The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is developing new standards for K-12 education in language arts and mathematics. Draft standards are currently being reviewed, and the State Board of Education will take action on the new standards in June 2012 following a period of public comment from January – May 2012. More information on the new standards is at: [http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/2012AKStandards.html](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/2012AKStandards.html)

DEED is interested in ensuring that achieving the new standards will prepare students for college or careers. As part of this effort, DEED has contracted with the Center for Alaska Education Policy Research (CAEPR) at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) to conduct an initial validity study, in partnership with the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) in Eugene, Oregon.

In order to evaluate the new standards, CAEPR is inviting faculty teaching entry-level courses in 4-year and 2-year degree programs and certificate programs across Alaska to participate in a survey asking them to rate the new standards in relation to their courses, according to how applicable and important the standards are for their course. These standards will play an important role in shaping high school education in Alaska, and it is critically important that the Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students accurately reflect what it takes for students to succeed in postsecondary courses.

This study will take place during the spring 2012 semester, and we plan to have preliminary study results ready for the June 2012 State Board of Education meeting.

Feel free to contact the Validity Project personnel at CAEPR with any additional questions.

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