

# Senator Jesse Bjorkman

Alaska State Legislature

## Session Address:

Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 427  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-2828  
Toll Free: (800) 964-5733



## Interim Address:

145 Main Street Loop, Ste. 226  
Kenai, Alaska 99611-7771  
Phone: (907) 283-7996  
Fax: (907) 283-8127

## SB 209 Version G Sectional Analysis

*“An Act relating to statewide performance standards; relating to statewide assessments; relating to high school graduation requirements; and providing for an effective date.”*

**Section 1: States Legislative intent**, that students graduating from a public high school in the state have demonstrated proficiency in the courses and subject areas required for graduation.

**Section 2: Amends AS 14.03.075(e)**, by adding a definition of “social studies” for purposes of statewide performance standards and proficiency confirmation tools. The term “social studies” is defined to include civics, United States history, and Alaska history.

**Section 3: Amends AS 14.03.075 by adding new subsections (f) – (i)**, requiring the Department of Education and Early Development to:

- adopt statewide performance standards for grades 8, 10, and 12 in economics, science, and social studies;
- develop proficiency confirmation tools aligned with those standards for grades 8, 10, and 12 in economics, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies;
- require school districts to administer the proficiency confirmation tools; and
- require school districts to place a “seal of certified proficiency” on a student’s diploma if the student meets graduation requirements and demonstrates proficiency on the grade-12 confirmation tools in all subject areas. Also requires districts to reassess students upon request if they did not initially demonstrate proficiency.

Currently DEED has already developed performance standards under their authority found in 14.07.020 and 14.07.060. Section 3 specifies that the content area standards to be developed and then student achievement of them is measured.

**Section 4: Amends AS 14.03 by adding a new section, AS 14.03.076**, establishing minimum statewide high school graduation requirements. A district must adopt a graduation plan that includes:

- at least 21 credits in a six-credit-per-year program or 24 credits in a seven-credit-per-year program;
- minimum credit requirements of
  - 4 credits in language arts;
  - 4 credits in social studies (an increase of one credit), including 1 credit U.S. history, 0.5 credit Alaska history, 0.5 credit civics, and 0.5 credit economics;
  - 4 credits in mathematics (an increase of one credit);
  - 3 credits in science (an increase of one credit);
  - 1 credit in health and physical education;
- authority for the district to waive certain subject-area requirements for transfer students who have earned at least 13 credits elsewhere; and
- a definition of “unit of credit.”

The reason that the increases in credit specification is proposed is so that the amount of credits required to graduate more closely align with the state content area standards that students are expected to achieve proficiency in.

**Section 5: Applicability**, provides that the seal-of-proficiency requirement (AS 14.03.075(i)) and the new graduation requirements (AS 14.03.076(a)) apply to students graduating on or after January 1, 2030.