

Department of Education and Early Development

Component: Student and School Achievement (2796)
RDU: Teaching and Learning Support (56)

Scenario/Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants, Benefits	Miscellaneous	Positions		
										PFT	PPT	NP
***** Changes From FY2012 Supplemental To *****												
Comprehensive System of Student Assessments Contractual Costs												
1004 Gen Fund	Suppl	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Totals		1,000.0	0.0	0.0	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

The Teaching and Learning Support, Student and School Achievement component is projecting a \$1.0 million shortfall due to the increasing cost of the Comprehensive System of Student Assessments (CSSA). The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) does not receive annual budget increases to cover these costs and must clearly articulate the need during the budget development process within the context of competing priorities for funding.

The largest contractor supporting the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE) and the Standards Based Assessments negotiated in good faith to provide the necessary services to the state to maintain the CSSA. Assessment cost projections included increases of approximately \$250.0 per year and the request for an increase needed to be included in each annual budget cycle to maintain the system. FY2012 is the second year in which DEED did not receive additional resources for this specific requirement. (\$500.0)

FY2012 is also the first year for the execution of the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop Pre-Kindergarten-12 English Language Proficiency Standards for English Language Learners and implement the standards based assessment for this subset. The WIDA Consortium, which is a multi-state coalition of state departments of education, provides Alaska with a research based system which would cost the state much more if the system were developed from scratch, and commercial off the shelf products are not available for this type of program. Alaska has one of the highest percentages of English Language Learners (ELL) among states. For grade 4 reading, Alaska's ELL percentage of 13% places it among the top ten states for ELL percentages and slightly above the national average of 11%. For grade 8, Alaska's ELL percentage of 10% ties it with New Mexico and Nevada; only California, with an ELL percentage of 17%, ranks higher for eighth grade. During the FY2012 budget development cycle, the cost of this system was not built into the budget request. (\$488.0)

Using FY2010 as the base year and considering all test contracts, the overall costs of the assessments has increased by \$1.1 million for the current fiscal year. Both state and federal funding has remained flat over the same time frame for the assessments. With austerity measures implemented such as leaving eight positions vacant, the most recent personal services projections verify a shortfall of over \$1.0 million for FY2012. The department has taken further action by reducing the scope of work in the primary contract to assist in the effort to find savings this year but the impact of the reduction in services will not significantly reduce the supplemental need.

As articulated in the Moore v. State decision and order, the State must meet the requirements of providing an education system to satisfy the Alaska constitutional mandate. Aside from funding, the basic constitutional floor of meeting this requirement includes standards and assessments. Without a valid, reliable and legally defensible assessment system, the State will not be able to meet the basic requirements of the constitutional floor. In terms of results based budgeting, the CSSA is at the core of measuring the success of the State's education system.

The FY2013 Governor's budget includes increased funding of \$750.0 for modified contractual support for the CSSA function of the state's education system.