

Alaska State Legislature

House Education
Committee



Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska
99801

HOUSE BILL 380 (34-LS1586A)

“An Act relating to funding for residential schools.”

SPONSOR STATEMENT Version A

HB 380 increases funding for residential schools by raising the per-pupil monthly stipend for each region. This increase would ensure that residential schools have additional funds to adequately provide transportation, housing, food service, and daily access to school for students who rely on residential schools for their education.

Residential programs are for students who otherwise, due to location, would not be able to obtain an education. Residential schools offer students transportation, housing, and daily necessities while teaching and supplying academic solutions. These programs cover dual duty of parent and teacher, providing students with a home away from home and academic opportunities they would not otherwise have access to.

Since 2015, the per-pupil monthly stipend has remained stagnant while the cost of living in Alaska continues to rapidly increase. Fixed costs, such as energy, property insurance, and healthcare, have skyrocketed, while the resources that these programs are provided through the state lose purchasing power through flat funding. In turn, residential schools have struggled to keep up with the costs of providing for students in their care. HB 380 adjusts rates for inflation, restoring the purchasing power of state funding.