

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Senator Anna MacKinnon, Co-Chair
State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3777
Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov



Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
State Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4453
Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov

Sponsor Statement SB 103

The goal of this bill is to help provide Alaskan students with better outcomes through new innovative new educational delivery methods and by providing a fund that will allow school districts to apply to the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) for innovative education grants.

We need to prioritize K-12 investment to make sure that our students are prepared for life after high school. Since 2011 when APS was created, 47,907 students have graduated from high school in Alaska, only 8,606 of them received the APS. The total payout to the approximately 18% of high school graduates was \$48.8 million. Of the recipients, 26% currently need remediation when they enter college. The APS is not achieving the results we had hoped for.

SB 103 will phase out the Alaska Performance Scholarship and the Alaska Education Grant over the next 4 years.

- Seniors in high school now – will receive 4 years of scholarship
- Freshman in College now – will receive 3 more years of scholarship
- Sophomore in College now – will receive 2 more years of scholarship
- Junior in College now – will receive 1 more year of scholarship

The high school graduating class of 2017 will be the last class to receive these awards.

We must prioritize K-12 investment and provide Alaskan students with a valuable 21st century education. In doing so, SB 103 will rename the Higher Education Fund to, “The Alaska Innovation Education Grant Fund.” This Fund’s purpose is to provide school districts with grants to fulfill academically innovative ways of delivering education, such as coursework through a combination of technologies, pilot programs for cutting-edge learning resources, and changes in the way students and teachers interact in the classroom, to name a few. These grants must be approved by the Commissioner of Education and be submitted to the legislature for funding.

I urge your support for this legislation.