ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION ADDRESS
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4925
Fax (907) 465-3517

INTERIM ADDRESS
305 Center Ave, Ste 1
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-4925
Fax (907) 486-5264

Senator Gary Stevens

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE BILL 136

State-Tribal Education Compacting

Senate Bill 136 proposes an opportunity for Alaska to enhance educational outcomes and student experiences by providing high quality, locally-driven education via the use of State-Tribal compact schools.

Alaska is an incredibly culturally and linguistically diverse state, with at least eleven distinct Alaska Native cultures and twenty State-recognized official Alaska Native languages. As a state, we have much to gain from providing a pathway for our education system to reflect this wealth of diversity and possibility.

Passage of this legislation will provide Tribes the opportunity to voluntarily apply to establish a State-Tribal compact school. State-tribal compact schools will affirm the State's commitment to educating Alaska's children, and honor a government-to-government relationship with Tribes by partnering with them to improve educational outcomes. Partnering with tribes to deliver education will reestablish a sense of ownership and pride in the public educational system, and has the potential to substantially improve educational outcomes.

Alaska , like many states, has a staunch policy of local control as regards education policy and budget decisions. State-Tribal compact schools will provide another avenue for addressing existing challenges and ensuring that children are prepared to be healthy, productive community members and to be positioned for success.

Thank you for your consideration of this important piece of legislation.