

Joint Senate & House Education Committee Hearing February 3, 2014



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Alaska Department of Revenue

Department of Education
Department of Labor
Department of Revenue



**Alaska's Education
Opportunity Act**

House Bill 278 and Senate Bill 139

A Presentation to
Joint Senate & House Education Committees

February 3, 2014



Alaska's Education Opportunity Act

House Bill 278 and Senate Bill 139

Expands Opportunity

Removes Barriers

**Greater Access to
Alaska's Public Schools**





Testing out for Credit

Expanding Students' Opportunities

Section 1 (Page 2, line 1)

- 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.
- 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 and Alaska Native languages.
- Districts will approve assessment based on content and curriculum.





Repeal of High School Exit Exam

Replace with more useful Assessment

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). The 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 In Alaska

More Options for Students and Parents

Section 6 & 7 (Page 5, line17)

- This bill will remove barriers and restrictions for new Charter School opportunities.
- Currently, no recourse is allowed for reconsideration of charter school applications that are denied.
- This bill creates an appeal process to the commissioner if denied. The commissioner may remand, approve, or confirm denial.
- Appeal process ensures integrity and accountability in the local review process.
- Final approval remains at the State Board of Education.





Charter Schools- Funding

Section 9 (Page 7, line 2)

- This bill will ensure that public school funding will follow the student to a Charter School.
- This funding includes the **special needs, career and technical instruction, pupil transportation components.**
- It also includes **facilities components: construction and major maintenance.**





Residential Schools

Removing Barriers and Providing More Opportunity

Sections 12 & 13 (Page 8, line 9)

- The bill requires DEED to hold an annual application period for new Residential Schools. Currently, DEED has sole discretion on whether to provide an application period.
- Increases the boarding stipend to reflect true costs to house and care for a student 24/7. This promotes the financial stability of such schools.



Base Student Allocation Increase

For each of the Next 3 Years

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



The Governor's Education funding includes an additional \$36M for classrooms: \$5M Digital Teaching Initiative, \$8.1M Foundation Formula Increase, \$2.2M for Residential Schools. It also includes \$25M to offset energy and increased fixed costs.



Technical Vocational Education Program

Improving Career and Technical Education and Training Opportunities

Sections 17-20 (Page 9, line 9)

- To strengthen the opportunity for students to earn dual credits toward graduation and certification the bill requires institutions receiving TVEP funding to work with high schools.
- The bill extends TVEP for an additional 10 years to June 2024.
- Continues current funding to identified educational institutions across Alaska for technical and vocational education (or CTE).
- Requires institutions to report on their dual credit opportunities and articulation agreements.



Tax Credits

Expands Opportunities

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

- Credit incentivizes Alaskans in business to partner with local school districts in two ways:
 - fund scholarships to students earning dual credits (high school and college credit) to defray costs of tuition, registration, course and textbook fees, and
 - for housing at Residential Schools (construction, maintenance or operations).





Alaska's Education Opportunity Act

House Bill 278 and Senate Bill 139

- More Career and Technical Training Opportunity
 - More Charter School Opportunities
 - More Residential School Opportunities
 - Repeal and Replace HSGQE
 - More Opportunities to "Test Out" and receive credits towards graduation
 - Incentives for Alaskans in Business to partner with schools
- Increase School Funding

Total proposed new funding into classrooms:
\$36 million

- **\$8.1 million** Foundation Formula increase
- **\$21 million** base student allocation increase
- **\$5.0 million** for Digital Teaching Initiative
- **\$2.2 million** for residential schools

