



## **Representative Lora Reinbold Alaska State Legislature**

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### **Sponsor Statement House Bill 151**

**"An Act establishing a public school and school district grading system for purposes of improving accountability and transparency; providing for Alaska strategic educators in public schools; and providing for an effective date."**

#### **Parental Education Information Act**

#### **Sponsored by Rep. Lora Reinbold**

#### **Co-sponsors: Reps. LeDoux, Olson, Keller, Higgins**

Alaskans currently have no unified, consistent and easily understandable method of measuring the performance of our K-12 schools and monitoring their progress. House Bill 151, the Parental Education Information Act, will establish grades for our schools and school districts in a format that is familiar and understandable: "A through F" grades like our students receive.

The bill sets up a clear and specific grading system for schools and school districts, with grades based on both overall student achievement on statewide, standards-based tests, and individual learning gains, including a significant 25 percent of the grade being based on the gains of the students who scored in the lowest quarter of the tests of reading and math. Parents, teachers and administrators will know where their students stand and the results that are needed to improve their school and district grades. School districts that raise their performance two grade levels or receive an "A" will be rewarded with incentives, including increased autonomy and local control.

The State of Florida implemented "A through F" grading in 1999. Since then, Florida students and schools have made significant gains in their test scores, and the gains have been especially notable among students who come from lower-income households or face other significant challenges. I strongly believe it can and will do the same for our state, and I request your support for House Bill 151.

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Contact: Rep. Reinbold's office, 465-3822