

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Ruffridge, Co-Chair
Representative Allard, Co-Chair
Session: Capitol Room 106
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2693



Representative Prax
Representative McCormick
Representative McKay
Representative Himschoot
Representative Story

House Education Committee

CSHB 400 Sponsor Statement version R

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.

CSHB 400 version R adds Individual Learning Plans (ILP) and student allotments under the uncodified section of law, CSHB 400 version R gives the Board of Education the direction to develop and establish regulations that align with the State Constitution. The uncodified law and regulations developed under CSHB 400 version R expire July 1, 2025 and provide stability and certainty to correspondence programs for the next school year.