

Forming Strong Partnerships for Student Success

What are the SBAs?

The SBAs are a test of reading, writing, and math that students in 3rd – 10th grade must take each year to measure their learning. These tests are based on the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs). The GLEs tell what students should know and be able to do at each grade. Teachers, administrators, and test developers worked together with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to ensure that the tests were fair to all students, whether they live in rural or urban Alaska.

Why do we have the SBAs?

As part of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), all students across the nation must take a yearly test to measure their learning. Alaska meets this requirement by having students take the Alaska SBAs.

Who must take the SBAs?

All students in 3rd – 9th grade must take the SBAs in reading, writing, and math each year. Students in grades 4, 8, and 10 must also take the science SBA. Additionally, all students in 10th grade must take the combined SBA/High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.

If your child has limited English skills, your child might be able to receive assistance during the tests. Contact your child's principal to see what options may be available to your child. Some examples of assistance may be:

- Teacher repeats directions
- Directions are read in the native language of the child
- Teacher reads the math or writing questions to your child

If your child receives special education services, your child might be able to receive additional assistance. Contact your school if you have further questions about special services for your child.

How can I tell how my child did on the tests?

Your school will give you a printed report on how your child did in each area that was tested. Along with a numbered score your child will also be given one of the following proficiency scores:

Advanced – student is working above grade level expectations

Proficient – student is working at grade level expectations

Below proficient – student is working below grade level expectations

Far below proficient – student is working well below grade level expectations.

If your child earned a below proficient or far below proficient score, speak to your child's teacher to see what extra help the school can give your child and what you can do at home to help your child.



**Alaska
Parent Information and
Resource Center**

A program of SERRC - Alaska's Educational Resource Center

A Parent's/Caregiver's Guide to Alaska's Standards Based Assessments (SBAs) (con't)

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How can I help my child with the SBAs?

- Talk to your child every day about school and send the message that school is very important.
- Talk to your child's teachers each week about how your child is doing in the class. Ask the teacher what he or she is doing to help prepare your child for the SBAs. Ask what you can do at home to help your child.
- Make sure your child is well rested each day for school and has a healthy breakfast. This is especially important on testing days.
- Testing days can be very stressful to your child. Do something fun with your child at the end of each testing day such as play outside, bake a treat together, or have your child's favorite meal for dinner.

For additional information contact

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or visit AKPIRC's website at:

www.akpirc.org