



AK 2000

an extensive period of public comment, the State Board of Education approved 38 recommendations for action.

The reforms include: making public school funding equitable; building and maintaining efficient and affordable public school buildings, and making the system accountable for its performance to the public and legislature in all areas, from teaching and learning to funding.

Student performance standards are the bedrock of the AK2K school reform movement. Over the next several years, Alaskans will decide what students should know and be able to do as a result of their schooling. Students, teachers, administrators, school boards and the entire education system can then be held accountable for achieving these standards.

Standards for English/language arts, mathematics, and science are now ready for public

comment. Committees will be working on standards in seven other areas: geography, history, health, government, fine arts, technology, and world languages.

Committees also are working to devise ways of testing student performance. (See *Assessment: How Will We Know What Students Know* on page 8.)

"It's hard to overemphasize the importance of student performance standards to the health of our public school system," Commissioner Covey said. "I urge every Alaskan to read the standards and let the State Board of Education know what you think of them."