

Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Bettie Davis

SB 1 - "An Act requiring the state Board of Education and Early Development to provide an annual report to the legislature."

SPONSOR STATEMENT

This bill requires that the Alaska State Board of Education shall prepare and present in person to State Legislature not later than the 30th day of each regular session a written annual report that describes the efforts of the Board to develop, maintain, and continuously improve a comprehensive quality public education system as provided for under the bylaws of the Board.

The report to the Legislature must include:

1. a summary of resolves and rationales provided in support of policy decisions;
2. program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or recommended in meetings; and
3. additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and maintain the public education system.

This bill is intended to create a greater dialogue among Alaska legislators, Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), and the Board of Education which meets at least quarterly. Since Alaska legislators appropriate over \$1 billion per year for state public education which a significant portion of the state budget, they must be at the center of the state's efforts to identify strengths and weaknesses of the current system, help determine a public agenda, set clear goals for K-12 and higher education, and hold institutions accountable for performance. The only way to achieve this is through cooperation and communication with the Board and the Department.

Legislators take great pride and tremendous amounts of time and effort every session in trying to provide the best possible education, scholarships, and funding for Alaska students. The annual report required by this bill will assist both DEED and legislators early in each session in assessing new programs, curriculum changes, goals and priorities which may require more information or administrative and legislative action during session.