

**Alaska Council of School Administrators**  
Leadership, Unity and Advocacy for Public Education

234 Gold Street • Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 586-9702 • Fax: (907) 364-3805  
[www.alaskaacsa.org](http://www.alaskaacsa.org)

April 13, 2026

Dear Co-Chairs Himschoot and Story, and members of the House Education Committee:

For the record, my name is Dr. Lisa S. Parady, and I am the Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators. Following is written testimony on SB 20.

ACSA recognizes the importance of CPR education. Teaching students hands-only CPR provides a practical, life-saving skill that can strengthen emergency response and help make Alaska's communities safer. The purpose of SB 20, to broaden access to this training and increase the number of people prepared to respond in a crisis, is both worthwhile and commendable.

SB 20 would direct the Department of Education and Early Development to adopt a curriculum for hands-only CPR instruction, identify the grade levels in which it would be taught, and require school districts to provide that instruction. The bill also specifies that the curriculum must be grounded in national, evidence-based guidelines, include instruction on the use of automated external defibrillators, and provide hands-on practice in addition to classroom-based learning.

This proposal aligns, in part, with ACSA's commitment to student safety and wellness. Giving students the knowledge and confidence to respond during an emergency supports the broader goal of preparing Alaska's students for life beyond the classroom.

At the same time, ACSA has concerns about the practical realities of implementing this requirement in Alaska's current public education environment.

First, SB 20 creates a new statewide requirement without dedicated funding or implementation support. School districts across Alaska are already facing serious financial pressures. Many have reduced staffing, cut programs, and in some cases closed schools because of ongoing budget shortfalls. In that setting, even beneficial new requirements become difficult to carry out when no additional resources are provided.

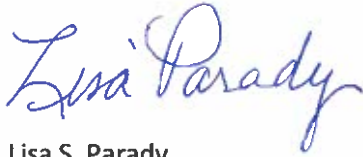
Although the bill allows some flexibility in who may provide the instruction, districts would still need to devote staff time, adjust schedules, coordinate delivery, ensure appropriate training, and potentially secure needed equipment. Those are real costs. ACSA remains concerned about the cumulative effect of adding new expectations to school systems that are already stretched thin. We are especially mindful of our long-standing opposition to unfunded mandates on school districts.

Second, we encourage the committee to preserve local flexibility. Alaska's school districts differ widely in size, geography, staffing, and access to equipment and outside personnel. Districts will need flexibility in how they deliver this instruction in order to make the requirement workable and equitable across the state.

In closing, ACSA supports the importance of CPR education and the goal of expanding access to this critical life-saving skill. However, we remain concerned about districts' ability to implement this requirement given current funding levels and operational challenges. Because this would create a new statutory curriculum

requirement, ACSA believes districts must have a realistic path to meet it successfully. We respectfully urge the committee to consider providing implementation support and maintaining the local flexibility districts will need to carry out this requirement effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Parady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Lisa S. Parady  
Executive Director  
Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA)