

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator Gary Stevens

Senate Bill 30 (EDU) Version K *Education Transformation Act*

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES FROM VERSION U to VERSION K March 22, 2019

Title: References to Middle College were changed adding the Alaska Middle College (AMC) for branding purposes.

Sec. 1: Reporting: two more reporting components were added, specifying:

- d. the number of students who participated in the AMC who subsequently enrolled in the University of Alaska (UA).
- e. the number of students who participated in the AMC program who subsequently enrolled in remedial courses at the UA.

Sec. 2: Alaska Middle College AS 14.30.780 This section was largely rewritten from the original bill to improve flexibility for school districts to comply and find a fit for their local communities. Key changes were as follows:

- a. Credit: When students satisfactorily complete coursework of the AMC, changed from "may" to "shall" earn credit for both high school and college, and that those credits be fully transferable within the UA system.
- b. MOU's: Requires an agreement between school districts and the UA to participate in the AMC in a manner that fits for each district, allowing access to any eligible student.
- c. Eligibility: students grade 9-12 (not just 11-12), and who demonstrate to the satisfaction of both the district and the UA as being academically competent to complete college level work.
- d. Awareness: Requires school districts to establish and maintain awareness of AMC course offerings and eligibility requirements to students and parents, including the academic and social responsibilities of participating in the AMC.
- e. Financing: A student -may- be required to pay fees associated with costs of participating in the program. Meanwhile districts and the UA shall include in their respective MOU a manner of sharing costs associated with providing the AMC program locally, including tuition waivers, scholarships, and other means of reducing program costs and finding efficiencies.

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Explanation of Changes From “U” to “K”

continued

- f. Course Quality: specifies that courses offered by the AMC must meet quality and content standards, including quality instruction, and regular course and instructor review.
- g. Credit Cap: Under the AMC program, students may not enroll in more than 12 credit hours (full-time) per semester, nor earn more than a total of 60 credits (associates degree).

Sec. 3: AS 14.40.040, relating to general powers and duties of the UA, amended adding a new subsection as follows:

- (c) UA must implement the AMC and may not require an eligible student to meet any additional criteria to receive credit under the program than what was completed by the program itself. UA must further regularly review the AMC course content and quality of instruction to meet national standards for dual credit, enter into MOUs with school districts consistent with the AMC, and award student credit for course completion of AMC courses, which will be fully transferable within the UA system.

Sec. 4: Establishes an effective date for the AMC of July 1, 2020.