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SB 47 Monthly Stipend for Boarding Schools

SB 47 removes the sunset provisions for providing stipends to boarding schools. In addition, SB 47 expands the stipend program to boarding schools started after 2005 and to magnet schools that are for shorter periods of training. Boarding schools offer students who don't have access to grades 9 through 12 an alternative to being homeschooled and give students in smaller high schools the opportunity to attend a school that offers extracurricular activities available in larger high schools like sports, band and art.

Students get a choice of going to a school that has something different to offer than may be available in their hometown. This legislation by statute reimburses some boarding schools costs incurred by the district operating the program.

A per-pupil stipend helps pay for the students' monthly residential care, which includes meals and supervision twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In addition a one round-trip between the student's community of residence and the school during the school year will be reimbursed if the district expends money for the trip.

Three schools currently qualify for the reimbursement: Nenana, Galena, and Bethel. However, the Department of Education is currently soliciting applications for three additional boarding schools statewide.