

# Alaska Superintendents Association

234 Gold Street • Juneau, AK 99801

907.586.9702 • 800.478.9702 • (Fax) 907.364.3805



April 3, 2018

The Honorable Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 516  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator MacKinnon:

We are writing to you today regarding SB104, relating to curriculum in public schools. As you know from your interactions with our members, curriculum is an area where the Department of Education and Early Development's (DEED) role is crucial to schools across the state, yet that role should not limit innovation in local districts. We recognize that school improvement is made when standards (what teaching is intended), instruction (what occurs with curricula in classrooms), and assessment (both local and state) are aligned. The bill hits a useful balance in this ongoing effort to provide support to public school districts. We support a stronger DEED with facilitated opportunities to collaborate with other districts for the greater good in public education.

Specifically, we support the development and provision of a curriculum for use statewide on a **voluntary** basis, built on the best mathematics and English language arts curricula and best teaching practices the department can identify. Such a research based, best practice curriculum, again for use on a voluntary basis by other school districts, could be useful to all districts, especially to smaller districts across the state that may not have the capacity to develop curriculum on their own. We also support the pause in the curricula review of mathematics and language arts if a school district adopts the approved curriculum. We appreciate that it is being supported from the General Fund.

Thank you for the chance to provide input on this bill and most importantly, for you and your staff's hard work looking for creative solutions for education. We see this bill as another tool for school districts at a time when there are unrelenting pressures and collaboration is ever more important.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Yours respectfully,

Lisa Skiles Parady, JD, Ed.D.  
Executive Director