

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Joint Resolution 10

*“Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of
Alaska relating to in-person public education”*

Students thrive on the ability to learn together. It gives them the chance to help one another, make friends, and gain lifelong skills. With the widespread shift to virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, children lost the opportunity to see their peers regularly and learn through interacting directly with their teachers and classmates. Not only did this stymie academic progress, but it negatively affected the mental health of students.

As we reflect on the past year, the importance of in-person schooling is obvious to parents and students who have been facing varying degrees of isolation. Senate Joint Resolution 10 would, through a vote of the people, amend the Alaska Constitution to ensure that public schools offer in-person learning unless a disaster declaration is in effect.