

Fact or Fiction

The Truth about



Fiction: AMP is a high-stakes assessment for students.

Fact: AMP is designed to show whether students are meeting grade-level expectations in reading, writing, and math. Students' scores do not affect graduation, classroom grades, or grade promotion. Rather, scores help parents and teachers know if a student needs additional support.

Fiction: Students will be asked to answer questions of a personal nature.

Fact: AMP questions are about reading, writing, and math. Period.

Fiction: The state will share individual student test scores with the federal government.

Fact: Individually identifiable data is never shared with the federal government. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of student education records.

Fiction: Test scores will be part of a nationwide database that will be transmitted out-of-state.

Fact: Alaska is not part of any out-of-state organization to whom we automatically transmit student data. The AMP test is not part of a multi-state consortium. AMP was designed for Alaskan students, and over 900 Alaskan educators reviewed the test questions to be sure that they adequately measured our standards and were appropriate for Alaskan students.

Fiction: The state permits students to opt out of AMP per information provided by the state in the district test coordinator manual.

Fact: The state requires schools to administer the assessment to all students and does not permit systematically excluding any student. If a parent does not permit a student to take the assessment, a "reason code" is given for that student by the district that explains why the student did not take the assessment. A student who does not take AMP due to parental refusal will still be included in the calculation of the school's participation rate as a non-participant.

Fiction: The state will impose negative consequences on students or parents if students don't take the assessment.

Fact: The state will not impose any negative consequences on students who do not take the assessment.

Fiction: Parents can "opt out" with no impact on the local school.

Fact: Schools use information from an assessment like AMP to identify students who may need additional support or advanced work. Schools get a state rating of 1 – 5 stars based, in part, on AMP results. If too few students take the assessment, it may jeopardize or restrict the federal funds that a school receives.

Benefits of AMP



Goes Beyond the “Fill-in-the-Bubble Test”

Previous tests were mainly fill-in-the-bubble, multiple-choice questions that focused on basic skills. AMP allows students to demonstrate deeper thinking and more advanced skills.

Designed for Alaska

AMP is specifically and uniquely designed for Alaska and our standards. Over 900 Alaskan educators reviewed the test items to be sure that they measured our English and math standards and were appropriate for Alaska’s students.

Measures Real-World Skills

To be ready for college and careers, students need to apply their knowledge and skills through critical thinking, analytical writing, and problem solving. The new assessments measure the skills students need to know when they graduate.

Not high-stakes

AMP scores do not affect graduation, classroom grades, or grade promotion. Instead, results should help your child receive additional support or advanced work to improve his or her learning.

More Engaging for Students

AMP is a computer-based assessment that is more interactive and engaging for students. AMP provides built-in tools for students to use while they work, such as a highlighter, calculator, or sticky note. Students also can listen to the test directions being read aloud by the computer.

Provides a Year-by-Year Academic Check-Up

Parents should know whether their children have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. AMP provides an academic check-up that helps teachers and parents know whether students are on track at each grade level.