

Special Education & State Assessments

March 2021

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Special Education

The special education department has been very busy conducting the Annual Child Find activities. The special education department has been working with individual site administrators to complete developmental screenings for children ages 3-5 years of age. This is a required annual event for the school district and includes posters being placed throughout the communities and on social media to announce the screening opportunity, phone calls were made to parents of eligible children to schedule appointments as well as the actual hearing, vision, and developmental screening of children. Screenings have been conducted in Hollis (3/3/21), Howard Valentine Coffman Cove (3/9/21) and Naukati (3/10/21) and will resume after Spring Break in Whale Pass, (3/23/21) Thorne Bay (TBA) and Kasaan (3/24/21). A total of eight children have been screened throughout the district so far.

Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that requires states to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities, age 3 through 21, who are in need of early intervention or special education services.

The Special Education training for directors will be held virtually the weekend of March 20-21, 2021. The Student Services Coordinator will be attending to network with other directors around the state and to gain useful information to ensure that the district is in compliance. This will be a great opportunity to gather information to share with administrators and classroom teachers.

State Assessments

WIDA ACCESS Testing concludes March 31st. The ACCESS Test is an assessment of English language acquisition required by EED for identified Limited English Proficient students that focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Alternate Assessment Spring testing window is open March 15 – April 30, 2021 for all students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Alternate Assessment satisfies the requirement for all students in grades 3-10 to participate in statewide assessments. The Alternate Assessment is a non-diploma track test, based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement goals.

All sites have been preparing for the 2021 Alaska Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) testing. The testing window is open between March 29, 2021 – April 30, 2021.

The Spring MAPs assessment window is open from March 1, 2021 – June 15, 2021. Actual testing date will be announced soon.