



Representative Andi Story

Alaska State Legislature

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 43

Special Education Service Agency – Sunset Extension

March 24, 2021

House Bill 43 extends the sunset date of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) to June 30, 2029, ensuring continuation of high quality, efficiently delivered services for students with severe disabilities in Alaska.

SESA is a public agency established in 1986 under Alaska Statute 14.30.600 and governed by the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education. SESA was created to assist Alaska school districts in serving children with low incidence disabilities. In doing so, it allows students to be educated in their home communities, without traveling for specialized services. It also assists school districts in meeting federal “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act” requirements.

Specifically, per AS 14.30.630 (b)(1) SESA provides:

- (A) Itinerant outreach services to students who are deaf, deaf-blind, intellectually disabled, developmentally disabled, hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired, orthopedically disabled, health-impaired in other ways, and severely emotionally disturbed, and to students with multiple disabilities;
- (B) Special education instructional support and training of local school district special education personnel; and
- (C) Other services appropriate to special education needs.

SESA’s onsite and virtual services include classroom observations, disability specific resources, braille and large print materials, assistive and adaptive technology, video modeling, and more. Staff provide year-round responses to parent and teacher requests at no cost to school districts or families.

Last year, SESA’s education specialists provided services to 50 school districts, 91 parents, and more than 400 student instructional teams.

The 2020 AK Legislative Budget & Audit Report sunset review of SESA affirms: “SESA served the public’s interest..” and recommends the legislature extend SESA’s termination date to the maximum allowed by statute to June 30, 2029.

SESA must be reauthorized this session to avoid discontinuation of these highly effective, efficiently delivered services to students with severe disabilities, wherever they live in Alaska.

Contact

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