



A Five Minute Overview of:

Alaska Statutes Authorizing Three Residential Education School Options Through The Department of Education & Early Development.

# Three Residential School Options

There are three types of residential opportunities provided for in Alaska Statute Chapter 14 under the Department of Education & Early Development.

- ▶ 1) Secondary Boarding Stipend Program  
AS 14.07.030 (2), 4AAC 09.050
- ▶ 2) Mt. Edgecumbe State Boarding School  
AS 14.16.020
- ▶ 3) School Districts Operating Residential Schools  
AS 14.16.100, 4AAC 33.090

## Secondary Boarding Stipend Program

- ▶ The Secondary Boarding Stipend Program was established in 1966 in order to provide a secondary school education within Alaska for students from areas without a local high school.
- ▶ During the 1960's and 1970's the student enrollment in this program was significantly higher than today.
- ▶ Currently the Boarding stipend serves approximately 20 students across approximately six districts. The approximate cost is \$185,000 annually, funds are distributed to participating districts.
- ▶ The eligibility includes secondary students who do not have daily access to a school of appropriate grade level.
- ▶ Funding includes a monthly stipend using and one round trip transportation.

## Secondary Boarding Stipend

- ▶ The placement process for the secondary boarding program is outlined in regulation and made by the district of residence.
- ▶ A typical example of this program may be a student from a small community with only one or two high school students and thus the stipend boarding program is used to place the students with a family in another community within the district for high school.
- ▶ This relatively small program provides an option for students to participate in high school in a neighboring community when the high school cohort drops to small numbers in their community school.

# School Districts Operating Residential Schools

- ▶ In 2006 the legislature passed HB 16 which provides funding for statewide residential boarding programs at AS 14.16.200.
- ▶ The initial law included districts that prior to January 1, 2005 were operating a statewide residential program for grades 9 through 12. This included three programs: Galena, Lower Kuskokwim and Nenana.
- ▶ Programs are approved through an application process with a maximum student capacity aligned to the program and dormitory facilities.
- ▶ Funding includes a per pupil monthly stipend rate set in law for nine months a year and one round trip transportation reimbursement.

# School Districts Operating Residential Schools

- ▶ The programs are funded for residential costs for eligible students that live outside the community where the residential school is located.
- ▶ After operating under AS 14.16.200 for approximately five years and providing funding to the initial three districts that were in operation when the law was passed, the 2011 legislature in special session passed HB84 which amended the residential program in two ways:
  - A provision was added allowing the Department to request applications and approve, if applicable, up to three additional programs.
  - The stipend rate was increased by doubling the rates in law, for a two year period. Subsequent law retained and increases rates to current statutory funding.

# School Districts Operating Residential Schools

- ▶ Subsequently both the Regulations and Statue (SB47 enacted in 2013) were amended to include variable term programs.
- ▶ Variable term programs are approved to fund the same number of students throughout the entire school year, however the actual students housed change to provide sessions of residential instruction to different groups of students.
- ▶ The variable term program provides transportation support through one round trip ticket cost per approved bed, to be used to offset actual costs.
- ▶ The variable term program may not claim students for foundation funding as the student is claimed in their full time district of residence.

# School Districts Operating Residential Schools

- ▶ Stipend rates are set in statute by region:
  - Region 1: Southeast \$1,230
  - Region 2: Southcentral \$1,200
  - Region 3: Interior \$1,452
  - Region 4: Southwest \$1,509
  - Region 5: Northern /Remote \$1,776
- ▶ The monthly rate x 9 months x actual eligible and approved student count = a district's reimbursement for the residential stipend.
- ▶ In addition to the stipend, one round-trip ticket per student, at the least expensive means, between the student's community of residence and the school if the district expends money for the trip.



## School Districts Operating Residential Schools

- ▶ The most recent program change was enacted through HB278 effective July 1, 2015 which sets into law an annual period of application; this does not require that new programs be approved. Application program approvals are made contingent on funding of the added programs.

## FY2015 and FY2016 Approved Applications

- ▶ Open application periods in 2013–2014 and 2014–2015 resulted in five additional approved residential schools:
  - Anchorage – Dena'ina Academy (for approved funding in FY2015)
  - Bering Strait – NACTEC (for approved funding in FY2015)
  - Chugach – Voyage to Excellence (for approved funding in 2015)
  - Northwest Arctic – Star of the Northwest (for approved funding in FY2015, delayed to FY2016 due to dorm construction.)
  - Lower Kuskokwim – Ready Academy (for approved funding in FY2016)
  - Nenana applied for and was approved to increase beds by 12 students to a total of 100 students. (for approved funding in FY2016.)

# School Districts Operating Residential Schools

| <u>District</u> | <u>School Name</u>         | <u>maximum #<br/>of students<br/>approved</u> | <u>1st year of<br/>funding</u> | <u>Year-long/<br/>Variable-term</u> | <u>Funding<br/>Region</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anchorage       | Dena'ina Academy           | 4   | FY2015                         | year-long                           | Region 2                  |
| Bering Strait   | NACTEC                     | 26  | FY2015                         | variable-term                       | Region 5                  |
| Chugach         | Voyage to Excellence       | 24  | FY2015                         | variable-term                       | Region 2                  |
| Galena          | GILA                       | 210   | FY2007                         | year-long                           | Region 5                  |
| Lower Kuskokwim | Kuskokwim Learning Academy | 35  | FY2007                         | year-long                           | Region 4                  |
| Lower Kuskokwim | Ready Academy              | 40  | FY2016                         | variable-term                       | Region 4                  |
| Nenana          | Nenana Living Center       | 100   | FY2007                         | year-long                           | Region 3                  |
| NW Arctic       | Star of the Northwest      | 40  | FY2015                         | year & variable                     | Region 5                  |