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CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 194(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act providing for a school improvement and revitalization procedure in the
2 Department of Education and Early Development; establishing advisory councils for
3 school improvement; and requiring reports to the legislature."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * Section 1. AS 14.03.123(d) is amended to read:

6 (d) A public school or district that is designated as a low-performing school
7 or district [RECEIVES A LOW PERFORMANCE DESIGNATION UNDER THIS
8 SECTION] shall prepare and submit to the department a school or district
9 improvement plan, as applicable, and shall cooperate with the department, in
10 accordance with AS 14.03.124 and regulations adopted by the board. The
11 improvement plan must be prepared with the maximum feasible public participation of
12 the community, including, as appropriate, interested individuals, teachers, parents,
13 parent organizations, students, tribal organizations, local government representatives,
14 and other community groups.

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* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.123(g) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(3) "low-performing" means the bottom three percent in the state for performance based on the accountability measures described in (f)(2) of this section.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.123 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(h) The department shall work with and evaluate a public school or district that receives a low performance designation under (d) of this section to improve the school or district as follows:

(1) supply the school or district with a person who has training and experience in education and who can provide one-on-one assistance to enhance the quality of education in the school or district;

(2) provide an operations audit to identify possible programmatic savings and review the manner in which financial resources are being directed;

(3) direct the local school board to use state and federal funds for critical needs, as directed by the state Board of Education and Early Development;

(4) provide incentives to attract and retain high quality teachers and principals;

(5) provide additional training and technical assistance for parents and guardians of children attending the school or schools in the district and for teachers, principals, and central office staff hired by the district;

(6) provide targeted resources for graduation success as requested by the local school board;

(7) direct the local school board to identify model curriculum, including recommended textbooks, materials, and supplies approved by the department; if a new curriculum is required, the department shall provide technical assistance to implement the curriculum;

(8) work with the local school board to develop and implement a plan to address deficits in achievement and in the learning environment as recommended in the academic performance audit conducted under (j) of this section;

(9) assign a technical assistance team to the school or district to guide school or district initiatives and report progress to the commissioner;

(10) establish instructional and learning environment benchmarks for

1 the school or district to meet as it progresses toward removal of the designation of
2 low-performing schools or districts;

3 (11) direct the establishment of learning cohorts in schools that require
4 continuous monitoring of student performance by teacher groups;

5 (12) provide training to local school boards through the Association of
6 Alaska School Boards to improve their operational efficiency and effectiveness as
7 leaders of their districts in ensuring delivery of quality education, and require local
8 school boards to submit to the commissioner an annual action plan that outlines when
9 and the manner in which the local school board's effectiveness will be monitored.

10 (i) For two years following a designation of a school or district as low
11 performing, the department shall contract with an external review team to conduct an
12 academic performance audit of the district and each low-performing school in the
13 district to identify the potential reasons for the school's low performance and lack of
14 progress. The review team shall consist of persons who have expertise in
15 comprehensive school and district reform. A review team may not include staff of the
16 school district that is the subject of the audit or staff of the department. The review
17 team shall meet with and report to the department and the superintendent of the
18 district.

19 (j) The audit required under (i) of this section shall be conducted based on
20 criteria developed by the department in the areas of curriculum, assessment,
21 instruction, learning environment, professional development, and leadership and must
22 include an examination of the following:

- 23 (1) student demographics;
24 (2) mobility patterns;
25 (3) school feeder patterns;
26 (4) strategic allocation of resources;
27 (5) the degree of high standards and expectations for all students;
28 (6) the degree of collaboration and communication;
29 (7) frequency of monitoring of learning and teaching;
30 (8) the degree of family and community involvement;
31 (9) alternative secondary schools best practices; and

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(10) any unique circumstances or characteristics of the school or district, including substance abuse and other social factors.

(k) The department shall make audit findings available to the audited school district and staff, the local community, and the state Board of Education and Early Development.

* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 14.03.124. Revitalization designation; plan; revitalization advisory council. (a) For a public school that, after three consecutive years of school improvement efforts under AS 14.03.123(d) and (h) - (k), continues to be a low-performing school, as described in AS 14.03.123, the department, in conjunction with the local school board and the district superintendent, may

(1) designate the school as a revitalization school;

(2) continue to identify a revitalization school and operate under a school revitalization plan developed by the department and the district until taken off revitalization status;

(3) assist the local school board with developing and implementing a revitalization plan as provided under this section;

(4) maintain eligibility of the school for available federal and state aid; and

(5) establish a superintendent cohort made up of the superintendent of the district in which the revitalization school is located and two superintendents of districts in the state that have no schools in revitalization status; the superintendent cohort shall meet regularly and, within nine months after the revitalization designation, report to the revitalization advisory council established under this section.

(b) A school that has not been designated as a revitalization school may request the local school board to establish a revitalization advisory council for a school in the district consistent with this section.

(c) A local school board that governs a school that has been designated as a revitalization school shall establish a revitalization advisory council for each school designated for revitalization. Except as provided in (e) of this section, a revitalization advisory council for a school shall consist of 13 members appointed by the local

1 school board, as follows:

2 (1) four parents or guardians of students attending the school,
3 nominated by parents or guardians of the school;

4 (2) four community leaders residing within the school district,
5 nominated by the members selected under (1) and (3) of this subsection;

6 (3) two teachers at the school, nominated by teachers at the school;

7 (4) one representative from the department;

8 (5) the principal of the school; and

9 (6) the superintendent of the district or a representative of the
10 superintendent cohort established under (a)(5) of this section.

11 (d) For a local school board consisting of more than five members, the board
12 may appoint not more than three of its members to a revitalization advisory council.
13 For a local school board consisting of five or fewer members, the board may appoint
14 not more than two of its members to a revitalization advisory council.

15 (e) If a district has only one operating school, the district may petition the
16 department for a reduction of the revitalization advisory council membership from
17 four parents to two parents, from four community leaders to one community leader,
18 and from two teachers to one teacher.

19 (f) Terms of members of the revitalization advisory council selected under (c)
20 or (e) of this section shall be for two years, and a member may not serve more than
21 two terms on the council. Members of the revitalization advisory council serve without
22 compensation but are entitled to per diem and other expenses authorized for boards
23 and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

24 (g) A revitalization advisory council may, in conjunction with the department
25 and the superintendent cohort established under (a)(5) of this section,

26 (1) analyze school achievement data and school needs related to the
27 improvement plan for the school prepared under AS 14.03.123(d);

28 (2) meet with and review the report of the superintendent cohort
29 established under (a)(5) of this section;

30 (3) participate in the hiring process of the school principal or other
31 administrators of the school by conducting interviews of candidates and reporting the

1 results of the interviews to the superintendent of schools for the school district and to
2 the local school board;

3 (4) assist the principal of the school in making programmatic and
4 operational changes to improve the school's achievement, including adjustments in
5 program, school hours and days of operation, and enrollment goals for the school;

6 (5) work with the school administration to develop and approve a
7 school compact for parents and legal guardians and students that includes an outline of
8 the criteria and responsibilities for enrollment and school membership consistent with
9 the school's goals and academic focus, including means by which parents and school
10 personnel may build a partnership to improve student learning;

11 (6) develop and approve a written parent involvement policy that
12 outlines the role of parents and legal guardians in the school;

13 (7) if intervention by the department is required, the revitalization
14 advisory council shall work with the department and the local school board to develop
15 an intervention plan for the school involving available local, regional, and statewide
16 resources;

17 (8) prepare a revitalization model that takes into account
18 recommendations consistent with the duties in (1) - (7) of this subsection for review
19 and a vote as provided under (j) of this section.

20 (h) A revitalization advisory council may

21 (1) review the annual draft prepared under AS 14.03.120(a) detailing
22 the goals described in the education plan and provide advice to the principal of the
23 school before submitting the report to the superintendent of schools;

24 (2) assist the principal of the school in developing a revitalization plan
25 before the plan is submitted to the superintendent of schools and cooperate with the
26 department in developing a revitalization plan;

27 (3) assist the principal of the school in developing, conducting, and
28 reporting the results of an annual survey of parents, guardians, and teachers on issues
29 related to the school climate and conditions; and

30 (4) provide advice to the principal of the school on any other major
31 policy matters affecting the school, except on any matters relating to a collective

1 bargaining agreement between the exclusive bargaining unit for teachers.

2 (i) A local school board, in conjunction with the department, shall provide
3 appropriate training and instruction to members of the revitalization advisory council
4 to aid them in the execution of their duties.

5 (j) Not later than 30 days after a revitalization advisory council informs the
6 local school board of the completion of a revitalization model under (g) of this section,
7 the local school board shall hold a public hearing to discuss the revitalization model
8 and shall, at the next regularly scheduled meeting, conduct a vote to accept the model
9 recommended by the revitalization advisory council, select an alternative model, or
10 maintain the current school status, as follows:

11 (1) if the local school board selects an alternative model, not later than
12 10 days after the vote of the local school board, the local school board shall meet with
13 the revitalization advisory council to discuss an agreement on the local school board's
14 alternative revitalization model;

15 (2) if no agreement can be achieved, not later than 45 days after the
16 last meeting between the local school board and the revitalization advisory council, the
17 local school board shall report to the department the reasons for rejecting the
18 revitalization model developed by the revitalization advisory council;

19 (3) if the final decision of the local school board is to adopt all or part
20 of the revitalization model, the local school board shall implement the approved model
21 during the subsequent school year in conformance with state statutes and regulations
22 and the provisions specified in federal regulations and guidelines for schools subject to
23 corrective action under 20 U.S.C. 6316(b)(7) (Elementary and Secondary Education
24 Act of 1965), as amended, or other applicable federal laws or regulations.

25 (k) Within two years after a local school board votes on a revitalization model,
26 the department shall, within available appropriations, monitor the schools that have
27 been designated as revitalization schools for demonstrable progress, applying the
28 following indicators:

- 29 (1) the revitalization model adopted by the school;
30 (2) the number and type of disciplinary incidents;
31 (3) the number of truants;

- 1 (4) the dropout rate;
- 2 (5) the student attendance rate;
- 3 (6) the average scale scores on the statewide secondary school
- 4 graduation qualifying examination;
- 5 (7) for high schools, the number and percentage of students completing
- 6 advanced placement coursework;
- 7 (8) the teacher retention rate; and
- 8 (9) the existence and size of the parent-teacher organization for the
- 9 school.

10 (l) On or before July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the department shall report
 11 to the standing committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over education

- 12 (1) the number of local school boards that have implemented a
- 13 revitalization model;
- 14 (2) a comparison of the school status after local school boards have
- 15 initiated a revitalization model and the school status after local school boards have
- 16 rejected a revitalization model; and
- 17 (3) whether parental involvement has increased at schools with
- 18 revitalization advisory councils.

19 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 20 read:

21 **SCHOOL REVITALIZATION; REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE.** (a) On or
 22 before January 1, 2014, the Department of Education and Early Development shall report to
 23 the standing committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over education on

- 24 (1) the monitoring conducted under AS 14.03.124(k), added by sec. 4 of this
- 25 Act;
- 26 (2) recommendations relating to changes in the revitalization options available
- 27 to schools, including whether revitalization advisory councils may continue to recommend
- 28 revitalization;
- 29 (3) comparison of the revitalization models adopted; and
- 30 (4) the level of progress of schools adopting each revitalization model in
- 31 relation to the indicators described in AS 14.03.124, added by sec. 4 of this Act.

1 (b) On or before January 1, 2018, the Department of Education and Early
2 Development shall evaluate the revitalization advisory councils established under
3 AS 14.03.124, added by sec. 4 of this Act, for compliance with that section. On or before
4 October 1, 2019, the department shall report to the standing committees with jurisdiction over
5 education on the evaluation conducted under this subsection. The report must also include
6 recommendations on whether to continue to authorize revitalization advisory councils to
7 recommend revitalization models.