



# LAWS OF ALASKA

2022

**Source**

SCS HB 114(FIN) am S

**Chapter No.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**AN ACT**

Relating to facilities constituting a school; relating to the powers and duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to public schools and school districts; relating to early education programs; relating to funding for early education programs; relating to school age eligibility; relating to reports by the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to reports by school districts; relating to certification and competency of teachers; relating to screening reading deficiencies and providing reading intervention services to public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; relating to textbooks and materials for reading intervention services; establishing a reading program in the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to the definition of "parent" in education statutes; relating to a virtual education consortium; relating to the education loan program, the Alaska supplemental education loan program, and the teacher education loan program; and providing for an effective date.

\_\_\_\_\_

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1



## **AN ACT**

1 Relating to facilities constituting a school; relating to the powers and duties of the Department  
2 of Education and Early Development; relating to public schools and school districts; relating  
3 to early education programs; relating to funding for early education programs; relating to  
4 school age eligibility; relating to reports by the Department of Education and Early  
5 Development; relating to reports by school districts; relating to certification and competency  
6 of teachers; relating to screening reading deficiencies and providing reading intervention  
7 services to public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; relating to  
8 textbooks and materials for reading intervention services; establishing a reading program in  
9 the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to the definition of "parent" in  
10 education statutes; relating to a virtual education consortium; relating to the education loan  
11 program, the Alaska supplemental education loan program, and the teacher education loan

1 program; and providing for an effective date.

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
4 to read:

5 SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Alaska Reads Act.

6 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.040 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 14.03.040. Day in session.** Each day within the school term is a day in  
8 session except Saturdays, Sundays, and days designated as holidays by or according to  
9 AS 14.03.050. A school board may approve Saturdays as a day in session. The day in  
10 session in every school shall be at least four hours long, exclusive of intermissions, for  
11 the first, second, and third grades and five hours, exclusive of intermissions, for [ALL  
12 OTHER] grades **four through 12**. The commissioner may approve a shorter day in  
13 session for any grade. The period of the day in session shall be devoted to the  
14 instruction of pupils or to study periods for the pupils.

15 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.060(e) is amended to read:

16 (e) In addition to the grades enumerated in (a) of this section, an elementary  
17 school consists of **an early education** [A PRE-ELEMENTARY] program **approved**  
18 **or** supervised by the department under AS 14.07.020(a)(8), **including a program**  
19 operated by **a head start agency** [THE DEPARTMENT] as a head start program  
20 under **42 U.S.C. 9831 - 9852c** [AS 14.38.010, OR LOCATED IN A PUBLIC  
21 SCHOOL FOR FEDERAL FUNDING PURPOSES. EXCEPT FOR A CHILD WITH  
22 A DISABILITY WHO IS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION OR RELATED  
23 SERVICES UNDER AS 14.30.180 - 14.30.350, PRE-ELEMENTARY STUDENTS  
24 MAY NOT BE COUNTED IN A SCHOOL'S AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP  
25 UNDER AS 14.17].

26 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03.060(e), as amended by sec. 3 of this Act, is amended to read:

27 (e) In addition to the grades enumerated in (a) of this section, an elementary  
28 school consists of an early education program [APPROVED OR] supervised by the  
29 department under AS 14.07.020(a)(8), including a program operated by a head start  
30 agency as a head start program under 42 U.S.C. 9831 - 9852c.

1     \* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.03.072(a) is amended to read:

2             (a) Each school district shall annually provide to parents and guardians of  
3             students enrolled in kindergarten through grade three in a public school in the state  
4             current information on the importance of [EARLY] literacy **and early reading**,  
5             including

6                     (1) **culturally responsive** intervention strategies **and reading**  
7                     **intervention services provided under AS 14.30.765**;

8                     (2) home **reading** [LITERACY] plans;

9                     (3) grade **progression** [RETENTION] standards and policies for the  
10             elementary school attended;

11                    (4) strategies and resources to help children learn to read;

12                    (5) **a list of resources and organizations that specialize in**  
13             **improving adult literacy**.

14     \* **Sec. 6.** AS 14.03.072(a), as amended by sec. 5 of this Act, is amended to read:

15             (a) Each school district shall annually provide to parents and guardians of  
16             students enrolled in kindergarten through grade three in a public school in the state  
17             current information on the importance of literacy and early reading, including

18                     (1) culturally responsive intervention strategies [AND READING  
19             INTERVENTION SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER AS 14.30.765];

20                     (2) home reading plans;

21                     (3) grade progression standards and policies for the elementary school  
22             attended;

23                     (4) strategies and resources to help children learn to read;

24                     (5) a list of resources and organizations that specialize in improving  
25             adult literacy.

26     \* **Sec. 7.** AS 14.03.078(a) is amended to read:

27             (a) The department shall provide to the legislature **and school districts** by  
28             February 15 of each year by electronic means an annual report regarding the progress  
29             of each school and school district toward high academic performance by all students.  
30             The report required under this section must include

31                     (1) information described under **AS 14.03.120** [AS 14.03.120(d)];

1 (2) progress of the department  
2 (A) toward implementing the school accountability provisions  
3 of AS 14.03.123; and  
4 (B) in assisting high schools to become accredited;  
5 (3) a description of the resources provided to each school and school  
6 district for coordinated school improvement activities and staff training in each school  
7 and school district;  
8 (4) each school district's and each school's progress in aligning  
9 curriculum with state education performance standards;  
10 (5) a description of the efforts by the department to assist a public  
11 school or district that receives a low performance designation under AS 14.03.123;  
12 (6) a description of intervention efforts by each school district and  
13 school for students who are not meeting state performance standards; [AND]  
14 (7) the number and percentage of turnover in certificated personnel and  
15 superintendents;  
16 **(8) a summary of the categories of certificated administrative**  
17 **employees employed by each school district that includes the ratio of**  
18 **(A) the number of certificated administrative employees in**  
19 **each category employed by each school district compared to the number**  
20 **of students enrolled in the school district on October 1 of the previous**  
21 **year;**  
22 **(B) the total number of certificated administrative**  
23 **employees employed by each school district compared to the total number**  
24 **of teachers employed by the school district on October 1 of the previous**  
25 **year; and**  
26 **(C) the total number of teachers employed by each school**  
27 **district compared to the total number of students enrolled in the school**  
28 **district on October 1 of the previous year;**  
29 **(9) the progress made to implement the reading intervention**  
30 **programs established under AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.780, including data on how**  
31 **school districts are using in-service days for culturally responsive professional**

1        development in reading instruction; and

2                    (10) the effectiveness and participation rates of the parents as  
3        teachers program established under AS 14.03.420, including measures of  
4        efficiency and effectiveness that demonstrate the effects of the program on school  
5        readiness.

6        \* **Sec. 8.** AS 14.03.078(a), as amended by sec. 7 of this Act, is amended to read:

7                    (a) The department shall provide to the legislature and school districts by  
8        February 15 of each year by electronic means an annual report regarding the progress  
9        of each school and school district toward high academic performance by all students.  
10       The report required under this section must include

11                    (1) information described under AS 14.03.120;

12                    (2) progress of the department

13                                (A) toward implementing the school accountability provisions  
14       of AS 14.03.123; and

15                                (B) in assisting high schools to become accredited;

16                    (3) a description of the resources provided to each school and school  
17       district for coordinated school improvement activities and staff training in each school  
18       and school district;

19                    (4) each school district's and each school's progress in aligning  
20       curriculum with state education performance standards;

21                    (5) a description of the efforts by the department to assist a public  
22       school or district that receives a low performance designation under AS 14.03.123;

23                    (6) a description of intervention efforts by each school district and  
24       school for students who are not meeting state performance standards;

25                    (7) the number and percentage of turnover in certificated personnel and  
26       superintendents; **and**

27                    (8) a summary of the categories of certificated administrative  
28       employees employed by each school district that includes the ratio of

29                                (A) the number of certificated administrative employees in  
30       each category employed by each school district compared to the number of  
31       students enrolled in the school district on October 1 of the previous year;

1 (B) the total number of certificated administrative employees  
2 employed by each school district compared to the total number of teachers  
3 employed by the school district on October 1 of the previous year; and

4 (C) the total number of teachers employed by each school  
5 district compared to the total number of students enrolled in the school district  
6 on October 1 of the previous year [;

7 (9) THE PROGRESS MADE TO IMPLEMENT THE READING  
8 INTERVENTION PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED UNDER AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.780,  
9 INCLUDING DATA ON HOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE USING IN-SERVICE  
10 DAYS FOR CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN  
11 READING INSTRUCTION; AND

12 (10) THE EFFECTIVENESS AND PARTICIPATION RATES OF  
13 THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER  
14 AS 14.03.420, INCLUDING MEASURES OF EFFICIENCY AND  
15 EFFECTIVENESS THAT DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTS OF THE PROGRAM  
16 ON SCHOOL READINESS].

17 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 14.03.078 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

18 (c) Each school district shall make available to the public the portion of the  
19 report under (a)(8) of this section that pertains to the school district by posting the  
20 information in a prominent location on the school district's or local community's  
21 Internet website or by another easily accessible method.

22 (d) In this section, "administrative employee" means an employee who does  
23 not provide direct classroom instruction for students as a regular part of the  
24 employee's job.

25 \* **Sec. 10.** AS 14.03.080(c) is amended to read:

26 (c) A child under school age **who is at least four years of age at the**  
27 **beginning of the school year** may be admitted to a public school in the school district  
28 of which the child is a resident at the discretion of the governing body of the school  
29 district if the child meets minimum standards prescribed by the board evidencing that  
30 the child has the mental, physical, and emotional capacity to perform satisfactorily for  
31 the educational program being offered. A district's educational program must prescribe

1       that, except for students in an early education program, under school age students  
2       advance through the curriculum or grade level by the following school year. A  
3       governing body may delegate the authority granted under this subsection to the chief  
4       school administrator of the school district.

5       \* **Sec. 11.** AS 14.03.080(c), as amended by sec. 10 of this Act, is amended to read:

6               (c) A child under school age [WHO IS AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OF AGE  
7       AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR] may be admitted to a public  
8       school in the school district of which the child is a resident at the discretion of the  
9       governing body of the school district if the child meets minimum standards prescribed  
10      by the board evidencing that the child has the mental, physical, and emotional capacity  
11      to perform satisfactorily for the educational program being offered. A district's  
12      educational program must prescribe that [, EXCEPT FOR STUDENTS IN AN  
13      EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM,] under school age students advance through the  
14      curriculum or grade level by the following school year. A governing body may  
15      delegate the authority granted under this subsection to the chief school administrator  
16      of the school district.

17      \* **Sec. 12.** AS 14.03.080 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18              (g) A child who is five years of age on or before September 1 following the  
19      beginning of the school year, and who is under school age, may enter a public school  
20      kindergarten.

21      \* **Sec. 13.** AS 14.03.120 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

22              (h) To the extent allowable under state and federal privacy laws, each district  
23      shall annually report to the department information from the previous school year  
24      regarding

25                      (1) the number of students and teaching staff assigned to each  
26      classroom in grades kindergarten through three;

27                      (2) the number and percentage of students

28                              (A) in grades kindergarten through three who demonstrated  
29      improvement on expected grade-level skills on the statewide screening tool;

30                              (B) in grades kindergarten through three who performed below  
31      expected grade-level skills on the statewide screening tool, by grade;

1 (C) in grades kindergarten through three who did not progress  
2 to the next grade and the reasons the students did not progress;

3 (D) in grade three who demonstrated sufficient reading skills to  
4 progress to grade four based on the statewide screening tool;

5 (E) in grade three who progressed to grade four based on a  
6 waiver under AS 14.30.765(f);

7 (F) in grade three who demonstrated sufficient reading skills to  
8 progress to grade four based on an alternative standardized reading screening;

9 (G) in grade three who demonstrated sufficient reading skills to  
10 progress to grade four based on a student reading portfolio;

11 (3) the performance on the statewide screening tool of students in a  
12 grade above grade three who did not progress to grade four or who progressed to grade  
13 four based on a waiver under AS 14.30.765(f).

14 (i) To the extent allowable under state and federal privacy laws, the  
15 department shall post on the department's Internet website and make available for  
16 download the information reported under this section. The department shall post the  
17 information in a single downloadable comma-separated values file or a similar single  
18 downloadable file that allows data storage in tabular format. The file must include the  
19 comprehensive information about each public school reported under (d) and (e) of this  
20 section in a single list that may be sorted and compared.

21 (j) If the department receives the information required to be reported under  
22 this section from multiple sources, the department shall consolidate the information.  
23 Nothing in this section requires a district to provide duplicate information to the  
24 department in separate documents.

25 \* **Sec. 14.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding new sections to read:

26 **Article 4. Early Education.**

27 **Sec. 14.03.410. Early education programs; grants.** (a) The department shall  
28 provide training and assistance to develop and improve district-wide early education  
29 programs that comply with standards adopted by the board under AS 14.07.165(a)(5).

30 (b) The department may award a grant to provide funding for a three-year  
31 period for the development or improvement of a district-wide early education program

1 to a district that has not received a grant under this section, applies in a format  
2 prescribed by the department, provides the information required under (g) of this  
3 section, and is eligible for a grant as specified under (c) of this section. Unless the  
4 legislature appropriates another amount, total grant funding awarded to districts under  
5 this subsection may not exceed \$3,000,000 in a fiscal year.

6 (c) The department shall rank the performance of each district in the state in  
7 accordance with the accountability system and performance designations required  
8 under AS 14.03.123. When approving grants under (b) of this section, the department  
9 shall prioritize eligible districts with lower performance based on the department's  
10 ranking of districts under this subsection. A district is eligible for a grant if the  
11 department determines an insufficient number of children in the district attend high  
12 quality child care programs, including head start programs, early education programs  
13 provided by a local government, and early education programs provided by child  
14 development agencies, that

15 (1) meet or exceed the standards adopted by the board under  
16 AS 14.07.165(a)(5); and

17 (2) would continue operating after development of a district early  
18 education program.

19 (d) If the department does not approve the early education program of a  
20 district awarded a grant under (b) of this section by the end of the district's three-year  
21 grant period, the department may provide a one-year remediation grant to allow the  
22 district one additional fiscal year to meet the early education program standards  
23 adopted by the board under AS 14.07.165(a)(5). If the district is unable to meet the  
24 early education program standards at the end of that fiscal year, the department may,  
25 in the discretion of the commissioner, provide an additional remediation grant to allow  
26 the district not more than one additional fiscal year to meet the standards. Nothing in  
27 this section prohibits a district from using its own funds to continue the remediation  
28 process.

29 (e) A student in an early education program may not be counted in a district's  
30 ADM under AS 14.17.500 unless the department has approved the program.

31 (f) A grant under this section is subject to appropriation, but may not supplant

1 other early education funding available to districts.

2 (g) Before applying for a grant under (b) of this section, a district shall, to  
3 avoid duplicate programs and facilitate resource sharing to improve early education  
4 within the district, consult with each local and tribal head start program within the  
5 district's boundaries. An application submitted under (b) of this section must include  
6 documentation establishing that the district consulted with each local and tribal head  
7 start program within the district.

8 (h) In this section,

9 (1) "ADM" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990;

10 (2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990;

11 (3) "early education program" means a program, the primary function  
12 of which is educational, for children who are four and five years of age and who have  
13 not attended a public school kindergarten.

14 **Sec. 14.03.420. Parents as teachers program.** (a) The department shall  
15 design and implement a statewide parents as teachers program for the benefit of  
16 children who are under five years of age. The program must provide a system of early  
17 childhood education that

18 (1) is evidence-based;

19 (2) involves parents;

20 (3) is consistent with available research and best practices for high  
21 quality early childhood education;

22 (4) incorporates guidelines adopted by the department for early  
23 learning that

24 (A) enhance school readiness;

25 (B) increase parent understanding of child development and  
26 developmental milestones;

27 (C) reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect;

28 (D) increase identification of health problems and  
29 developmental delays through regular screenings;

30 (E) improve child health indicators, including immunization  
31 rates; and

1 (F) increase parental involvement; and  
2 (5) provides for effective and efficient coordination with or expansion  
3 of early education programs operating in the state, to the extent permitted by law.

4 (b) A school district shall, to the extent space is needed and available, provide  
5 for the use of a room in a school at no charge to support the program established under  
6 this section.

7 (c) The department shall develop and enter into local partnerships to  
8 implement the program established under this section.

9 \* **Sec. 15.** AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) The department shall

11 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state  
12 except the University of Alaska;

13 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,  
14 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school  
15 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement  
16 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to  
17 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college  
18 preparatory courses;

19 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school  
20 governing bodies and personnel;

21 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public  
22 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is  
23 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

24 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social  
25 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in juvenile  
26 detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are defined in  
27 AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

28 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards  
29 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the  
30 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular  
31 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,

1       whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of  
2       the members of each house;

3               (7)   prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire  
4       marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe  
5       conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of  
6       physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for  
7       private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

8               (8)   exercise general supervision over **early education programs**  
9       [PRE-ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS] that receive direct state or federal funding,  
10       **including early education programs provided by a school district for students**  
11       **four and five years of age, approve an early education program provided by a**  
12       **school district that complies with the standards adopted by the board under**  
13       **AS 14.07.165(a)(5), and revoke approval of an early education program if the**  
14       **program does not comply with the standards adopted by the board under**  
15       **AS 14.07.165(a)(5);**

16              (9)   exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary  
17       correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional  
18       educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any  
19       Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

20              (10)  accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet  
21       accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this  
22       paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be  
23       licensed;

24              (11)  review plans for construction of new public elementary and  
25       secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public  
26       elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the  
27       department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school  
28       construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"  
29       include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption  
30       and costs, and final contract documents;

31              (12)  provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational

1 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who  
2 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor  
3 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that  
4 will lead to employment opportunities;

5 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

6 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a  
7 school bus driver training course;

8 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary  
9 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent  
10 behavior;

11 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,  
12 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional  
13 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

14 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies  
15 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

16 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in  
17 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three  
18 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent  
19 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language  
20 arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

21 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for  
22 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

23 (17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over  
24 education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or  
25 redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

26 **(18) establish a reading program to provide direct support for and**  
27 **intervention in the reading intervention programs of participating schools as**  
28 **described in AS 14.30.765 and 14.30.770;**

29 **(19) annually convene, either in person or electronically, a panel to**  
30 **review and comment on the effectiveness of the programs created by the**  
31 **department and the regulations adopted by the board to implement AS 14.03.410,**

1 14.03.420, AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.770, and 14.30.800; the panel

2 (A) shall provide recommendations and guidance to the  
3 board, the department, and the legislature on how to integrate early  
4 education and reading programs created under this title with tribal  
5 compacting or programs focused on cultural education within the  
6 department;

7 (B) shall discuss support for reading in Alaska Native  
8 languages and other non-English languages;

9 (C) must collectively represent the regions of the state and  
10 include teachers of grades kindergarten through three, school  
11 administrators, parents of students in grades kindergarten through three,  
12 stakeholders from indigenous language immersion programs,  
13 representatives from early education stakeholder groups, and researchers  
14 of best practices for improving literacy performance, including best  
15 practices for instruction of indigenous students and students whose first  
16 language is not English.

17 \* Sec. 16. AS 14.07.020(a), as amended by sec. 15 of this Act, is amended to read:

18 (a) The department shall

19 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state  
20 except the University of Alaska;

21 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,  
22 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school  
23 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement  
24 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to  
25 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college  
26 preparatory courses;

27 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school  
28 governing bodies and personnel;

29 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public  
30 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is  
31 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

1 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social  
2 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in juvenile  
3 detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are defined in  
4 AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

5 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards  
6 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the  
7 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular  
8 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,  
9 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of  
10 the members of each house;

11 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire  
12 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe  
13 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of  
14 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for  
15 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

16 (8) exercise general supervision over early education programs that  
17 receive direct state or federal funding, including early education programs provided by  
18 a school district for students four and five years of age [, APPROVE AN EARLY  
19 EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT  
20 COMPLIES WITH THE STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER  
21 AS 14.07.165(a)(5), AND REVOKE APPROVAL OF AN EARLY EDUCATION  
22 PROGRAM IF THE PROGRAM DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS  
23 ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER AS 14.07.165(a)(5)];

24 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary  
25 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional  
26 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any  
27 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

28 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet  
29 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this  
30 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be  
31 licensed;

1                   (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and  
2 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public  
3 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the  
4 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school  
5 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"  
6 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption  
7 and costs, and final contract documents;

8                   (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational  
9 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who  
10 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor  
11 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that  
12 will lead to employment opportunities;

13                   (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

14                   (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a  
15 school bus driver training course;

16                   (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary  
17 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent  
18 behavior;

19                   (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,  
20 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional  
21 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

22                           (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies  
23 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

24                           (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in  
25 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three  
26 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent  
27 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language  
28 arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

29                           (C) a process for districts to petition the department for  
30 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

31                   (17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over

1 education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or  
2 redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15) [;

3 (18) ESTABLISH A READING PROGRAM TO PROVIDE DIRECT  
4 SUPPORT FOR AND INTERVENTION IN THE READING INTERVENTION  
5 PROGRAMS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AS DESCRIBED IN AS 14.30.765  
6 AND 14.30.770;

7 (19) ANNUALLY CONVENE, EITHER IN PERSON OR  
8 ELECTRONICALLY, A PANEL TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE  
9 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAMS CREATED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
10 AND THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD TO IMPLEMENT  
11 AS 14.03.410, 14.03.420, AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.770, AND 14.30.800; THE PANEL

12 (A) SHALL PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
13 GUIDANCE TO THE BOARD, THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE  
14 LEGISLATURE ON HOW TO INTEGRATE EARLY EDUCATION AND  
15 READING PROGRAMS CREATED UNDER THIS TITLE WITH TRIBAL  
16 COMPACTING OR PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON CULTURAL  
17 EDUCATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT;

18 (B) SHALL DISCUSS SUPPORT FOR READING IN  
19 ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AND OTHER NON-ENGLISH  
20 LANGUAGES;

21 (C) MUST COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT THE REGIONS  
22 OF THE STATE AND INCLUDE TEACHERS OF GRADES  
23 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THREE, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS,  
24 PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH  
25 THREE, STAKEHOLDERS FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE  
26 IMMERSION PROGRAMS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM EARLY  
27 EDUCATION STAKEHOLDER GROUPS, AND RESEARCHERS OF BEST  
28 PRACTICES FOR IMPROVING LITERACY PERFORMANCE,  
29 INCLUDING BEST PRACTICES FOR INSTRUCTION OF INDIGENOUS  
30 STUDENTS AND STUDENTS WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT  
31 ENGLISH].

1     \* **Sec. 17.** AS 14.07.020(c) is amended to read:

2                     (c) In this section, **"early education program"** ["PRE-ELEMENTARY  
3             SCHOOL"] means a **program** [SCHOOL] for children ages three through five years if  
4             the **program's** [SCHOOL'S] primary function is educational.

5     \* **Sec. 18.** AS 14.07.030(a) is amended to read:

6                     (a) The department may

7                             (1) establish, maintain, govern, operate, discontinue, and combine area,  
8             regional, and special schools;

9                             (2) enter into contractual agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs  
10             or with a school district to share boarding costs of secondary school students;

11                            (3) provide for citizenship night schools when and where expedient;

12                            (4) provide for the sale or other disposition of abandoned or obsolete  
13             buildings and other state-owned school property;

14                            (5) prescribe a classification for items of expense of school districts;

15                            (6) acquire and transfer personal property, acquire real property, and  
16             transfer real property to federal agencies, state agencies, or to political subdivisions;

17                            (7) enter into contractual agreements with school districts to provide  
18             more efficient or economical education services; reasonable fees may be charged by  
19             the department to cover the costs of providing services under an agreement, including  
20             costs for professional services, reproduction or printing, and mailing and distribution  
21             of educational materials;

22                            (8) provide for the issuance of elementary and secondary diplomas to  
23             persons not in school who have completed the equivalent of an 8th or 12th grade  
24             education, respectively, in accordance with standards established by the department;

25                            (9) apply for, accept, and spend endowments, grants, and other private  
26             money available to the state for educational purposes in accordance with AS 37.07  
27             (Executive Budget Act);

28                            (10) set student tuition and fees for educational and extracurricular  
29             programs and services provided and schools operated by the department under the  
30             provisions of (1) of this section and AS 14.07.020(a)(9), (11), and (12);

31                            (11) charge fees to cover the costs of care and handling with respect to

1 the acquisition, warehousing, distribution, or transfer of donated foods;

2 (12) establish and collect fees for the rental of school facilities and for  
3 other programs and services provided by the schools;

4 (13) develop a model curriculum and provide technical assistance for  
5 early childhood education programs;

6 (14) notwithstanding any other provision of this title, intervene in a  
7 school district to improve instructional practices under standards established by the  
8 department in regulation, including directing the

9 (A) employees identified by the department to exercise  
10 supervisory authority for instructional practices in the district or in a specified  
11 school;

12 (B) use of appropriations under this title for distribution to a  
13 district;

14 (15) notwithstanding any other provision of this title, redirect public  
15 school funding under AS 14.17 appropriated for distribution to a school district, after  
16 providing notice to the district and an opportunity for the district to respond, [WHEN]

17 (A) **when** necessary to contract for services to improve  
18 instructional practices in the district; [OR]

19 (B) **when** the district has failed to take an action required by  
20 the department to improve instructional practices in the district; if funding is  
21 redirected under this subparagraph, the department shall provide the redirected  
22 funding to the district when the department has determined that the required  
23 action is satisfactorily completed; **or**

24 **(C) in accordance with AS 14.07.070, when the district has**  
25 **failed to comply with the school laws of the state or with the regulations**  
26 **adopted by the department.**

27 \* Sec. 19. AS 14.07.050 is amended to read:

28 **Sec. 14.07.050. Selection of textbooks.** Textbooks for use in the public  
29 schools of the state, including a **district-offered** [DISTRICT OFFERED] statewide  
30 correspondence study program, shall be selected by district boards for district schools.  
31 Nothing in this section precludes

1                   **(1)** a correspondence study student, or the parent or guardian of a  
2 correspondence study student, from privately obtaining or using textbooks or  
3 curriculum material not provided by the school district;

4                   **(2) the department from selecting and purchasing supplementary**  
5 **reading textbooks and materials for school districts to support reading**  
6 **intervention services provided under AS 14.30.765 and 14.30.770.**

7       \* **Sec. 20.** AS 14.07.050, as amended by sec. 19 of this Act, is amended to read:

8                   **Sec. 14.07.050. Selection of textbooks.** Textbooks for use in the public  
9 schools of the state, including a district-offered statewide correspondence study  
10 program, shall be selected by district boards for district schools. Nothing in this  
11 section precludes

12                   [(1)] a correspondence study student, or the parent or guardian of a  
13 correspondence study student, from privately obtaining or using textbooks or  
14 curriculum material not provided by the school district [;

15                   (2) THE DEPARTMENT FROM SELECTING AND PURCHASING  
16 SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS FOR SCHOOL  
17 DISTRICTS TO SUPPORT READING INTERVENTION SERVICES PROVIDED  
18 UNDER AS 14.30.765 AND 14.30.770].

19       \* **Sec. 21.** AS 14.07.165(a) is amended to read:

20                   (a) The board shall adopt

21                   (1) statewide goals and require each governing body to adopt written  
22 goals that are consistent with local needs;

23                   (2) regulations regarding the application for and award of grants under  
24 AS 14.03.125;

25                   (3) regulations implementing provisions of AS 14.11.014(b);

26                   (4) regulations requiring approval by the board before a charter school,  
27 state boarding school, or a public school may provide domiciliary services;

28                   (5) **regulations establishing standards for an early education**  
29 **program provided by a school district for children who are four and five years of**  
30 **age; the regulations must include**

31                   **(A) standards for a locally designed, evidence-based**

1 program that meets Head Start Program Performance Standards and  
2 other federal standards required for early education programs to receive  
3 federal funding;

4 (B) a requirement that a teacher in charge of a program  
5 hold a valid teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20 and

6 (i) have satisfactorily completed a minimum of six  
7 credit hours in early childhood education or complete the  
8 minimum credit hours within two years of the date the teacher's  
9 employment with the early education program begins; or

10 (ii) have two or more years of experience teaching  
11 kindergarten or another early education program and have  
12 completed additional coursework related to reading instruction, as  
13 required by the department;

14 (C) developmentally appropriate objectives for children  
15 four and five years of age rather than academic standards appropriate for  
16 older children; the objectives must allow school districts to adapt the  
17 content of an early education program to be culturally responsive to local  
18 communities;

19 (D) accommodations for the needs of all early education  
20 children and their families regardless of socioeconomic circumstances;  
21 and

22 (E) standards for day in session requirements appropriate  
23 for children four and five years of age;

24 (6) regulations establishing standards for day in session  
25 requirements appropriate for kindergarten students [REPEALED].

26 \* Sec. 22. AS 14.07.168 is amended to read:

27 **Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature.** Not later than the 30th legislative  
28 day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present in  
29 person to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual  
30 report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously  
31 improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the

1 bylaws of the board. The report must include

2 (1) a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of  
3 policy decisions made under AS 14.03.015;

4 (2) program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or  
5 recommended in meetings held under AS 14.07.125;

6 (3) additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and  
7 maintain the public education system;

8 **(4) a summary of implementation and utilization of the consortium**  
9 **established under AS 14.30.800, including a review of consortium effectiveness**  
10 **and the participation rates of districts, teachers, and students.**

11 \* **Sec. 23.** AS 14.07.168, as amended by sec. 22 of this Act, is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature.** Not later than the 30th legislative  
13 day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present in  
14 person to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual  
15 report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously  
16 improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the  
17 bylaws of the board. The report must include

18 (1) a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of  
19 policy decisions made under AS 14.03.015;

20 (2) program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or  
21 recommended in meetings held under AS 14.07.125;

22 (3) additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and  
23 maintain the public education system [;

24 (4) A SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION AND UTILIZATION  
25 OF THE CONSORTIUM ESTABLISHED UNDER AS 14.30.800, INCLUDING A  
26 REVIEW OF CONSORTIUM EFFECTIVENESS AND THE PARTICIPATION  
27 RATES OF DISTRICTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS].

28 \* **Sec. 24.** AS 14.07.180(a) is amended to read:

29 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board shall establish  
30 standards and a procedure for the review, ranking, and approval of mathematics and  
31 English and language arts curricula for school districts to use in each grade level as

provided in this section. The board may include curricula delivered through virtual education in the standards and procedure established under this subsection. **Standards established for the review, ranking, and approval of language arts curricula for early education programs and grades kindergarten through three must be based on phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, oral language skills, and reading comprehension.**

\* **Sec. 25.** AS 14.14.115(a) is amended to read:

(a) To encourage cooperative arrangements between school districts **and between school districts and private businesses, nonprofit organizations, or government agencies** to provide more efficient or economical administrative or educational services, a school district may receive a one-time cooperative arrangement grant from the department of up to \$100,000. **The department shall ensure that grant funds provided to districts under this section do not provide direct benefit to private educational institutions.**

\* **Sec. 26.** AS 14.17.470 is amended to read:

**Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is **\$5,960** [\$5,930].

\* **Sec. 27.** AS 14.17.500 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(d) Except as provided in (e) - (g) of this section, a student in a district-wide early education program provided by a school district and approved by the department under AS 14.07.020(a)(8) is counted as one-half of a full-time equivalent student.

(e) A school district may not include in a school's ADM students who are four and five years of age if the students are enrolled in an early education program that receives state or federal funding other than funding under this chapter.

(f) A school district may not include in a school's ADM students who are four and five years of age if inclusion of the students would result in an increase of total state aid attributable to district-wide early education programs approved under AS 14.03.410 of more than \$3,000,000 from the previous fiscal year. The department shall prioritize the funding of district-wide early education programs, giving priority to school districts with lower performance, based on the department's ranking of districts under AS 14.03.410(c). When the number of students in a district-wide early

1 education program will result in an increase of total state aid attributable to district-  
2 wide early education programs approved under AS 14.03.410 of more than \$3,000,000  
3 from the previous fiscal year, the department may identify the amount, up to  
4 \$3,000,000, available for the district's district-wide early education program.

5 (g) For purposes of AS 14.09.010, a student in a district-wide early education  
6 program provided by a school district and approved by the department under  
7 AS 14.07.020(a)(8) is counted as a full-time equivalent student.

8 \* **Sec. 28.** AS 14.17.500(d), enacted by sec. 27 of this Act, is amended to read:

9 (d) **A school district may not include in the school's ADM** [EXCEPT AS  
10 PROVIDED IN (e) - (g) OF THIS SECTION,] a student in a district-wide early  
11 education program provided by **the** [A SCHOOL] district [AND APPROVED BY  
12 THE DEPARTMENT UNDER AS 14.07.020(a)(8) IS COUNTED AS ONE-HALF  
13 OF A FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT].

14 \* **Sec. 29.** AS 14.17.905(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) For purposes of this chapter, the determination of the number of schools in  
16 a district is subject to the following:

17 (1) a community with an ADM of at least 10, but not more than 100,  
18 shall be counted as one school;

19 (2) a community with an ADM of at least 101, but not more than 425,  
20 shall be counted as

21 (A) one elementary school, which includes those students in  
22 grades kindergarten through six **and, except as provided in AS 14.17.500, in**  
23 **an early education program provided by a school district and approved by**  
24 **the department under AS 14.07.020(a)(8)**; and

25 (B) one secondary school, which includes students in grades  
26 seven through 12;

27 (3) in a community with an ADM of greater than 425, each facility that  
28 is administered as a separate school shall be counted as one school, except that each  
29 alternative school with an ADM of less than 175 shall be counted as a part of the  
30 school in the district with the highest ADM.

31 \* **Sec. 30.** AS 14.17.905(a), as amended by sec. 29 of this Act, is amended to read:

1 (a) For purposes of this chapter, the determination of the number of schools in  
2 a district is subject to the following:

3 (1) a community with an ADM of at least 10, but not more than 100,  
4 shall be counted as one school;

5 (2) a community with an ADM of at least 101, but not more than 425,  
6 shall be counted as

7 (A) one elementary school, which includes those students in  
8 grades kindergarten through six [AND, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN  
9 AS 14.17.500, IN AN EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDED BY A  
10 SCHOOL DISTRICT AND APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER  
11 AS 14.07.020(a)(8)]; and

12 (B) one secondary school, which includes students in grades  
13 seven through 12;

14 (3) in a community with an ADM of greater than 425, each facility that  
15 is administered as a separate school shall be counted as one school, except that each  
16 alternative school with an ADM of less than 175 shall be counted as a part of the  
17 school in the district with the highest ADM.

18 \* **Sec. 31.** AS 14.17.905(c) is amended to read:

19 (c) Notwithstanding (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section, in a community with an  
20 ADM of greater than 425 that has only one facility administered as a school,  
21 **excluding charter schools,** for students in grades kindergarten through 12, the  
22 number of schools for the community shall be counted under (a)(2) of this section.

23 \* **Sec. 32.** AS 14.20.015(c) is amended to read:

24 (c) The preliminary teacher certificate issued under this section must contain  
25 the same endorsements as those on the current valid teacher certificate issued by the  
26 other state. **However, before teaching students in grades kindergarten through**  
27 **three, a teacher certificated under this section must complete coursework,**  
28 **training, or testing requirements, and demonstrate proficiency as determined by**  
29 **the department, in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development,**  
30 **reading fluency, oral language skills, and reading comprehension approved by**  
31 **the board in regulation. A teacher may apply coursework, training, or testing**

1        requirements completed under this subsection toward continuing education  
2        requirements established by the board in regulation.

3        \* **Sec. 33.** AS 14.20.015(c), as amended by sec. 32 of this Act, is amended to read:

4                (c) The preliminary teacher certificate issued under this section must contain  
5        the same endorsements as those on the current valid teacher certificate issued by the  
6        other state. [HOWEVER, BEFORE TEACHING STUDENTS IN GRADES  
7        KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THREE, A TEACHER CERTIFICATED UNDER  
8        THIS SECTION MUST COMPLETE COURSEWORK, TRAINING, OR TESTING  
9        REQUIREMENTS IN PHONEMIC AWARENESS, PHONICS, VOCABULARY  
10       DEVELOPMENT, READING FLUENCY, ORAL LANGUAGE SKILLS, AND  
11       READING COMPREHENSION APPROVED BY THE BOARD IN REGULATION.  
12       A TEACHER MAY APPLY COURSEWORK, TRAINING, OR TESTING  
13       REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TOWARD  
14       CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE  
15       BOARD IN REGULATION.]

16       \* **Sec. 34.** AS 14.20.020(i) is amended to read:

17                (i) A [BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 1998, A] person is not eligible for an initial  
18       regular teacher certificate unless the person has taken and successfully completed a  
19       competency examination or examinations designated, at the time the person took the  
20       test, by the board. The board shall review nationally recognized examinations that are  
21       designed to test the competency of new teachers and shall designate those  
22       examinations that it finds adequately test the skills and abilities of new teachers. For  
23       each examination designated under this subsection, the board shall establish the  
24       minimum acceptable level of performance, including a passing score. The board  
25       shall reevaluate the passing score for a competency examination at least once  
26       every five years and shall review each examination designated by the board at  
27       least once every three years. The board shall prioritize the review of those  
28       examinations for which the minimum passing score deviates the most from the  
29       mean passing score adopted by other jurisdictions. When reevaluating a passing  
30       score for a competency examination, the board shall consider the historical effect  
31       of the established passing score, the potential effect of changing the passing score,

1 and the passing score currently used for the examination by other jurisdictions.  
2 The board may allow a teacher who passed a comparable competency  
3 examination required by another jurisdiction to use a score from the other  
4 jurisdiction to satisfy the competency examination requirements under this  
5 subsection. The board shall adopt regulations to implement this subsection. A  
6 regulation that changes the passing score on a competency examination takes  
7 effect on the date that is one year after the date the board adopts the regulation,  
8 or a later date prescribed by the board. In this subsection, "competency  
9 examination" includes a basic competency examination with components in  
10 reading, writing, and mathematics and a subject area examination that is specific  
11 to the subject area in which the teacher will be teaching.

12 \* **Sec. 35.** AS 14.20.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 (l) Before teaching students in grades kindergarten through three, a teacher  
14 certificated under this section must complete coursework, training, or testing  
15 requirements in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading  
16 fluency, oral language skills, and reading comprehension approved by the board in  
17 regulation. A teacher may apply coursework, training, or testing requirements  
18 completed under this subsection toward continuing education requirements established  
19 by the board in regulation.

20 \* **Sec. 36.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

21 **Article 15. Reading Intervention.**

22 **Sec. 14.30.760. Statewide screening and support.** (a) To implement the  
23 district reading intervention services established under AS 14.30.765, the department  
24 shall

25 (1) adopt a statewide screening tool to administer to students in grades  
26 kindergarten through three to identify students with reading deficiencies, including  
27 students with characteristics of dyslexia; the screening tool must evaluate

28 (A) phonemic awareness, letter naming fluency, letter sound  
29 fluency, and letter word sound fluency of students in kindergarten;

30 (B) letter word sound fluency and oral reading fluency of  
31 students in grade one;

1 (C) vocabulary and oral reading fluency of students in grades  
2 two and three;

3 (2) support teachers of grades kindergarten through three by

4 (A) administering the statewide screening tool three times each  
5 school year, once in the fall, once in the winter, and once in the spring, to all  
6 students in grades kindergarten through three, with the exception of students  
7 who demonstrate sufficient reading skills on the first screening of the school  
8 year;

9 (B) providing methods to monitor student progress;

10 (C) providing targeted instruction based on student needs as  
11 determined by the results of the screening tool; and

12 (D) providing additional assistance as determined by the  
13 department;

14 (3) provide training to school district staff related to using the results  
15 of the statewide screening tool and understanding evidence-based reading  
16 interventions, including explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness,  
17 phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, oral language skills, and reading  
18 comprehension;

19 (4) require that districts identify the early education programs attended  
20 by students and report to the department the average score on each performance  
21 screening tool by students in grades kindergarten through three who

22 (A) attended a state-approved early education program;

23 (B) attended a head start program;

24 (C) attended a private early education program;

25 (D) did not attend an early education program;

26 (5) establish a process that allows the commissioner to waive, upon  
27 request, use of the statewide screening tool required under this subsection by a school  
28 district if the school district has adopted an evidence-based reading screening tool and  
29 the screening tool is approved by the department;

30 (6) review, approve, and assist districts developing alternative  
31 standardized reading screening tools in any language for use by school districts.

1 (b) In adopting a statewide screening tool under (a)(1) of this section, the  
2 department shall consider the following factors:

3 (1) the amount of time needed to administer the screening with the  
4 intention of minimizing effects on instructional time;

5 (2) the time frame for reporting screening results to teachers,  
6 administrators, and parents or guardians;

7 (3) the integration of the screening with student instruction and  
8 department support;

9 (4) recommendations from a task force, working group, or committee  
10 created by law and charged with studying issues related to reading proficiency and  
11 reading deficiencies; and

12 (5) whether the screening tool is culturally responsive.

13 **Sec. 14.30.765. Reading intervention services and strategies; progression.**

14 (a) Each school district shall offer intensive reading intervention services to students  
15 in grades kindergarten through three who exhibit a reading deficiency to assist  
16 students in achieving reading proficiency at or above grade level by the end of grade  
17 three. The district shall provide the intensive reading intervention services in addition  
18 to the core reading instruction that is provided to all students in the general education  
19 classroom. The intensive reading intervention services must, to the extent practicable,

20 (1) be provided by a district reading teacher, or paraprofessional under  
21 the supervision of a reading teacher, to all students in grades kindergarten through  
22 three who are determined to have a reading deficiency based on the statewide  
23 screening tool adopted under AS 14.30.760(a)(1);

24 (2) provide explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness,  
25 phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, oral language skills, and reading  
26 comprehension, as necessary;

27 (3) use evidence-based reading intervention methods that have shown  
28 proven results in accelerating student reading achievement within a single school year;

29 (4) include instruction with detailed explanations, extensive  
30 opportunities for guided practice, and opportunities for error correction and feedback;

31 (5) incorporate daily targeted small group reading instruction based on

1 student needs, either in person or online;

2 (6) monitor the reading progress of each student's reading skills  
3 throughout the school year and adjust instruction according to student needs;

4 (7) be implemented during regular school hours through any available  
5 method, including in person or through online delivery by teachers or specialty  
6 reading coaches;

7 (8) be implemented outside of regular school hours, as directed in the  
8 student's individual reading improvement plan under (b) of this section, for a student  
9 who scores at the lowest achievement level on the statewide screening tool;

10 (9) be reviewed based on a department-approved response to  
11 intervention or multi-tiered system support models, addressing additional support and  
12 services needed to remedy identified needs; and

13 (10) support reading intervention at home by parents or guardians by  
14 offering a list of adult literacy resources and organizations, providing opportunities for  
15 parent or guardian participation in training workshops, and encouraging regular parent  
16 or guardian-guided home reading activities.

17 (b) In addition to the reading intervention services provided under (a) of this  
18 section, a school district shall provide an individual reading improvement plan for  
19 each student in grades kindergarten through three who is determined to have a reading  
20 deficiency based on the statewide screening tool. An individual reading improvement  
21 plan developed under this section must

22 (1) be implemented not later than 30 days after identification of the  
23 reading deficiency;

24 (2) be created by the student's reading teacher in consultation with the  
25 school principal, the student's parent or guardian, and other pertinent district staff;

26 (3) describe the evidence-based reading intervention services the  
27 student will receive to achieve and demonstrate sufficient reading skills;

28 (4) provide reading intervention services outside of regular school  
29 hours for a student who scores at the lowest achievement level on the statewide  
30 screening tool consistent with (a)(8) of this section;

31 (5) include a process for monitoring progress and adjusting the plan

1 based on student needs;

2 (6) provide to the student's parent or guardian at least 10 reading  
3 progress updates each school year;

4 (7) be culturally responsive; and

5 (8) support the student reading at home with a parent or guardian by  
6 offering a list of adult literacy resources and organizations, providing opportunities for  
7 parent or guardian participation in training workshops, and encouraging regular parent  
8 or guardian-guided home reading activities.

9 (c) If at any time during the school year a student in grades kindergarten  
10 through three demonstrates a reading deficiency, the district or school shall notify the  
11 student's parent or guardian. The initial notification must

12 (1) be provided to the student's parent or guardian not later than 15  
13 days after identification of the reading deficiency;

14 (2) state that the district identified the student as having a reading  
15 deficiency and that a reading improvement plan will be developed under (b) of this  
16 section;

17 (3) describe current services that the district is providing to the student;

18 (4) describe the proposed evidence-based reading intervention and  
19 supplemental instructional services and supports that the district will provide to the  
20 student to improve the identified area of reading deficiency;

21 (5) explain that the district or school will inform the parent or guardian  
22 orally or in writing, as selected by the parent or guardian, of the student's progress  
23 toward grade level reading as outlined in the student's individual reading improvement  
24 plan;

25 (6) identify strategies for the parent or guardian to use at home to help  
26 the student succeed in reading;

27 (7) explain that if the student has a reading deficiency at the end of the  
28 school year and is in grades kindergarten through two, the student's progression may  
29 be delayed unless the student has previously not progressed to the next grade;

30 (8) explain that a student in grade three should demonstrate sufficient  
31 reading skills to progress to grade four under (e) of this section, unless the student

1 receives a waiver under (f) of this section or has previously not progressed to the next  
2 grade;

3 (9) explain the process and deadline to request a waiver under (f) of  
4 this section; and

5 (10) identify mid-year progression as an option for students who do  
6 not progress to the next grade.

7 (d) If it is determined, based on a statewide screening administered in the  
8 spring, that a student in grades kindergarten through two has a reading deficiency, the  
9 student's teacher and other pertinent district staff shall notify and attempt to meet with  
10 the student's parent or guardian to explain that the student will not be able to maintain  
11 adequate academic progress at the next grade level. School staff shall work with the  
12 parent or guardian to schedule a date, time, and place for the meeting, to be held not  
13 later than 45 days before the end of the school year. Following that meeting, the parent  
14 or guardian shall determine whether the student will progress to the next grade. If no  
15 parent or guardian attends the meeting or if the parent or guardian does not determine  
16 whether the student will progress to the next grade, the superintendent or the  
17 superintendent's designee shall, after considering the student's best interest and  
18 whether the student has previously not progressed to the next grade, determine  
19 whether the student will progress to the next grade.

20 (e) A student in grade three should demonstrate sufficient reading skills to  
21 progress to grade four. A student demonstrates sufficient reading skills to progress to  
22 grade four by

23 (1) scoring at grade level or higher on the statewide screening tool or  
24 on the statewide summative assessment;

25 (2) achieving an acceptable score on an alternative standardized  
26 reading screening as determined and approved by the department; or

27 (3) demonstrating mastery of reading standards through a student  
28 reading portfolio based on criteria established by the department.

29 (f) If it is determined, based on a statewide screening administered in the  
30 spring, that a student in grade three has a reading deficiency, and the student does not  
31 demonstrate sufficient reading skills to progress to grade four under (e) of this section,

1 the student's teacher and other pertinent district staff shall notify and attempt to meet  
2 with the student's parent or guardian to explain that the student is not prepared to  
3 progress to grade four. School staff shall work with the parent or guardian to schedule  
4 a date, time, and place for the meeting, to be held not later than 45 days before the end  
5 of the school year. Following that meeting, the parent or guardian may decide that the  
6 student will not progress to grade four or decide to progress the student to grade four  
7 by signing a waiver developed by the department acknowledging that the student is  
8 not prepared and agreeing that the student will participate in an additional 20 hours of  
9 individual reading improvement plan intervention services during the summer before  
10 the student enters grade four. If no parent or guardian attends the meeting or if the  
11 parent or guardian does not determine whether the student will progress to the next  
12 grade, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall, after considering the  
13 student's best interests and whether the student has previously not progressed to the  
14 next grade, determine whether the student will progress to grade four.

15 (g) A superintendent or superintendent's designee may exempt a student from  
16 delayed progression when progression is in the student's best interests. When  
17 determining if progression is in a student's best interests, the superintendent or  
18 superintendent's designee shall consider whether

19 (1) the student has received intensive reading intervention services for  
20 two or more years and still demonstrates a reading deficiency;

21 (2) the student's primary language is a language other than English;  
22 and

23 (3) the student has a disability and has an individualized education  
24 plan under AS 14.30.278 or a plan under 29 U.S.C. 794.

25 (h) If no parent or guardian attends the meeting, and a superintendent or  
26 superintendent's designee decides that a student in grades kindergarten through three  
27 will not progress to the next grade under (d) or (f) of this section, the district or school  
28 in which the student is enrolled shall provide immediate oral and written notification  
29 to the student's parent or guardian. The written notification must explain that the  
30 parent or guardian may reschedule the meeting provided under (d) or (f) of this section  
31 and that during a meeting

1 (1) for a student in grades kindergarten through two, the parent or  
2 guardian may decide to progress the student; and

3 (2) for a student in grade three, the parent or guardian may decide to  
4 progress the student to grade four by signing a waiver under (f) of this section.

5 (i) For a student who does not progress to the next grade under (d) or (f) of  
6 this section, or who progresses to the next grade with a waiver under (f) of this  
7 section, the district in which the student is enrolled shall

8 (1) review the student's individual reading improvement plan;

9 (2) provide intensive reading intervention services to improve the area  
10 of reading deficiency using effective instructional strategies to accelerate student  
11 progress;

12 (3) provide additional services and support to improve the student's  
13 identified area of reading deficiency, including

14 (A) a transitional instructional setting that is designed to  
15 produce learning gains;

16 (B) supplemental tutoring offered by a person with specialized  
17 reading training;

18 (C) an increase in time dedicated to the reading instruction  
19 methods described in (a)(3) - (5) of this section, including more extensive  
20 opportunities for guided practice and error correction and feedback;

21 (4) develop a plan for reading at home outlined in an agreement with  
22 the student's parent or guardian, including parent or guardian participation in training  
23 workshops and regular parent or guardian-guided home reading activities.

24 (j) For a student who does not progress to grade one, grade two, or grade three  
25 under (d) of this section, the district in which the student is enrolled shall, upon  
26 request by the student's parent or guardian, develop a plan for the student's mid-year  
27 progression.

28 (k) A school district shall adopt a policy providing for mid-year progression of  
29 a student who does not progress to grade four under (f) of this section if the student

30 (1) demonstrates sufficient reading skills to progress to grade four on  
31 the fall or winter statewide screening; and

1 (2) meets additional requirements determined by the district, including  
2 satisfactory achievement in other subject areas.

3 (l) A district shall, for the remainder of the academic year, and, if necessary,  
4 for additional school years, continue to implement an individual reading improvement  
5 plan for a student promoted mid-year under (j) or (k) of this section.

6 (m) Unless a parent or guardian decides that a student will not progress to the  
7 next grade under (d) or (f) of this section, a district or school may not delay the  
8 student's progression under this section if the student previously did not progress to  
9 the next grade.

10 (n) In this section, "reading teacher" means a teacher who

11 (1) holds a valid teacher certificate under AS 14.20;

12 (2) has demonstrated effectiveness in instructing students to read at or  
13 above grade level as measured by student reading performance data and in teacher  
14 performance evaluations; and

15 (3) meets the requirements established by the state Board of Education  
16 and Early Development in regulation.

17 **Sec. 14.30.770. Department reading program.** (a) The department shall  
18 establish a reading program to provide direct support for and intervention in intensive  
19 reading intervention services annually in the lowest-performing 25 percent of schools  
20 serving students in grades kindergarten through three as determined under  
21 AS 14.03.123. The department shall determine how many schools may be adequately  
22 served by the department's reading specialists and select schools from the lowest-  
23 performing 25 percent of schools to participate in the reading program. A school  
24 participating in the reading program that remains in the lowest-performing 25 percent  
25 of schools as determined under AS 14.03.123 may apply to participate in the reading  
26 program again in the following school year. State funding provided to participating  
27 schools for implementation of the reading program is in addition to the amount of  
28 funding provided under AS 14.17. In conducting the program, the department shall

29 (1) use the accountability system established in AS 14.03.123 to  
30 identify low performing schools;

31 (2) establish an application process for school districts to apply to

1 participate in the program;

2 (3) select low performing schools from the schools that apply to  
3 participate in the program;

4 (4) employ and assign reading specialists to direct the implementation  
5 of the intensive reading intervention services established under AS 14.30.765 by

6 (A) modeling effective instructional strategies for teachers by  
7 working regularly with students as a class, in small groups, or individually;

8 (B) coaching and mentoring teachers and staff in reading  
9 instruction with an emphasis on prioritizing time in a manner that has the  
10 greatest positive effects on student achievement;

11 (C) training teachers in data analysis and using data to  
12 differentiate instruction;

13 (D) leading and supporting reading leadership teams; and

14 (E) reporting on school and student performance to the  
15 department;

16 (5) establish a reporting process for each reading specialist to submit  
17 updates to the department on implementation of the program;

18 (6) work with reading specialists to create specific improvement goals  
19 for each school selected, including measures of interim progress;

20 (7) select and purchase additional reading material for each school  
21 selected to supplement the intensive reading intervention services;

22 (8) pay travel and associated costs for a reading specialist to attend  
23 relevant training sessions identified by or hosted by the department;

24 (9) periodically review staff development programs for their  
25 effectiveness in developing reading skills and, after consultation with school districts  
26 and experts, recommend to the board for approval staff development programs that

27 (A) have been proven to assess and accelerate student progress  
28 toward reaching reading competency;

29 (B) provide explicit and systematic skill development in the  
30 areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading  
31 fluency, oral language skills, and reading comprehension;

1 (C) are evidence-based and reliable;

2 (D) provide initial and ongoing analysis of student progress

3 toward reaching reading competency; and

4 (E) include texts on core academic content to assist students in

5 maintaining or meeting grade-appropriate proficiency in academic subjects in

6 addition to reading.

7 (b) A school selected to participate in the reading program established under

8 this section shall

9 (1) ensure that a reading specialist assigned to the school is not

10 required to perform functions that divert from the duties the department has assigned

11 to the reading specialist;

12 (2) coordinate with the reading specialist or specialists to redesign the

13 school's daily schedule to dedicate time to reading program activities, including

14 intensive reading intervention services identified in a written agreement between the

15 school and the department;

16 (3) present on the reading program established under this section and

17 the intensive reading intervention services established under AS 14.30.765 at a public

18 meeting; the presentation must include

19 (A) the data the department used to identify the school as

20 eligible for the reading program;

21 (B) a detailed overview of the reading program and intensive

22 reading intervention services;

23 (C) a timeline for implementing the intensive reading

24 intervention services and meeting reading improvement goals; and

25 (D) the implications of the program for students, families, and

26 educators;

27 (4) provide notice of the public meeting required under (3) of this

28 subsection to the parent or guardian of each student at least seven days before the date

29 of the meeting;

30 (5) present an annual update on the school's implementation of the

31 reading program and intensive reading intervention services at a public meeting with

1 notice provided to the parent or guardian of each student at least seven days before the  
2 date of the meeting;

3 (6) create partnerships between the school, the families of students,  
4 and the community that focus on promoting reading and increasing the amount of time  
5 that students spend reading.

6 (c) The department shall publish on the department's Internet website and  
7 make available to the public

8 (1) a completed application from each school selected to participate in  
9 the reading program; and

10 (2) the reading program and intensive reading intervention services  
11 implemented by each school selected to participate.

12 (d) The department may employ a person as a reading specialist under this  
13 section if the person

14 (1) holds a valid teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20;

15 (2) has completed an approved graduate program at an approved  
16 institution of higher education and

17 (A) has completed a supervised practicum or internship as a  
18 reading specialist; or

19 (B) has at least three years of full-time, demonstrated  
20 classroom teaching experience where reading instruction was a primary  
21 responsibility;

22 (3) is knowledgeable about and demonstrates competency in reading  
23 instruction, including

24 (A) an understanding of phonemic awareness, phonics,  
25 vocabulary development, reading fluency, oral language skills, and reading  
26 comprehension;

27 (B) knowledge of and experience in implementing effective  
28 reading instruction strategies and intervention methods;

29 (C) experience in designing and implementing a school-wide  
30 response to an intervention program or multi-tiered system support model;

31 (D) an understanding of and experience in reading screenings

1 and data analyses that inform instruction;

2 (E) knowledge of dyslexia and other learning disorders that  
3 affect reading achievement;

4 (F) knowledge of and an ability to effectively articulate the  
5 methods, issues, and resources involved in support of student instruction to a  
6 wide variety of audiences, including staff, parents, and students whose primary  
7 language is other than English; and

8 (4) meets other reading instruction coursework requirements  
9 established by the department in regulation, including coursework in indigenous  
10 language learning and culturally responsive education established in regulation by the  
11 department in collaboration with indigenous language stakeholders.

12 **Sec. 14.30.775. Regulation.** The department shall, by regulation, define  
13 "dyslexia" for the purposes of AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.780. The department shall  
14 consider the meaning of "dyslexia" given by the International Dyslexia Association  
15 when adopting the definition by regulation.

16 **Sec. 14.30.780. Definitions.** In AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.780,

17 (1) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990;

18 (2) "evidence-based reading intervention" means an intervention based  
19 on reliable, trustworthy, and valid evidence that has a demonstrated record of success  
20 in adequately increasing a student's reading competency in the areas of phonemic  
21 awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, oral language skills,  
22 and reading comprehension.

23 \* **Sec. 37.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

24 **Article 16. Virtual Education.**

25 **Sec. 14.30.800. Virtual education consortium.** (a) The department shall, in  
26 cooperation with school districts, establish a virtual education consortium for the  
27 purpose of making virtual education and professional development resources available  
28 to students and teachers in the state. The department shall establish standards for  
29 consortium resources. The consortium shall create and maintain a database of virtual  
30 education courses for students, training in virtual instruction for teachers, and  
31 professional development courses for teachers of students throughout the state if the

1 coursework curriculum meets the state standards established by the department. The  
2 database must be accessible to all school districts that participate in the consortium.

3 (b) For teachers delivering or facilitating virtual coursework to students  
4 through the consortium database, the consortium shall provide training and  
5 professional development on virtual instruction methods and the differences between  
6 virtual instruction and instruction offered in a classroom. A teacher may not provide  
7 instruction through a course for students that is in the database unless

8 (1) the teacher has completed the training or professional development  
9 provided by the consortium; or

10 (2) the consortium determines that the teacher's previous experience  
11 has prepared the teacher to provide virtual instruction and the teacher demonstrates the  
12 skills necessary to provide virtual instruction.

13 (c) The consortium shall employ a reading specialist available to school  
14 districts to provide virtual intensive reading intervention services. The duties of the  
15 reading specialist include

16 (1) modeling effective instructional strategies for teachers by working  
17 regularly with students as a class, in small groups, or individually;

18 (2) coaching and mentoring teachers and staff in reading instruction  
19 with an emphasis on prioritizing time in a manner that has the greatest positive effects  
20 on student achievement;

21 (3) training teachers in data analysis and using data to differentiate  
22 instruction;

23 (4) leading and supporting reading leadership teams; and

24 (5) reporting on school and student performance to the department.

25 (d) The department may require a school district that participates in the  
26 consortium to pay a fee to the consortium. If the department requires a fee, the  
27 department shall establish the fee in regulations, based on a recommendation made by  
28 the consortium, and may adjust the fee annually as necessary. The fees must  
29 approximately equal the consortium's prorated administrative costs related to  
30 reviewing and approving courses and maintaining the database.

31 (e) A school district that provides a course included in the database may

1 charge a fee to the school district in which a student who takes the course is enrolled.  
2 The department shall establish the fee in regulations.

3 (f) The consortium may require, as a condition of participation, that school  
4 districts that provide courses or have students participating in courses included in the  
5 database under (a) of this section adopt the same school term and class schedule for all  
6 or part of a school day. The school term must meet the requirements of AS 14.03.030.

7 (g) In this section, "virtual education" or "virtual instruction" means  
8 instruction delivered through telecommunications or another digital or electronic  
9 method.

10 \* **Sec. 38.** AS 14.43.122(b) is amended to read:

11 (b) For a borrower to be eligible for consolidation of a loan under this section,  
12 the borrower must apply on a form approved by the corporation and **must** [PROVIDE  
13 PROOF SATISFACTORY TO THE CORPORATION THAT THE BORROWER]

14 (1) physically **reside** [RESIDES] in the state and **have** [HAS]  
15 maintained a domicile in the state for not less than 12 consecutive months before  
16 submitting an application for consolidation;

17 (2) **be a previous borrower, cosigner, or beneficiary of an**  
18 **education loan made under AS 14.43 or AS 14.44** [HAS NOT BEEN  
19 PHYSICALLY ABSENT FROM THE STATE FOR MORE THAN 60 DAYS IN  
20 THE 12 MONTHS BEFORE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR  
21 CONSOLIDATION]; **or**

22 (3) **be a graduate of a high school or postsecondary institution**  
23 **physically located in the state** [HAS NOT DECLARED RESIDENCY IN  
24 ANOTHER STATE];

25 (4) HAS NOT RECEIVED A BENEFIT OF RESIDENCY IN  
26 ANOTHER STATE].

27 \* **Sec. 39.** AS 14.43.173(a) is amended to read:

28 (a) In a school year, the corporation may finance a loan [TO AN ELIGIBLE  
29 BORROWER] under AS 14.43.170 - 14.43.175 **in a maximum amount to be**  
30 **determined by the corporation to an eligible** [ATTENDING AN ELIGIBLE  
31 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION NOT TO EXCEED]

(1) [\$14,000 TO AN ELIGIBLE] undergraduate student attending an eligible [A] college or university;

(2) [\$15,000 TO AN ELIGIBLE] graduate student attending an eligible [A] college or university; and

(3) [\$10,000 TO AN ELIGIBLE] student attending an eligible [A] career education program.

\* **Sec. 40.** AS 14.43.173(b) is amended to read:

(b) The corporation may finance loans made under AS 14.43.170 - 14.43.175 to an eligible [A] borrower in a maximum total [IN AN] amount to be determined by the corporation for [THAT IS NOT MORE THAN]

(1) an [A TOTAL OF \$56,000 FOR] undergraduate study program;

(2) a [TOTAL OF \$60,000 FOR] graduate study program; and [; OR]

(3) a combined [TOTAL OF \$87,000 FOR] undergraduate and graduate study program.

\* **Sec. 41.** AS 14.43.173(d) is amended to read:

(d) The commission shall determine a borrower's loan award amount for a specific school year, which [BASED ON A STUDENT'S ON-TIME, HALF-TIME, AND FULL-TIME STUDENT STATUS AND] may not exceed the limits established by the corporation [IN THIS SECTION] or the borrower's costs of attendance.

\* **Sec. 42.** AS 14.43.175 is amended to read:

**Sec. 14.43.175. Repayment of loans.** A borrower's obligation to repay [COMMENCE REPAYMENT OF] the principal of and interest on a loan made under AS 14.43.170 - 14.43.175 begins not later [MORE] than six months following the borrower's completion or other termination of the postsecondary program or on the date [THAT] the borrower ceases to be enrolled in the program [ON] at least half time. The commission and borrower may agree to a repayment schedule that begins immediately upon disbursement of a loan [A HALF-TIME BASIS].

\* **Sec. 43.** AS 14.43.700 is amended to read:

**Sec. 14.43.700. Definition.** In AS 14.43.600 - 14.43.700, "rural" means a community with a population of 7,500 [5,500] or less that is not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks or a community with a population of 1,500 or less that

1 is connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks.

2 \* **Sec. 44.** AS 14.60.010 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

3 (9) "culturally responsive" means showing respect for and recognition  
4 of the traditions, beliefs, languages, values, and practices of the local culture that has  
5 historically been present in the geographic area being served;

6 (10) "parent" or "guardian" includes a natural, adoptive, and foster  
7 parent, stepparent, legal guardian, relative, and other adult person with whom a  
8 student has resided and who has acted as a parent in providing for the student or has  
9 been responsible for the student's welfare for a continuous period.

10 \* **Sec. 45.** AS 47.17.290(12) is amended to read:

11 (12) "organization" means a group or entity that provides care and  
12 supervision for compensation to a child not related to the caregiver, and includes a  
13 child care facility, pre-elementary school, early education program, head start  
14 center, child foster home, residential child care facility, recreation program, children's  
15 camp, and children's club;

16 \* **Sec. 46.** AS 14.03.080(d) and 14.03.290(4) are repealed.

17 \* **Sec. 47.** AS 14.03.120(h), 14.03.410, 14.03.420; AS 14.17.500(e), 14.17.500(f),  
18 14.17.500(g); AS 14.20.020(l); AS 14.30.760, 14.30.765, 14.30.770, 14.30.775, 14.30.780,  
19 and 14.30.800 are repealed.

20 \* **Sec. 48.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
21 read:

22 VIRTUAL EDUCATION AVAILABILITY DEADLINE. The Department of  
23 Education and Early Development shall make available virtual education courses and  
24 professional development resources under sec. 36 of this Act on or before July 1, 2024.

25 \* **Sec. 49.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
26 read:

27 APPLICABILITY. Section 34 of this Act applies,

28 (1) on the effective date of sec. 34 of this Act, to teachers who begin teaching  
29 students in grades kindergarten through three on and after the effective date of sec. 34 of this  
30 Act;

31 (2) on July 1, 2024, to teachers who began teaching students in grades

1 kindergarten through three before the effective date of sec. 34 of this Act.

2 \* **Sec. 50.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
3 read:

4 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE. Not later than the thirtieth day of the First  
5 Regular Session of the Thirty-Eighth Alaska State Legislature, the Department of Education  
6 and Early Development shall prepare and present to the legislative committees having  
7 jurisdiction over education a report evaluating the virtual education consortium established  
8 under AS 14.30.800, enacted by sec. 37 of this Act, and the following programs established  
9 under this Act: the early education program, the parents as teachers program, the reading  
10 intervention program, and the department reading program. The report must include

11 (1) data analysis conducted by an independent contractor evaluating the  
12 success of each program, including

13 (A) statistics measuring the effectiveness of each program in  
14 accomplishing the program mission;

15 (B) the cost-effectiveness of each program;

16 (C) trends in reading screening scores by each group of students listed  
17 in AS 14.30.760(a)(4) as the students progress through grade eight;

18 (2) recommendations from the panels convened under AS 14.07.020(a)(19), as  
19 amended by sec. 15 of this Act; and

20 (3) recommendations from the Department of Education and Early  
21 Development addressing whether to extend, expand, contract, or repeal each program.

22 \* **Sec. 51.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
23 read:

24 TRANSITION. The number of district-wide early education programs that the  
25 department approves under AS 14.03.410, enacted by sec. 14 of this Act, in the fiscal year  
26 beginning July 1, 2022, may not result in more than \$3,000,000 of total state aid attributable  
27 to early education programs. In the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, the number of district-  
28 wide early education programs that the department approves may not result in an increase  
29 from the prior fiscal year of more than \$3,000,000 of total state aid attributable to early  
30 education programs.

31 \* **Sec. 52.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to

1 read:

2       TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Education and Early  
3 Development and the state Board of Education and Early Development may adopt regulations  
4 necessary to implement the changes made by secs. 1 - 30, 32 - 36, and 43 - 50 of this Act. The  
5 regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but a regulation may  
6 not take effect before the effective date of the relevant provision of this Act implemented by  
7 the regulation.

8       \* **Sec. 53.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
9 read:

10       RETROACTIVITY. Section 43 of this Act is retroactive to January 1, 2016.

11       \* **Sec. 54.** Section 52 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

12       \* **Sec. 55.** Sections 31, 38 - 43, and 53 of this Act take effect July 1, 2022.

13       \* **Sec. 56.** Sections 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 16, 20, 23, 28, 30, 33, and 47 of this Act take effect  
14 June 30, 2034.

15       \* **Sec. 57.** Except as provided in secs. 54 - 56 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2023.