

Amendment #1

2025 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Education

TO: HB 53

OFFERED BY: Representative Rebecca Schwanke

FISCAL YEAR: FY 26

DEPARTMENT: Education and Early Development
APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Admin Services
ALLOCATION: Career and Technical Education

ADD: n/a

DELETE: \$300,000.00, General Fund (UGF), fund code 1004, IncOTI

POSITIONS: n/a

#10

EXPLANATION: The amendment changes Item ~~#12~~ on the BA sheet.

Item 12 electrician and plumbing programs are currently in place and have been funded in previous years. There are curricula available for both disciplines and DEED should not need to recreate curriculum already available by industry leaders like NCCER.

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FISCAL YEAR: FY 26

DEPARTMENT: Education and Early Development
APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Admin Services
ALLOCATION: Student and School Achievement

ADD: \$250,000.00.00, Gen Fund (UGF), fund code 1004, IncT (FY26-29)

DELETE: n/a

POSITIONS: 1 PFT position

EXPLANATION: Create a pilot program for the development, collection, and implementation of Alaska-specific place-based curriculum for preK-12. The multiyear appropriation would support one position, materials, and services with \$250,000.00 allocated annually for four years (total \$1,000,000.00). Alaska schools are increasingly relying on large corporate entities to provide curriculum, much of which is online, tablet-, or computer-based. This trend has correlated with declining test scores. Fortunately, Alaska has some phenomenal educators, many of which have already developed high quality individual place-based curriculum, but these exist only in individual schools or districts. These curricula successfully increase student engagement, increase community engagement, improve student attendance and graduation rates. These curricula may be outdoor- or culturally-based, they may be multi-discipline (i.e. teaching Language Arts combined with Earth Science), or they may be industry or workforce development focused. This new PFT position will collaborate with Alaskan educators and organizations to ensure curricula are aligned with Alaska grade level and subject standards, establish the Alaska Curriculum Depot, and support implementation across Alaskan schools.

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DEPARTMENT: Education and Early Development
APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Admin Services
ALLOCATION: Student and School Achievement

ADD: \$500,000.00, General Fund UGF, fund code 1004, IncT (FY26-FY27)

DELETE: \$1,000,000.00, General Fund UGF, fund code 1004, Inc

POSITIONS: n/a

#8

EXPLANATION: This amendment changes Item ~~9~~ on the BA sheet.

School districts statewide have program opportunity needs that change depending on the student population, educator skillsets, local opportunities and partnerships. This appropriation should be revisited to determine effectiveness and continued need. Several rural school districts have been reliant on Alaska EXCEL in recent years for essential academic and CTE courses as they lack local infrastructure or have so few middle and high school students no local CTE courses can be offered. EXCEL has been requiring that districts use their own funds (Carl Perkins or otherwise) to transport students to the Southcentral campus, but EXCEL offers the courses free of charge using industry professional volunteer in-class assistance. In 2023-2024, EXCEL offered essential courses for students from 13+ school districts. They supported 520 individual students grades 7-12 in 902 total sessions. These courses provided credits necessary for graduation and career-oriented instruction the students could not have received otherwise. In 2024-2025 several districts were left with no CTE instructional opportunities when Alaska EXCEL lost separate grant funding that had paid tuition and fees for students and implemented a fee for service model. This placed great burdens on school districts in order to offer CTE opportunities to students.

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APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Admin Services
ALLOCATION: Student and School Achievement

ADD: Restore \$1,000,000.00, General Fund (UGF), fund code 1004, Inc

DELETE: n/a

POSITIONS: n/a

#1

EXPLANATION: The amendment changes Item ~~#8~~ on the BA sheet.

Item 8 Seeks to Dec \$1,000,000.00 of the \$5,000,000.00 base funding for ANSEP, now known as the Alaska Science and Engineering Program. This amendment restores this funding. ANSEP serves Alaska K-12 students interested in pursuing higher education. Students come from across the state to attend these sessions. The exposure these students get to hands-on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics is highly engaging and encourages students to further explore the sciences. Rural schools continually face teacher shortages often related to the state of living conditions, the remoteness, the darkness, and the high cost of rural Alaska. We also have recruitment difficulties across the State departments in the sciences. The best way to ensure we can meet these needs going forward is to continue encouraging young Alaskans to seek these collegiate career paths, especially those raised in Alaska's toughest environments. ANSEP has been a stellar program serving youth from across our state, successfully encouraging students to pursue higher educational opportunities. Currently ANSEP has 52 students within their college accelerator academy.

Amendment #5

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TO: HB 53

OFFERED BY: Representative Rebecca Schwanke

FISCAL YEAR: FY 26

DEPARTMENT: Education and Early Development
APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Admin Services
ALLOCATION: Career and Technical Education

ADD: \$600,000.00, UGF, fund code 1004, IncT (FY26-FY27)

DELETE: \$600,000.00, UGF, fund code 1004, Inc

POSITIONS: n/a

EXPLANATION: The amendment changes Item ^{#9}~~11~~ on the BA sheet.

Component 3: By changing the \$600,000.00 funding from Inc to IncT for a two year period, the funding will continue supporting the study, it provides an opportunity to pivot the focus of the program as demand for various careers changes.

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APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Admin Services
ALLOCATION: Career and Technical Education

ADD: n/a

DELETE: \$440,000.00, General Fund (UGF), fund code 1004, Inc

POSITIONS: n/a

#9

EXPLANATION: The amendment changes Item #11 on the BA sheet.

Component 2: Includes \$440,000.00 "to continue funding for six existing career advisors housed in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development Job Centers." **There are only two** career advisors positions serving just seniors in only five school districts according to Leg. Liaison Kim Kolvig, email dated 2.26.2025, *"the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) has followed up with DEED on this inquiry and neither of us know where the number six came from in the FY26 Subcommittee Book for DEED for this item. There are only two career advisors within the DOLWD currently, one in Fairbanks and one in Bethel that serve the school districts that represent the rural communities surrounding these hub locations. The funding to DEED covers more than the cost of these positions... These career advisors are Employment and Training Technicians, which is the same as our usual job center positions because they provide the same type of services but just targeted to senior students in the districts they serve. For each senior student, the career advisor a) explores different career paths by offering hands-on experiences, such as job fairs, business visits, and training programs; b) identifies and assists in the application process for best-fit post-secondary options; c) creates a career plan, including vision-setting conversations*

and plans for ongoing training; d) creates a financial plan and assists with scholarship and financial aid applications, especially the FAFSA; and e) prepares for the student's transition by securing housing, transportation, and other needs."

Neither department has yet demonstrated a return on investment, has not named the school districts utilizing the services, and the scope of the work is covered by existing school district counselors or advisors.