



## Frequently Asked Questions about Student Assessment Data

### **What data is collected?**

Basic student information and student test scores are collected. Basic student information includes the student's name, Alaska student ID number, and specific demographic information. EED does not collect sensitive information such as physical addresses, mailing addresses, or Social Security numbers.

### **Is there any difference in student data collected and reported from AMP than from SBAs or other state assessments?**

The same type of student data that will be collected from the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessments are those that have been collected for many years on the SBAs and other statewide assessments. Information about the student's test results is given to the student's parents in a report and to the student's teacher and principal for the purpose of improving the student's education. Only aggregated non-personally identifiable data for groups of students is reported in school and district report cards.

### **How does EED use the data?**

Individual student test data is provided to the student's school district to inform instruction. Only authorized school district staff that have a legitimate educational interest (such as the student's teacher or principal) may see a student's data. Aggregated data that is not personally identifiable is used to report on the overall performance of groups of students like the School Report Card. These aggregate reports fulfill EED's reporting requirements under state and federal law without the need to identify individual students.

### **How the data will not be used!**

EED does not report individual student data to the federal government or private parties. Individual student information is not used by third-party vendors to solicit goods and services. When data groups are so small that individual students could be identified, data is suppressed and either reported as a range (*e.g.*, 60% or more, 40% or fewer) or not reported at all with a note stating that there are too few students to allow for reporting.

### **What does EED do to protect student data?**

All student data is stored and transmitted securely. Within EED, only the Assessments and Information Technology staff have direct access to individual student data for the purposes of collecting, analyzing and reporting data. These staff sign agreements to keep data confidential and are well versed in FERPA, the federal law that governs individual student data in much the same way as HIPAA does with medical records. Data received from the testing vendor and school districts are transmitted using secured connections and stored within EED's secure data servers. Likewise, any individual student data that needs to be transmitted from EED is sent via encrypted e-mail or through a secure data connection.

### **What is a P-20W longitudinal data system (LDS)?**

A P-20W longitudinal data system collects data over a period of years from early education through college and/or work. A P-20W LDS will allow EED and school districts to have information about the Alaska's graduates and how successful they are in college or postsecondary training and in securing work. For example, 30% of recent Alaska high school graduates have required remedial courses when they enrolled in the University of Alaska system. Data from an LDS will help schools and districts improve the educational system to ensure that Alaska's students are college, career, and culturally ready upon graduation. Any data reported publicly from an LDS would be reported in the aggregate for groups of students, not for individual students.