

Senate Finance / Department of Education & Early Development Subcommittee

Subcommittee Members: Sen. Kiehl, Sen. Stevens, Sen. Tobin, Sen. Hughes

Narrative Closeout Report April 15, 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Education & Early Development submits the following FY26 recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee:

Fund Group: (dollars are in thousands)	Senate Sub
Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	97,294.7
Designated General Funds	33,463.1
Other Funds	38,886.8
Federal Funds	266,719.0
TOTAL FUNDS	436,363.6

Positions:	
Permanent Full-time	280
Permanent Part Time	13
Temporary	12
TOTAL POSITIONS	305

BUDGET ACTIONS:

Recognizing the constraints on available revenue, the Senate Finance Subcommittee denied requests for General Fund increments.

Department of Education & Early Development Amended Budget Request:

The Subcommittee accepted many items requested in the Governor's Amended budget. These items include:

- 3,000.0 in Higher Education Fund for the Alaska Performance Scholarships
- 1,500.0 in Higher Education Fund for the Alaska Education Grants

Organizational Changes:

The Senate Finance Subcommittee approved all structural changes related to the establishment of new Facilities Operations and Maintenance allocations.

Additional Subcommittee Changes:

The Subcommittee made the following reductions:

- 132.6 UGF reduction in Commissioner's Office travel
- 83.9 UGF reduction to allow one of two proposed new positions in teacher certification.
- 1,200.0 UGF reduction to remove the funding currently spent on Minecraft.

The Subcommittee made the following addition:

- Intent language that the Department shall not increase the size and cost of office space.

Recommendations to the Finance Committee:

- We recommend the full Finance Committee consider funding 250.0 for the highest priority parts of the governor's request for career and technical education, including expanding electrician and plumber training. In combination with base funding added in prior years, this lets the department support CTSOs (210.0,) the Career Guidance Model (340.0,) the Alaska Education Exchange (25.0,) and C-TEPS (250.0)
- We recommend the full Finance Committee consider funding the highest priority portion of the governor's request to support Teacher Recruitment and Retention. The subcommittee recommends: 50.0 to train and coach apprenticeship mentors, 140.0 for a DEED apprenticeship coordinator, and 300.0 to support development of international teacher hiring systems to support district needs.
- We recommend the full Finance Committee considering funding the governor's request for 75.0 for Digital Data Preservation in Libraries, Archives, & Museums.
- We recommend the full Finance Committee add \$500.0 to fund half the fiscal note for National Board Certified Teacher incentive payments under Sec. 2, Chapter 30, SLA 24 (HB 230.)
- The subcommittee received a request to evaluate alternate ways to fund the hunter education grants added in the FY 25 budget. While the subcommittee has no transaction to recommend, we suggest the full Finance Committee look into using Pittman-Robertson funds for 3/4 of the grants.

ATTACHED REPORTS

The Senate Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Education & Early Development adopted the attached Budget Action Report and Wordage Report for the Department of Education & Early Development. This report incorporates agency totals, transaction comparisons for the FY25 Management Plan to the Senate Subcommittee recommendation, FY26 Adjusted Base to the Senate Subcommittee recommendation, and FY26 Governor's Amended Budget to the Senate Subcommittee recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Jesse Kiehl