

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

Senate Bill 139

House Bill 278

Presentation to
Joint Senate & House
Education Committee
Hearing
February 3, 2014



Testing out for Credit

Section 1 (Page 2, line 1)

- Requires a school district to provide a high school student an opportunity to “test out” of a core class.
- Core classes include math, language arts, science, social studies, and world languages
- District will approve assessment based on content and curriculum.
- Allows students to advance at their own pace, using school time to add to their skills and knowledge. Some students will be able to complete high school early or earn additional credits toward college.

Repeal of High School Exit Exam

Section 2 (Page 2, line 11)

- Removes exit exam (HSGQE). With more rigorous standards and other assessments in place, it is no longer needed.
- Provides choice of tools to inform students, parents, schools of readiness for college or career training. WorkKeys, SAT, ACT.
- These are qualifying assessments for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS), Bill removes the barrier of cost for students to qualify.
- During transition: Former students who have certificates of achievement will have opportunities to pass the exit exam until June 30, 2017, and gain a high school diploma.

Charter Schools- Appeals

Section 6&7 (Page 5, line17)

- Currently, no recourse is allowed for reconsideration of charter school application.
- This bill ensures integrity and accountability in the local review process.
- Allows for an appeal to the commissioner if denied.
- Commissioner may remand, approve, or confirm denial
- Final approval remains at the state board

Charter Schools- Funding Clarification

Section 9 (Page 7, line 2)

- Current language is designed to fund charter schools in the same manner as other schools in a district. Clarifying language includes formula driven components that a student generates.
- These include the **special needs, career and technical instruction, pupil transportation components**
- Also includes a facilities component(construction and major maintenance) that specific schools may generate.

Residential schools

Sections 12 & 13 (Page 8, line 9)

- Currently, districts can only apply to open a new residential school during open application periods. The bill would require that DEED open an annual application period.
- Does not require approval of programs
- Increases the boarding stipend to reflect understanding of actual costs to house and care for a student 24/7. This promotes the financial stability of such schools.

Base Student Allocation Increase

Sections 14-16: (Page 8, line 31)

- FY 15 – Increase of \$85 per student to \$5,765
 - FY 16 – Increase of \$58 per student to \$5,823
 - FY 17 – Increase of \$58 per student to \$5,881
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- This allocation is in addition to the 25M one time funding that has been included in the budget to offset energy and increased fixed costs.

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Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP)

Sections 17-20 (Page 9, line 9)

- TVEP sunsets June 2014. This bill would extend that sunset until 2024.
- Currently provides funds to identified educational institutions across Alaska for technical and vocational education (or CTE).
- Requires institutions receiving TVEP to have an articulation agreement with a high school to ensure the opportunity for students to earn dual credit.
- Requires institutions to report on their dual credit opportunities and articulation agreements.

Tax Credits

Sections 21-31: (Page 11, line 2)

- Credit incentivizes the private sector to partner with local school districts in two ways:
- 1) fund scholarships to students earning dual credits (high school and college credit) to defray costs of tuition, registration, course and textbook fees, and
- 2) for housing at residential schools (construction, maintenance or operations).

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