



February 1, 2022

House Education Committee Hearing – HB 164

Follow-up on Committee Member Comments

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Provide how the Department of Education and Early Development interprets Amendment 4 for HB 164.

“A district is eligible for a grant if the department determines an insufficient number of children in the district attend high quality childcare programs, including head start, early education programs provided by a local government, and early education programs provided by child development agencies, that

- 1) Meet or exceed the standard adopted by the board under AS14.07.165(a)(5); and***
- 2) Would continue operating after the development of a district early education program.”***

The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) will develop a process to approve eligible childcare and early education programs. This process may include some or all of the following:

- Quality of the proposed program
 - Qualifications of the staff
 - Evidence based programming
 - Capacity to sustain the program
 - Facilities for the program
- Consideration of existing programs in the area
 - Evaluate student counts in existing programs and the size of the community
 - Conduct stakeholder outreach

Currently, DEED has regular contact with all early education programs through monthly meetings.

Stakeholder input is a key component of all decisions regarding education. It is the department’s practice to engage stakeholders in the planning of programs. Suggested stakeholders for this particular process could include:

- Parents/guardians
- Community members
- Head Start programs in the area
- School Districts
- Tribal organizations from the area