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HOUSE BILL 69

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Version W.A

Section 1: AS 14.03.080 (a) is amended so that a school age child is entitled to free public education at their assigned school or a parent selected school within the district.

Section 2: Makes conforming changes to sunset the open enrollment provision in the bill after three years.

Section 3: Adds new subsections to AS 14.03.080 (i), (j), and (k) that establish that parents may apply for transfers within the student's district, with lottery-based enrollment and sibling priority. Districts are required to report data on the number of vacancies, number of applications approved and denied, and explanation of the reasons for the denials. The department shall develop an appeal process for denials.

Section 4: AS 14.03.120(a) is amended so that the annual district report includes information on student academic performance over time in place of information on the achievement of district goals and priorities.

Section 5: AS 14.03.120(d) is amended so that the annual district report includes specific information on norm-referenced achievement tests that measure student academic performance over time and the requirement for districts to provide information on parent, student and stakeholder involvement in learning is eliminated.

Section 6: AS 14.03.123(a) is amended so that the performance designation of each school is based on student academic performance over time.

Section 7: AS 14.03.123(f) is amended to require the department to also establish standardized assessments that measure student academic performance over time as part of the accountability system for schools and districts.

Section 8: AS 14.03.123 is amended by adding two new subsections that mandate assessments do not take more than three hours of instructional time each school year and that the National Assessment of Educational Progress cannot be used to measure student academic performance over time.

Section 9: 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 10: 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 11: 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 12: Amends AS 14.03 by adding a new section that allows a charter school to appeal to the commissioner when a local school board terminates a contract and requires the commissioner to issue a written decision on the appeal within 90 days.

Section 13: 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 14: Clarifies AS 14.03.275 to specify that charter school contracts can be renewed for successive terms.

Section 15: Amends AS 14.03 by adding a new section that establishes a charter school coordinator in the department of education.

Section 16: 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 17: Amends AS 14.07.020(a) so that the department is required to use an assessment of student academic performance over time when determining an end date for department intervention in a low performing district.

Section 18: Amends AS 14.07.168 to require that the report in Section 16 (d) of the bill be included in State Board of Education's annual report to the Legislature.

Section 19: Amends AS 14.07.168 to require that the report in Section 16 (d) of the bill be included in State Board of Education's annual report to the Legislature.

Section 20: AS 14.11.019 is amended with conforming language relating to the requirement in Sections 27 and 28 of the bill for a separate appropriation bill to fund public education.

Section 21: AS 14.11.100(c) is amended with conforming language relating to the requirement in Sections 27 and 28 of the bill for a separate appropriation bill to fund public education.

Section 22: Increases the BSA \$1,000 from \$5,960 to \$6,960.

Section 23: Adds a 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 for kindergarten through sixth grade students.

Section 24: Conforming changes to account for the existing sunset of the Reads Act in 2034.

Section 25: Adds new section of law, AS 14.33.300, to require the department to create a model policy regulating non-school 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 26: AS 24.20.140(a) is amended with conforming language relating to the requirement in Sections 27 and 28 of the bill for a separate appropriation bill to fund public education.

Section 27: AS 37.07.014 is amended with a new subsection that requires a separate appropriation bill for public school funding to be passed by the legislature by March 15.

Section 28: AS 37.07.020(a) is amended to require the governor to prepare a separate appropriation bill for public school funding by December 15.

Section 29: Repeals AS 14.03.123(c)(2), 14.03.123(c)(3), and 14.03.123(c)(5) relating to the requirements for a statewide student assessment system and Sections 6 and 7 of the bill that require student academic performance overtime to be the principal indicator of school performance. Section 29 also repeals 14.03.123(e), eliminating a program to recognize high performing schools.

Section 30: Repeals the open enrollment provisions on July 1, 2028.

Section 31: 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 32: 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 33: Adds applicability provisions to uncodified law that specify that sections 9 – 14 of this Act apply to contracts that are legally binding on or after the effective date of this Act.

Section 34: Repeals the open enrollment provisions effective on July 1, 2028.

Section 35: Conforming changes to account for the existing sunset of the Reads Act in 2034.

Section 36: Conforming changes to account for the existing sunset of the Reads Act in 2034.

Section 37: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2025, with exceptions for repeal provisions outlined above.