



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 5, 2018**

### **DEED Releases PEAKS and Alaska Science Assessment Results**

JUNEAU – Alaska’s students show progress in English language arts, mathematics, and science. Statewide, district, school, and subgroup level results from the Performance Evaluation for Alaska’s Schools (PEAKS) assessment and the Alaska Science Assessment are now available online. These assessments provide information to parents, educators, policy makers, communities, and businesses about how Alaska’s schools and districts are performing. School districts have until September 28 to distribute student-level reports to parents.

PEAKS and the Alaska Science Assessment are Alaska’s statewide summative assessments. PEAKS is the assessment for English language arts and mathematics, and was administered to students in grades three to nine. The Alaska Science Assessment was administered to students in grades four, eight and ten. The statewide assessments are just one piece of a balanced assessment system.

Approximately 78,600 students participated in this administration of PEAKS and the Alaska Science Assessment. Students score on a scale that is divided into four levels of achievement: advanced, proficient, below proficient, and far below proficient.

“This year’s PEAKS results show the kind of incremental sustainable growth that will change the trajectory of our system of public schools and the lives of individual students. Though the growth is marginal, it represents a collective commitment to improve the success of our students,” said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson. “Continued growth will only be achievable if Alaskans work together to demand an excellent education for every student every day.” Commissioner Johnson thanked students, educators and parents for their commitment and hard work.

Overall, 42.4 percent of students scored at a proficient level in English language arts representing 3.4 percent growth from 2017, 36.7 percent of students scored at a proficient level in mathematics representing 2.8 percent growth from 2017, and 47 percent of students scored at a proficient level in science representing 0.6 percent growth from 2017.

The call to action, measurable goals, and targeted strategies of Alaska's Education Challenge will help sustain this year's improvement. To learn more about Alaska's Education Challenge, visit the [Alaska's Education Challenge webpage](#).

Resources to help the public understand PEAKS are available on the [PEAKS webpage](#).

2018 PEAKS and Alaska Science Assessment results are available on [DEED's Assessment Results webpage](#).

Contact: Deborah Riddle, Deputy Director for Student Learning at [deborah.riddle@alaska.gov](mailto:deborah.riddle@alaska.gov) or at 907-465-2892.

###