test at least 95% of the students enrolled in order to meet the participation requirement** of the legislation.

The individual student **results for this spring's administration of the SBA's will be available in May.** The SBA's are not pass/fail. Instead, students can demonstrate four different levels of performance in each subject area test: •advanced •proficient •below proficient •far below proficient.

Standards-Based Assessments for 3rd-6th Graders
April 1, 2, & 3 (& 4 for 4th graders), 2008

DATE \@ "M/d/yyyy" 2/13/2008

Remember...April 1, 2, 3 all 3rd-6th grade students will be testing. 4th grade students also test on April 4.

Be sure your child is rested, on time, and has had a nutritious breakfast.

Encourage your child to do his/her best on testing.