

Representative Rebecca Himschoot

Angoon, Craig, Edna Bay, Elfin Cove, Hollis, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Kake, Kasaan, Klawock, Kupreanof, Naukati, Pelican, Petersburg, Port Alexander, Point Baker, Port Protection, Sitka, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay & Yakutat

Session

Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3732
(888) 461-3732
Rep.Himschoot@akleg.gov



Interim

201 Katlian Street Ste 103
PO Box 844
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-4665
(877) 747-6276
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Explanation of Changes

HB 69 v. G to CSHB 69 (RLS) v. W

All sections of version W are new

- Title: Added the following title language to reflect new sections in the bill: “relating to open enrollment in public schools; relating to charter schools; relating to an annual report for correspondence study programs; relating to the base student allocation; relating to wireless telecommunications devices in public schools; establishing the Task Force on Education Funding; relating to a report on regulation of school districts;”
- Section 1 Added intent language specifying that this Act shall not be interpreted to permit an education voucher system, in accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution.
- Section 2 Amends AS 14.03.080 (a) so that a school-age child is entitled to free public education at their assigned school or a parent-selected school within district.
- Section 3 Makes conforming changes to sunset the open enrollment provisions after 3 years.
- Section 4 Added new subsections to AS 14.03.080 (i), (j), and (k) for open enrollment that establish that parents may apply for intra-district transfers, with lottery-based enrollment and sibling priority. Districts report data, and denied applications have an appeal process.
- Section 5 Amends AS 14.03.253 (b) to specify that the State Board of Education must issue a decision regarding an appeal of the denial of the charter school application within 45 days instead of the existing 90-day requirement.
- Section 6 Amends AS 14.03.255 (c) to specify that before a local school board terminates a charter school contract, written notice and a reasonable opportunity to remedy the issue is provided.
- Section 7 Adds new subsections to AS 14.03.255 (e) and (f) that specify that a charter school may carry forward up to 10% of its unreserved budget, with annual review of the year-end budget by the local school board. The local school board is directed to make the contract renewal process as simple as possible.
- Section 8 Amends AS 14.03.260 (a) to increase the allowable administrative costs that a local school board can deduct when calculating a charter school’s budget from 4% to 8%.
- Section 9 Clarifies AS 14.03.275 to specify that charter school contracts can be renewed for successive terms.

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- Section 10 Amends AS 14.03.300 to add new subsections (c) and (d) that specify that school districts and the department must submit an annual report on correspondence programs, covering enrollment, demographics, fund use, assessment scores, and curriculum reviews, with the department forwarding reports to the State Board of Education.
- Section 11 Amends AS 14.07.168 to require that the report in Section 10 (d) of the bill be included in State Board of Education's annual report to the Legislature.
- Section 12 Conforming changes to account for the existing sunset of the Reads Act in 2034.
- Section 13 Increases the BSA \$1,000 from \$5,960 to \$6,960.
- Section 14 Adds new section AS 14.30.733 that provides that, subject to appropriation, school districts are eligible to receive reading proficiency incentive grants of \$450 per student at certain grade levels.
- Section 15 Conforming changes to account for the existing sunset of the Reads Act in 2034.
- Section 16 Adds new section of law, AS 14.33.300, to require the department to create a model policy regulating nonschool-issued wireless device use in public schools, with exceptions for medical, translation, emergency, or educational use. School districts must adopt and share a policy, which must also have exceptions for medical, translation, emergency, or educational use. A school district may adopt the model policy established by the department or it may adopt its own policy. Defines "Wireless telecommunications device."
- Section 17 Repeals the open enrollment provisions on July 1, 2028.
- Section 18 Adds new section to uncodified law that establishes a legislative Task Force on Education Funding to analyze funding and accountability, make recommendations, and submit a report by the start of the Second Regular Session of the 34th Legislature. The Task Force expires on January 31, 2026.
- Section 19 Adds new section to uncodified law that specifies that the Alaska Department of Education must submit a report on recommendations to reduce regulatory and statutory burdens on school districts by the start of the Second Regular Session of the 34th Legislature, notifying legislators once available.
- Section 20 Adds applicability provisions to uncodified law that specify that sections 5-9 of this Act apply to contracts that are legally binding on or after the effective date of this Act.
- Section 21 Repeals the open enrollment provisions effective on July 1, 2028
- Section 22 Conforming changes to account for the existing sunset of the Reads Act in 2034.
- Section 23 Conforming changes to account for the existing sunset of the Reads Act in 2034.
- Section 24 Provides an effective date of July 1, 2025, with exceptions for repeal provisions outlined above.