

Department of Education & Early Development
Office of the Commissioner

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February 2, 2012

The Honorable Bill Stoltze
The Honorable Bill Thomas, Jr.
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Capitol, Room 519
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Co-Chairs Stoltze and Thomas:

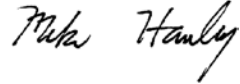
Attached are the responses to questions raised during the department's FY13 department overview in front of House Finance Committee on January 23, 2012. The questions and responses are below.

1. Rep. Doogan - Please provide the Pupil Transportation statute and related formula. Attachment A on email attachment list.
2. Rep. Fairclough - Please provide a list of the AKLN courses. Attachment B on email attachment list.
3. Rep. Gara – Asked if it was true that Head Start has had only one increase in a decade?
 - Head Start GF grant line funding from FY2003 – FY2012 shows two increases in the last decade. Both were added to the base GF budget for Head Start:
 - In FY2009 \$600.0 was added by the Governor in the Governor's Amended budget and enacted.
 - In FY2010 \$600.0 was added by the House/Senate in the Conference Committee budget and enacted.
4. Rep. Costello - How many 3rd graders are reading at grade level?
 - In 2011, 81.5% of 3rd graders were reading at the Advanced or Proficient level on the state's Standards Based Assessments.
5. Rep. Neuman - Is it still correct that around 7-8% of students who begin high school end with a degree.
 - New 2008 reports published in 2010 by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) indicate that only seven of each 100 Alaskan 9th graders will **graduate from high school on time, go directly to college, return for**

their second year, and graduate within 150% of program time. This report is updated biennially based on data from the National Center for Education Statistics, so the next update is due in fall of 2012. This number is the lowest rate of any state in the nation. The national average is 20 students out of each 100.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or if the department can follow-up with members in another way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hanley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Hanley
Commissioner