



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Education  
and Early Development**

Office of the Commissioner

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March 21, 2014

The Honorable Bill Stoltze  
The Honorable Alan Austerman  
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Capitol, Room 519  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Co-Chair Stoltze and Co-Chair Austerman:

Thank you for hearing the Governor's legislation, Alaska's Education Opportunity Act HB278CS (EDC). In following up from the House Finance Committee hearings this week, below are the responses to the three items that the Departments of Education and Early Development along with Revenue agreed to provide.

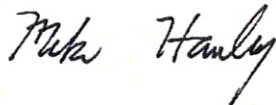
1. **Chair Stoltze requested the amount of the Transition to Teaching (AKT2) grant.** The total federal grant was \$2,934,784 and was administered from 10/2007 through 9/30/2013, which included a one-year no-cost extension. AKT2 had a total cohort of 54 with a total of 40 completing the program.
  - The Transition to Teaching program supported the recruitment and retention of highly qualified mid-career professionals, including qualified paraprofessionals, and recent college graduates who have not majored in education to teach in high-need schools and districts through the development of new or enhanced alternative routes to certification.
2. **Rep. Thompson asked why only the tax payers in HB 278 were included in the bill language.**
  - In HB278, the Governor did not make changes to the education tax credit against the other four types (oil and gas production, oil and gas property, insurance premiums and title insurance premiums tax) because, historically, the education credit has rarely been taken against them.

**3. Rep. T. Wilson asked for the number of students in charter schools that are not being transported? She also wanted to know how the Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools can transport Monroe Catholic School students on their school district buses.**

- The department has started working with districts to derive route information.
- Alaska Statute 14.09.020 Transportation for nonpublic school students. This statute allows a school district that is already providing transportation for children attending public schools transportation for children who, in compliance with AS 14.30 attend nonpublic schools. See statute below.
  - **AS 14.09.020** In those places in the state where the department or a school district provides transportation for children attending public schools, the department also shall provide transportation for children who, in compliance with the provisions of AS 14.30, attend nonpublic schools that are administered in compliance with state law where the children, in order to reach the nonpublic schools, must travel distances comparable to, and over routes the same as, the distances and routes over which the children attending public schools are transported. The commissioner shall administer this nonpublic school student transportation program, integrating it into existing systems as much as feasible, and the cost of the program shall be paid from funds appropriated for that purpose by the legislature.

Please contact me at [mike.hanley@alaska.gov](mailto:mike.hanley@alaska.gov), our Legislative Liaison, Marcy Herman at [marcy.herman@alaska.gov](mailto:marcy.herman@alaska.gov) or at 465-2803 if you have additional questions or need additional follow-up. Thank you again for hearing this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Mike Hanley  
Commissioner