



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
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April 1, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton:

The Kenai Borough School District (KPBSD) supports House Bill 190; thank you for introducing it. KPBSD feels that the bill's proposed amendment to AS 14.03 to require a school district to provide high school students the option to challenge a course through a district constructed assessment is sound.

KPBSD has offered the option of a challenge test for credit to our secondary students for many years. I know that it is an established policy that works well for our students. I support this bill because I believe that all districts will benefit from this.

As we look ahead with education, it is imperative that we move away from the past practice of requiring seat time as one of the considered variables for issuing credit and instead, focus on performance as the sole variable for this purpose. In sum, if a student can demonstrate proficiency in meeting the requirements of the course through an assessment, then granting a credit for this performance is the right thing to do. I applaud you for offering this amendment to AS 14.03 that will require all districts to do this.

Please let me know if I can provide more information on why this proposed amendment to AS 14.03 is a positive change for Alaska's secondary students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Steve Atwater".

Steve Atwater, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools