

Representative Grier Hopkins



ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sponsor Statement for HB 136

An Act relating to public school funding for social and emotional learning; and providing for an effective date

Social and emotional learning (SEL) has been defined as the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Early interventions of SEL show outcomes far into adulthood, reducing the life risks for impoverished and at-risk students. SEL skills are acknowledged as the best indicators for a student's future success.

SEL programs across Alaska are integrated into school's curricula, staff, cultures and norms or explicitly taught outside of academic learning time. HB 136 provides recognition of the value of these programs and seeks to establish designated support for such programs.

HB 136 gives school districts the knowledge that they can depend on protection of financial support for social and emotional learning programs. Alaska's schools have established effective SEL programs that are locally relevant to the community and provide needed support to students and by extension their families. This funding stream, guaranteeing 0.5% for SEL, will help keep these programs in place.

HB 136 will help Alaska's schools be able to maintain social emotional learning programs within their districts.

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