

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

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K-12 Education Funding: Timing of Budget Submission and Passage in Alaska and Other States

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On what dates has the Alaska State Legislature passed K-12 education appropriations bills in the last 15 years? By what date are school districts required to submit budgets to local government each year? Do any states have constitutional provisions requiring the passage of state K-12 funding measures by a specific date?

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As the attached table shows, legislative appropriations for Alaska's K-12 schools have occurred most frequently in April or May. In the past two legislatures, however, state operating budgets—the main funding vehicle for public schools and state government—have not been passed until mid-June.

By what date are school districts required to submit budgets to local government each year?

Alaska Statute § 14.14.060(c) prescribes the latest date by which school districts must submit their budgets to local government as follows:

Except as otherwise provided by municipal ordinance, the borough school board shall submit the school budget for the following school year to the borough assembly by May 1 for approval of the total amount.

Municipal ordinances vary substantially in the date by which their school districts must submit a budget, as illustrated by the following examples:

District	Ordinance	Date
Anchorage	6.10.050	First Monday in March
Fairbanks N. Star	7.12.020	April 1
Juneau	13.6	April 5
Mat-Su	3.04.020	Last Tuesday in March
Kenai	5.04.021	25 days or more before the last assembly meeting scheduled before June 15th each year
North Slope	3.11.010	March 1 or the first business day thereafter

Do any states have constitutional provisions requiring the passage of state K-12 funding measures by a specific date?

We located no state constitutional provisions that require school districts to submit a budget to local governments by a certain date.¹

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

¹ We contacted education law experts with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) for assistance on this question. As of the date of this writing, we have not yet received a reply. Should NCSL provide relevant constitutional language, we will deliver it as an addendum to this report.

Bills Making Appropriations to Public K-12 Schools in Alaska, 2003-2018		
Bill	Short Title	Date Passed
30th Legislature (2017-2018)		
HB 285	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	5/12/2018
HB 286	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	5/12/2018
HB 287	APPROP: PUPIL TRANSPORTATION; EDUCATION	4/18/2018
HB 57	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	6/22/2017
HB 59	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	6/15/2017
29th Legislature (2015-2016)		
HB 256	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	5/31/2016
HB 257	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	5/31/2016
HB 72	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	4/27/2015
HB 73	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	4/27/2015
HB 2001	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	6/11/2015
28th Legislature (2013-2014)		
HB 266	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	4/20/2014
HB 267	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	4/20/2014
HB 65	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	4/14/2013
27th Legislature (2011-1012)		
HB 284	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	4/15/2012
HB 307	SUPPLEMENTAL/CAPITAL/OTHER APPROPRIATIONS	3/23/2012
SB 182	SCHOOL FUNDING; EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	4/15/2012
HB 108	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	5/6/2011
SB 76	SUPPLEMENTAL/CAPITAL/OTHER APPROPRIATIONS	4/21/2011
26th Legislature (2009-2010)		
HB 81	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	4/15/2009
HB 113	SUPPLEMENTAL/CAPITAL/OTHER APPROPRIATIONS	4/19/2009
HB 199	APPROPS: NON-TRANSPORTATION STIMULUS	5/21/2009
HB 300	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	4/18/2010
HB 326	SUPPLEMENTAL/OTHER APPROPRIATIONS	4/18/2010
25th Legislature (2007-2008)		
HB 310	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	4/12/2008
HB 4001	APPROP: AGIA & ENERGY ASSISTANCE	8/7/2008
SB 256	SUPPLEMENTAL/CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS	3/18/2008
HB 96	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	5/16/2007
SB 61	SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS/EDUC FUNDING	4/24/2007
24th Legislature (2005-2006)		
HB 365	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	5/9/2006
SB 232	SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS	4/12/2006
HB 1	INCREASE AMOUNT OF BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION	5/25/2005
HB 67	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	5/24/2005
23rd Legislature (2003-2004)		
HB 233	INCREASE EDUCATION FUNDING	5/11/2004
HB 375	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	5/11/2004
HB 75	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	5/21/2003
HB 76	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	5/21/2003
HB 100	SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS: FAST TRACK	3/14/2003
Source: Bill Action and Status Inquiry System (BASIS), Education subject summary, http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Home/BillsandLaws .		