



Special Education Service Agency

ASK:

Support the passage of SB 17 to reauthorize the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) and support an amendment to increase SESA funding to \$21.50 per student as recommended by the legislative audit report.

WHAT:

The Special Education Service Agency (SESA) is a non-profit organization established in 1986 under Alaska State statute (AS 14. 30.600). SESA's role is to provide school districts with training specific to a student's disability. The availability of SESA's services allows students to receive special education services in their home community and keeps students with their families.

WHY:

SESA must be reauthorized this session to avoid discontinuation of services beginning June 30, 2013.

SESA is unable to meet its statutorily mandated duties due to increased operating expenses including wages, benefits and travel costs.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee 2012 Report recommends increasing funding for SESA. The report concluded:

- SESA performs an effective and efficient service to school districts educating students with low incidence disabilities. SESA employs 10 education specialists who provided services to 45 school districts and 223 students during the last school year. During this time, SESA also provided 320 onsite consultations with school districts.
- SESA meets a valid public need by:
 1. offering school districts the specialized training necessary to provide an education that meets the unique needs of students with low incidence disabilities
 2. elevating the specific skill level of local school district teachers and paraprofessionals in educating students with disabilities
 3. providing resources to local school staff on low incidence disabilities and special education
- SESA offers services not provided by any other government or private sector agency in the State of Alaska.

CALL TO ACTION:

1. Support passage of SB 17 to reauthorize SESA until June 30, 2021
2. Support an amendment to increase SESA's funding to \$21.50 per student for FY14 and to include a ½ of a percentage point annual funding increase for each year thereafter