

2017 SESSION LANGUAGE PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Education and Early Development

TO: Representative Ortiz

OFFERED BY: Representative Zach Fansler

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE:

It is the intent of the legislature that the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education report to the Alaska Legislature with findings and recommendations to ensure equity and affordable access to high speed internet, broadband services, and connectivity to all School Districts in Alaska. Further, it is the intent of the legislature that the State Board of Education address this in context of its Best Practices Initiative.

EXPLANATION:

We have heard testimony from around the state about innovative developments in using technology to enhance educational efforts, compensate for logistical struggles unique to our state, and improve student access to information. These technological developments in the field of education are by and large facilitated by high quality internet access. In order to ensure that all Alaskan students can benefit from the implementation of technological developments in the field of education it will be necessary to ensure that all school districts across the state have access to cost-equitable, high speed broadband.