

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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## SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Sectional Analysis SB 104

#### **Section 1 AS 14.07.030:**

The Department may not require a school district to review their curriculum more than once in a 10-year period.

#### **Section 2 AS 14.07.165:**

The State Board of Education shall review the math and English Language Arts curricula used throughout the state, every 5 years, to ensure the curricula is still effective and is using best practices.

#### **Section 3 AS 14.07:**

Section 3 requires the State Board of Education and the Department of Education and Early Development to work together to find, review, and test the best available curricula and the best practices for instruction of those math and English/Language Arts curricula. The department may provide incentive payments to school districts that choose to implement the incentivized curricula and best practices. Specifically:

- (a) The Board will establish the standards and procedure to review, rank, and approve curricula for school districts to use in each grade level.
- (b) and (c): The Department will review curricula from Alaska, other states, and other countries and identify the best curricula for each grade level and the best practices for teaching each subject by July 1, 2019. If the identified curricula and best practices meets certain requirements, the department will submit them for review by the board. The requirements are: appropriate, compliance with nondiscrimination standards in state law, aligned with state standards, and result in improved academic achievement.
- (d) The Board may approve of the curricula submitted by the department. If they do so, the Department will then categorize the two curricula as “incentivized” curricula and “designated effective” curricula. The incentivized curricula will be the best available

and will be the curricula used in the pilot program. The designated effective curricula are curricula that the department finds appropriate and effective.

(e) Establishes the three-year pilot program, starting in the 2019-2020 school year, to test the appropriateness and effectiveness of the “incentivized” curricula. Schools can apply to be in the pilot program and will be reviewed and approved of by the Department based on capacity and readiness. The Department shall select five schools, from those that apply, to receive incentive payments to assist with the purchase and implementation of the curricula and best practices. The Department must select districts and their curricula as follows, in order to get a comprehensive view of the best curriculum for all Alaska:

- a. Urban District – math
- b. Rural District – math
- c. Urban District – English Language Arts
- d. Rural District - English Language Arts
- e. Urban or Rural District – math or English Language Arts

The total cost of the three-year pilot program cannot exceed \$10,000,000.

(f) If the pilot program shows that adoption of the incentive curricula is appropriate and effective, the department may make available to all districts the curricula and one-time incentive payments starting in the school year beginning in 2022 and ending in the school year that begins in 2024.

(g) Incentive payments are limited to a school district’s ADM multiplied by 150 and are subject to availability of funding in (h). In order to get an incentive payment, a district must be ready and have the capacity to implement the incentivized curricula and have not previously used the curricula.

(h) Limits the funding available to school districts that adopt the incentivized curriculum, for years 4-6, to \$20,000,000, plus any unexpended money available under (e)(4).

(i) The Department shall publish all curriculum used by all school districts, on the Department’s website. The incentivized curricula and the designated effective curricula, identified by the Board, will also be published on the website.

(j) The Department shall submit an electronic report to the legislature providing information on the pilot program and the curricula that each school district adopts.

(k) Requires school districts to submit the relevant information to the department that is needed for the department to carry out its duties under this section.

(l) All payments for the pilot program and curricula are subject to appropriation. If insufficient funding is available to distribute payments to all school districts that request funding in a year, the department may distribute payments to the remaining school districts the following school year.

- (m) If the applications for participation in the pilot program are insufficient to meet the requirements under (e) of this section, the department may select five school districts from those that apply, taking into consideration geographical diversity.
- (n) Provides for the continuation of incentive payments after the pilot program ends. Incentive payments may go to school districts that use curricula reviewed and approved by the Board under AS 14.07.165(c).
- (o) Defines “rural,” “school district,” “school district’s ADM” and “urban”

#### **AS 14.08.182**

Establishes the curriculum improvement and best practices fund, which consists of an initial \$30,000,000 to fund the first six years of the curricula incentive program. The funds can be spent without further appropriation and do not lapse.

#### **Section 4 AS 14.08.111:**

Conforming language requiring a regional school board to review all textbooks and instructional materials at least once every 10 years.

#### **Section 5 AS 14.14.090:**

Conforming language requiring a school board to review all textbooks and instructional materials at least once every 10 years.

#### **Section 6 AS 14.16.020:**

Conforming language requiring management of state boarding schools to review all textbooks and instructional materials at least once every 10 years.

#### **Section 7 AS 14.30.285:**

The department shall make available to school districts an electronic system for managing student information and tracking records relating to individualized education programs for children with disabilities.

#### **Section 8 Repeals:**

Repeals sub-sections (e), (f), (g), (h), (j), (l), and (m) in AS 14.07.180 that pertain to the pilot program, its incentive payments, and its reporting requirements.

#### **Sec. 9 4 AAC 05.080(e):**

Annuls the regulatory requirement of a local school board having to evaluate their curriculum every 6 years.