

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Education Committee

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Senate Bill 111

Early Education, Reading Intervention, and Virtual Education

Sectional Analysis

<u>Section</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Summary</u>
Sec. 1	7/1/21	Establishes this Act as the Alaska Academic Improvement and Modernization (AIM) Act.
Sec. 2	7/1/21	AS 14.03.060(e), relating to the definition of an elementary school, is amended by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changing the term “pre-elementary” to “early education” (defined in sections 10 and 14).• Adding the term “approved by” to conform to the addition of AS 14.03.410(a)(2) (added by section 10).• Making clearer the relationship between Head Start agencies and DEED.• Removing the language regarding ADM count, as it is moved to AS 14.03.410(f) (within section 10) and AS 14.17.500 (section 21).
Sec. 3	6/30/32	AS 14.03.060(e), relating to the definition of an elementary school, is amended in 2032 to reverse the addition of “approved by” in section 2. This change is required to conform with the repeal of AS 14.03.410 (related to early education funding) in section 38.

- Sec. 4** 7/1/21 Amends AS 14.03.072, related to providing information to K-3 parents, to incorporate the reading intervention services added by section 33 and changes the word “literacy” to “reading.”
- Sec. 5** 7/1/21 Amends AS 14.03.078(a), related to DEED reporting requirements, by:
- adding school districts as a recipient of the DEED’s annual report.
 - expanding the reporting requirement to incorporate all reports in AS 14.03.120, including those listed below.
 - adding ratios of administrative employees to students, administrative employees to teachers, and teacher to student ratios to the annual report.
 - adding a progress report of the reading intervention programs established by section 33.
- Sec. 6** 7/1/21 Adds two subsections to AS 14.03.078, relating to department reporting requirements, which requires reports to be posted online and defines an administrative employee (as referenced in section 5).
- Sec. 7** 7/1/26 Amends AS 14.03.080(d), related to entering public school, by changing the date for early kindergarten start from September 1 to June 1 and applies stronger admission allowance for taking a readiness examination. This section doesn’t take effect for five years (section 44).
- Sec. 8** 7/1/21 Adds a subsection to AS 14.03.080, relating to entering public school, which allows a four or five-year-old that is not entering kindergarten to enter an early education program.
- Sec. 9** 7/1/21 Adds a subsection to AS 14.03.120, relating to district reporting requirements, which establishes an annual report regarding student performance metrics in kindergarten through third grade.
- Sec. 10** 7/1/21 Establishes early education programs and grants under AS 14.03, which includes the following subsections:
- AS 14.03.410(a) directs the DEED to provide training to help districts develop and approve early education programs.
 - AS 14.03.410(b) authorizes DEED to award 3-year early education grants.
 - AS 14.03.410(c) requires DEED to rank the districts and determine the eligibility for a targeted early education grant.
 - AS 14.03.410(d) limits the number of early education programs eligible for ADM inclusion (section 21) to \$3M per year.
 - AS 14.03.410(e) authorizes up to two additional years of grant funding, if the program is not able to qualify for ADM inclusion at the end of the 3-year grant.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS 14.03.410(f) requires DEED approval of quality standards for ADM inclusion. • AS 14.03.410(g) makes clear that the grants are subject to appropriation. • AS 14.03.410(h) provides definitions. • AS 14.03.420 codifies the Parents-as-Teachers program.
Sec. 11	7/1/21	Amends AS 14.07.020(a), relating to duties of the Department of Education and Early Development, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding supervision over early education programs. • Adding the support and intervention requirements relating to reading intervention programs (from section 33).
Sec. 12	6/30/28	A conforming change to account for the repeal of AS 14.30.770 (reading specialists) in section 39 (the change occurs on page 13, line 13).
Sec. 13	6/30/32	A conforming change to account for the repeal of AS 14.03.410 (Early education funding) in section 38.
Sec. 14	7/1/21	Changes AS 14.07.020(c), relating to the duties of the department, to update the term “pre-elementary school” to “early education program.”
Sec. 15	7/1/21	Alters AS 14.07.050, relating to the selection of textbooks, to incorporate the new sections AS 14.30.765 and 14.30.770, which are added under section 33 of this bill.
Sec. 16	6/30/28	Adjusts AS 14.07.050, relating to the selection of textbooks, to conform to the repeal of AS 14.30.770 in section 39.
Sec. 17	7/1/21	AS 14.07.165(a), relating to the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education, is amended to establish the standards for early education programs.
Sec. 18	7/1/21	A new paragraph is added to AS 14.07.168, relating to the annual report by the state board of education to the legislature, which requires the inclusion of a review of the effectiveness of the virtual consortium added by section 36 of this bill.
Sec. 19	7/1/21	Amends AS 14.07.180(a), relating to school districts curricula, by requiring the board to utilize the five components of evidence-based reading instruction identified by the Nation Reading Panel (Phonemic awareness, systematic phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension instruction).
Sec. 20	7/1/21	AS 14.14.115(a), relating to cooperative arrangements, expands the ability of a school district to form agreements with private businesses, non-profits, and government agencies, but prohibits state funds from benefiting private educational institutions.

Sec. 21	7/1/21	A new subsection is added to AS 14.17.500, relating to student count estimates, which allows districts to count early education students from approved programs at one-half of a full-time student.
Sec. 22	6/30/32	Sunsets the inclusion of Early education students in a district's ADM, if not extended before 2032.
Sec. 23	7/1/21	Amends AS 14.17.505(a), related to unreserved year-end fund balances, to increase the allowable carryforward balance of school districts from 10% to 50% of a district's expenditures until FY27.
Sec. 24	7/1/26	Reduces the carry-forward allowance in AS 14.17.505(a), related to unreserved year-end fund balances, to 25% starting fiscal year 2027, unless the district qualifies for the additional carryforward provided under section 26.
Sec. 25	7/1/26	This is a conforming change to AS 14.17.505, to account for the addition of subsection (c) in section 26 of this bill.
Sec. 26	7/1/26	Adds subsection (c) to AS 14.17.505, related to unreserved year-end fund balances, which allows a district to carry an additional 25% of operating costs into a future year if the district generated the surplus by reducing non-instruction costs and submits a 3-year plan to use those funds. Districts scoring below the national average on the NAEP score for reading must use such funds for reading improvement.
Sec. 27	7/1/21	AS 14.17.905, relating to defining a school for calculating school size factors, is amended to account for the inclusion of Early education students when defining an elementary school in a district with between 101 and 425 students.
Sec. 28	6/30/32	Reverses the change in section 27 to conform to the sunset provision in section 22 of this bill.
Sec. 29	7/1/21	Amends AS 14.17.905, relating to defining a school for calculating school size factors, to ensure that any early education students receiving alternative state or federal funding are not included in the foundation formula.
Sec. 30	7/1/21	Amends AS 14.20.015(c), related to preliminary teacher certificates, by adding a requirement that teachers with preliminary certificates complete board required coursework, training, and testing in evidence-based reading instruction.
Sec. 31	7/1/21	Amends AS 14.20.020(i), related to teacher certificates, to require the state board of education to periodically reevaluate the acceptable level of demonstrated competency required to issue a teacher certificate.

- Sec. 32** 7/1/21 Adds a new subsection AS 14.20.020(l), related to teacher certificates, which requires teachers to complete board required coursework, training, and testing in evidence-based reading instruction.
- Sec. 33** 7/1/21 This section adds several new sections of law related to reading intervention:
- AS 14.30.760 directs DEED to establish a statewide reading assessment and screening tool to identify students with reading deficiencies and establishes a timeline in which assessments are conducted.
 - AS 14.30.765(a) directs each school district to offer intensive reading intervention services to K-3 students exhibiting a reading deficiency and communicate with parents and guardians.
 - AS 14.30.765(b) directs school districts to provide individual reading improvement plans for K-3 students exhibiting a reading deficiency and defines the plan's components.
 - AS 14.30.765(c) requires districts to notify a student's parents that their child has demonstrated a reading deficiency along with corresponding information about remedying the deficiency.
 - AS 14.30.765(d) outlines a procedure for communicating with a child's parents about the potential need to delay promotion to fourth grade.
 - AS 14.30.765(e) sets out the factors which determine if a child is ready for promotion to the fourth grade.
 - AS 14.30.765(f) establishes a parental waiver to allow a student to advance to fourth grade without reading at grade level and requires an additional 20 hours of summer intervention services.
 - AS 14.30.765(g) directs the department to develop a recognition program for improving reading skills.
 - AS 14.30.765(h) establishes good cause exemptions for delaying promotion.
 - AS 14.30.765(h) outlines the process for requesting a good cause exemption (disability, prior intervention, and ESL).
 - AS 14.30.765(i) sets forth the process for requesting a good cause exemption.

**Sec. 33
(cont.)**

- AS 14.30.765(j) requires that a child’s parents receive written notification that their child did not demonstrate sufficient reading proficiency for promotion to fourth grade.
- AS 14.30.765(k) directs the district to provide additional intervention for students that do not promote or promote with a good cause or parental waiver.
- AS 14.30.765(l) establishes a policy for mid-year promotion.
- AS 14.30.765(m) requires that a student promoting mid-year continue the individual reading improvement plan.
- AS 14.30.765(n) limits retention to one year.
- AS 14.30.765(o) provide a definition for reading teacher.
- AS 14.30.770 directs the department to establish a statewide reading program, including five reading specialists to assist selected schools.
- AS 14.30.775 provides definitions.

Sec. 34 7/1/26 Is a future amendment to AS 14.30.765(c), related to fourth grade promotion previously added under section 33, which changes the delayed promotion from a “should” to a “must,” which takes effect on July 1, 2026 (see section 44).

Sec. 35 7/1/26 Is a future amendment to AS 14.30.765(e), related to fourth grade promotion previously added under section 33, which changes the delayed promotion from a “should” to a “must,” which takes effect on July 1, 2026 (see section 44).

Sec. 36 7/1/21 Adds a new section of law, AS 14.30.800, which establishes a virtual education consortium. This consortium allows districts to offer virtual access to student courses and professional development courses through a statewide system hosted by the department of education. This section also creates a reading specialist position to remotely assist districts to improve reading instruction.

Sec. 37 7/1/21 Adds “early education program” to the definition of “organization” in AS 47.17.290, which pertains to the Department of Health and Social Services.

Sec. 38 6/30/32 Repeals the following:

- AS 14.03.410 (early education funding added in section 10 of this bill).
- AS 14.03.420 (Parents-as-Teachers program added in section 10 of this bill).

- AS 14.07.165(a)(5) (regulations establishing standards for early education programs added by section 17 of this bill).
- AS 14.17.905(d) (prohibition on including early education students with other state or federal funding, added by section 29 of this bill).

Sec. 39	6/30/28	Repeals AS 14.30.770 (reading intervention specialists added under section 33 of this bill).
Sec. 40	7/1/21	Sets a deadline for the department of education to complete the set-up of the virtual education consortium by July 1, 2023.
Sec. 41	7/1/21	Applicability language related to the reading instruction requirement added by section 32 of this bill, which allows teachers with preexisting teaching certificates until July 1, 2023 to meet the new requirements.
Sec. 42	7/1/21	Requires a report from DEED to the legislature on the effectiveness of the reading specialists added in section 33 not later than January 1, 2028, which allows the legislature to consider extending the positions before they sunset on June 30, 2028.
Sec. 43	7/1/21	Directs DEED to use the 2019-2020 school year as the base year for the FY22 Early education grants.
Sec. 44		Provides an effective date of July 1, 2026 for sections 7, 24, 25, 26, 34, and 35.
Sec. 45		Provides an effective date of June 30, 2028 for sections 12, 16, and 39.
Sec. 46		Provides an effective date of June 30, 2032 for sections 3, 13, 22, 28, and 38.
Sec. 47		Provides an effective date of July 1, 2021 for all other sections.

Please contact the Education Committee Aide, Ed King at 465-4843, with any questions or concerns.