



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
STATE LEGISLATURE

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*House Education Committee
Chair*

HB 142 version C (March 11, 2013)

Sectional Analysis

HB 142 establishes a program for reimbursement of room and board expenses to districts operating a statewide or district-wide residential school.

Section 1 Section 1 eliminates the time restriction of when a statewide boarding school began operations for it to apply with the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) to participate in the stipend program. Existing law authorizes reimbursement to boarding schools that were in existence prior to January 1, 2005.

To qualify for the stipend, the district that operates a statewide or districtwide residential boarding school for grades 9 through 12 must apply to the department, be approved AND then the legislature must subsequently approve funding for the school.

As well, to be eligible for reimbursement, the residential school operated by a district must provide:

- a suitable dormitory,
- food service; and
- daily access to a public school offering the appropriate grade level for variable length terms or 180-day school term as provided under AS 14.03.030 for the full school year.

This section clarifies that an “educational program” is actually a “school” and Alaska Law makes no distinction between the two. By adding the term “variable length term” this endorses a district residential school operation of a magnet school or semester long Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focused enrichment program.

Currently three districts operate boarding schools that are eligible to receive scholarship stipends: Nenana, Lower Kuskokwim, and Galena. The Department of

Section 2. Section 2 stipulates what costs districts may seek reimbursement:

Education & Early Development is currently soliciting applications for three additional boarding schools statewide.

- One round trip on the least expensive means of transportation between the student's community of residence and the public boarding school;
- A per pupil stipend to reimburse room and board established on a regional basis:
 - a. Southeast Region: \$1,230
 - b. Southcentral Region: \$1,200.
 - c. Interior Region: \$1,452
 - d. Southwest Region: \$1,509
 - e. Northern Remote Region: \$1,776

*HCS CSSB 84(FIN) am H on April 11, 2011 amended the uncodified law of the State of Alaska. Though actionable, the language was not incorporated into the text of AS14.16.200(b)(2), it is law nonetheless. **The uncodified law included in SB84 doubled the funding amounts for boarding school stipends for fiscal years ending June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013 over the 2005 law.** Therefore, rates set by this bill represent a one-third increase over what is currently established in law.*

Section 3. This section enables the a district to contract with an Alaska Native organization under 20 U.S.C. 7546(2) or a nonprofit for the provision of room and board services to students enrolled in a statewide or district-wide residential school operated by a district.

Section 4 Repealers. This section repeals AS 14.03.260(d), AS 14.17.200(c) and AS 14.16.200(d)(2).

AS 14.03.260(d) is repealed to allow a statewide or districtwide residential charter school to apply for reimbursement through the stipend program.

AS 14.17.200(c) is repealed so boarding schools that were in existence after January 1, 2005 are now eligible.

The definition of "statewide residential educational program", currently in AS 14.16.200(d)(2) is repealed and more appropriately placed the body of the statute, in AS 14.16.200(a).

Section 5 This Act has an immediate effective date

