

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Allard, Co-Chair
Session: Capitol Room 106
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Representative Prax
Representative McCormick
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Representative Story

House Education Committee

HB 400 Sponsor Statement

Correspondence study programs provide valuable educational opportunities for students across the state in rural and remote communities as well as cities on the road system. Programs provide educational opportunities to students with unique learning needs, gifted students, high achievers, as well as students and families seeking an alternative learning model that is different than the brick-and-mortar school.

Correspondence programs have been a cornerstone of our education system since the 1930s, currently serving roughly 23,000 students. Correspondence programs are public schools funded through the Base Student Allocation (BSA) but do not receive all factors in the foundation formula.

Correspondence Programs, families, and students have experienced a high level of instability and uncertainty since the Superior Court ruling was issued which identified portions of the correspondence program statutes as unconstitutional.

Under the HB 400 committee substitute version S, Alaska statutes 14.03.300 and 14.03.310 will continue without the language ruled unconstitutional by the recent Superior court decision. HB 400 gives the Board of Education the direction to develop and implement regulations that align with the State Constitution. Allotments and Individual Learning Plans (ILP) will continue as they have demonstrated they are vital in the continued operation of correspondence programs.