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**Press Release**

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Student Testing Suspended**

JUNEAU – The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has suspended computer-based testing of students in the Alaska Measures of Progress and other assessments because of continuing online connection problems between test-takers and the assessment system.

On Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. Alaska time, construction workers at the University of Kansas severed a fiber optic cable, shutting down Internet service at the university, including online student testing hosted by the Achievement & Assessment Institute at the university.

The Achievement & Assessment Institute informed the department that school districts could resume testing today. After the system then crashed several times this morning, the department notified districts to suspend testing.

“The disruption to the learning environment of our students is unacceptable,” said Interim Commissioner Susan McCauley. “We will not resume the assessments unless the vendor can guarantee that the testing system is fully functional.”

Tuesday was the first day in which students in grades 3 to 10 were to take computer-based assessments in English language arts and mathematics, and science assessments in grades 4, 8 and 10.

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