



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Löki Gale Tobin
Education Committee Chair

EDUCATION
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION

SB 93: Early Education Programs

Sponsor Statement

The single most important investment we can make is in the earliest years of a child's life. The markers for success develop early in life, and brain science underscores that how we use our brains during the crucial early years before we enter Kindergarten has a dramatic impact on how well we will do in school and life. Research shows that those who have a high-quality preschool experience go on to academic and personal success. Graduates of high-quality Pre-K are less likely to be incarcerated, have higher graduation rates, and are less likely to need government assistance as adults.

Alaska's current pre-Kindergarten funding system includes many barriers that Senate Bill 93 seeks to fix. The bill builds on the success of the Alaska Reads Act by removing limits on the number of Pre-K students and on the number of district programs eligible for state funding. The bill also changes the Average Daily Membership (ADM) calculation to count every Pre-K student in a DEED-approved program as a full-time equivalent student. Currently, Pre-K students in approved programs are counted as one-half of a full-time equivalent student.

SB 93 seeks to turbocharge Pre-K in Alaska because high-quality early learning has been proven to dramatically improve a child's opportunities for a better future while offering parents greater job stability and overall economic security.

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