

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Mike Dunleavy**  
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## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### Senate Bill 100 Correspondence Study Program

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Over 32 school districts offer their students an alternative learning environment through a local district or a statewide correspondence study program. Parents or guardians of over 10,600 students decided to take an active role in the education of their children and enrolled their child in a correspondence study program. This growing population of correspondence students is almost 10 percent of the total Alaska student population.

An individual learning plan (ILP) is developed in collaboration with a parent or guardian and a certificated teacher to help guide the education progress for each student enrolled in a correspondence study program. Under Senate Bill 100, a student who is shown to be proficient or advanced on the annual required statewide test is afforded maximum flexibility in designing an ILP free from any additional requirements imposed by the Department of Education and Early Development. The student is learning at or above grade level. Let's allow a parent or guardian and a certified teacher autonomy to develop the most appropriate learning plan for a successful student.

Most correspondence study programs provide parents or guardians a student allotment from which to purchase educational services or materials to meet the student's Individual Learning Plan. Under Senate Bill 100 these services and materials may be purchased from a private or religious organization. Close to 10 percent of our students chose a flexible setting in which to study and grow academically. Senate Bill 100 embraces this educational option and encourages the freedom of each child to learn in a manner that best suits the child.