



# Representative Andi Story

## Alaska State Legislature

### Sectional Analysis House Bill 28 Version 34-LS0303\H April 21, 2026

*“An Act establishing a student loan repayment pilot program;  
and providing for an effective date.”*

**Section 1:** Adds a new subsection (l) to AS 14.03.120 requiring school districts to file an annual report by November 1 of each year regarding district-operated correspondence study programs from the previous year that includes:

- 1) the total administrative expenditures of the program;
- 2) the total number of students enrolled by May 1 of the year;
- 3) the demographics of enrolled students, including community of residence;
- 4) the amount of allotment funding authorized under AS 14.030.310;
- 5) accounting of allotment expenditures;
- 6) the number and value of allotment expenditures denied by a district and the reason for denial;
- 7) and the total value of allotment funds carried forward at year-end.

**Section 2:** Amends AS 14.03.300 to allow students who are no longer enrolled in a correspondence study program operated by a school district to retain textbooks, equipment, and other curriculum materials if they are the type that students in district physical schools are allowed to retain.

**Section 3:** Amends AS 14.07.168 to stipulate that information on school district correspondence study program be included in the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development’s annual report to the Alaska State Legislature.

**Section 4:** Amends 14.09.010(a) to increase the per-student pupil transportation funding amounts by 10 percent for each school district. The increase would take effect on July 1, 2026.

**Sections 5 – 10:** Amends AS 14.20.136 and AS 14.25.043 to allow a regional resource center to hire retired educators with conforming changes.

**Section 11:** Repeals Section 19, ch.5, SLA 2025, the conditional effect language linking enactment of a highly digitized business tax to funding for reading proficiency incentive grants and the increase in the secondary school vocational and technical instruction funding factor authorized through the passage of House Bill 57, which became law in 2025.



# Representative Andi Story

## Alaska State Legislature

**Section 12** – Directs the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee to procure a study to be completed not later than January 1, 2027, to evaluate current education funding provisions and recommend changes or alternative methods to funding.

**Section 13:** Adds a new section to develop a student loan repayment pilot program to be developed and administered by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. To be eligible for the program a person must be:

- 1) is a full-time public school teacher who teaches special education, English as a second language, science, technology, engineering, or mathematics;
  - 2) has completed a postsecondary degree or certificate program;
  - 3) owes payment on a student loan taken to obtain their degree or certificate; and
  - 4) has exhausted all other federal and state student loan repayment options for which they are eligible.
- b) The commission will establish an application process, along with policies to determine the efficiency and success of the program in recruiting and retaining grant recipient employees with the state and school districts. The commission will report to the legislature yearly.
- c) To participate, applicants may be required to refinance their existing student loans through the commission.
- d) Grants awarded are only for full-time public school teachers and payable only at the completion of a year of work.
- e) Participants may receive a grant each year for a maximum of three years in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 each year. If the balance of the participant's outstanding loan is less than \$15,000, the grant will be equal to one-third of the outstanding student loan balance owed by the participant.
- f) The total dollar amount awarded may not exceed \$1,000,000 in a fiscal year. If the amount appropriated in a fiscal year is insufficient to meet the amounts awarded, the commission will reduce pro rata the amounts awarded.

**Section 14:** Adds a new section to the uncodified law requiring the commission to submit a report on or before December 31, 2028, to the legislature that describes the effects of the pilot program on teacher recruitment and will include an analysis of the overall success rate and effectiveness of the program.

**Section 15:** Adds a new section instructing the Department of Education and Early Development to distribute up to \$43,874,000 among school districts as a one-time school energy cost relief payment, subject to appropriation, no later than 30 days after funds become available.



# Representative Andi Story

## Alaska State Legislature

**Section 16:** Applies Sections 5 – 10 of this Act to contracts made on or after the effective date of this Act;

**Section 17:** Section 13 of this Act sunsets on January 1, 2030.

**Section 18:** Section 14 of this Act sunsets on January 1, 2029.

**Section 19:** Amends Section 20, ch. 5, SLA 2025, to read that Sections 10, 11, 13, and 15, ch.5, SLA 2025, take effect July 1, 2026.

**Section 20:** Section 4 of this Act takes effect July 1, 2026.

**Section 21:** Provides an immediate effective date under AS 01.10.070(c) except as provided in sec. 20 of this Act.