

SENATE BILL NO. 209

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR BJORKMAN

Introduced: 1/21/26

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to high school graduation requirements and proficiency confirmation
2 tools."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature to ensure all students who
7 graduate from high schools in the state have achieved proficiency in the classes and subject
8 areas required for graduation.

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.075(e) is amended to read:

10 (e) In this section,

11 (1) "school district" has the meaning given in AS 14.30.350;

12 (2) "social studies" includes civics, the history of the United States
13 of America, and state history.

14 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.075 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

1 (f) The department shall adopt performance standards for students in grades
 2 eight, 10, and 12 in economics, science, and social studies. The performance standards
 3 adopted for grades 10 and 12 must correspond with state high school graduation
 4 requirements.

5 (g) The department shall develop proficiency confirmation tools for students
 6 in grades eight, 10, and 12 that evaluate a student's level of proficiency in economics,
 7 language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies according to the performance
 8 standards adopted for grades eight, 10, and 12, respectively.

9 (h) A school district shall administer the proficiency confirmation tools to
 10 students in grades eight, 10, and 12.

11 (i) A school district shall affix a seal of certified proficiency to the high school
 12 diploma of a student who meets all state and governing body graduation requirements
 13 and earns a proficient score on the proficiency confirmation tool used to assess the
 14 student during grade 12, demonstrating proficiency in all subject areas. The district
 15 shall reassess a student who does not demonstrate proficiency at the student's request.

16 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

17 **Sec. 14.03.076. High school graduation requirements.** (a) Each
 18 superintendent shall develop and submit to the governing body for approval a plan
 19 consisting of district high school graduation requirements. The plan must set out the
 20 units of credit required for specific subject areas and must require a student to
 21 complete

22 (1) at least 21 units of credit in a program that offers six credits a year
 23 or 24 credits in a program that offers seven credits a year;

24 (2) four units of credit in language arts;

25 (3) four units of credit in social studies, which must include one unit of
 26 credit in the history of the United States, one-half unit of credit in state history, one-
 27 half unit of credit in civics, and one-half unit of credit in economics;

28 (4) four units of credit in mathematics;

29 (5) three units of credit in science; and

30 (6) one unit of credit in health and physical education.

31 (b) A student who transfers into a district after earning at least 13 units of

1 credit from a school outside of the district may be excused from the district's subject
2 area requirements, at the discretion of the district.

3 (c) In this section, "unit of credit" means a credit awarded to a student for
4 achieving a passing grade in a course of study by meeting the content standards for the
5 course of study as prescribed by a local school board.

6 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
7 read:

8 APPLICABILITY. The provisions of AS 14.03.075(i), enacted by sec. 3 of this Act,
9 and the graduation requirements set out in AS 14.03.076(a), enacted by sec. 4 of this Act,
10 apply to students graduating from high school on or after January 1, 2030.