



Sponsor Statement

House Bill 202: Opioid Overdose Drugs in Schools

"An Act relating to the availability and administration of opioid overdose drugs in public schools."

Between 2018 and 2022, 886 drug overdose deaths occurred in Alaska. Last year, Anchorage School District officials reported at least ten opioid overdoses over the course of one month, including five of these overdoses happening in one day.

From August 17th, 2023, to February 9th, 2024, there were 117 visits to emergency departments for kids aged 5-18 that occurred on school days that could have happened at schools. Ten of these cases specifically mentioned that the school the child attended was involved, and many of these were proven to be intentional overdoses.

The Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recommends that schools keep naloxone on hand as fatal opioid overdose numbers rise. As of October of 2023, 33 states had adopted laws that allow schools or school employees to store and administer Naloxone, according to Jon Woodruff, the managing attorney at the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association.

HB 202 will require all school districts to keep at least two Naloxone kits in each main school building and ensures that at least one person trained to administer naloxone spray is present during all hours that the main school building is open to students or the public. This bill also requires school buses, each school-sponsored event, on or off school grounds, and all weekend activities sponsored by the school to have at least one Naloxone kit present and at least one person who is trained to administer. Finally, this bill requires the Department of Health Commissioner to develop and provide a short video to each school district about how and when to administer Naloxone nasal spray.

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