

2021 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee

TO: HB 69 / HB 71

OFFERED BY: Rep. Hopkins

DEPARTMENT: Education and Early Development

APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Administrative Services

ALLOCATION: Student and School Achievement

ADD: Intent Language:

It is the intent of the legislature that federal funds be used to create statewide standards for instruction in social and emotional learning.

EXPLANATION:

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which students acquire and apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to develop coping mechanisms, manage emotions, set and achieve goals, maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Awareness of the need for these skills has grown in recent years. Increasingly, employers and medical professionals recognize SEL skills as essential. Early interventions of SEL show positive outcomes far into adulthood, increasing educational attainment and decreasing poverty. Today, SEL skills are acknowledged as the best indicators for a student's future success.

As a part of a balanced curriculum, SEL can help get students back to learning faster and develop coping methods to overcome obstacles, whether in the classroom or at home.

Across Alaska, SEL is already part of everyday learning - but there is little guidance to districts and educators on standards and best practices. This effort will provide school districts that baseline standard while allowing for local and culturally-relevant individualization. Recognizing that a statewide standard of practice is in the best interests of students, educators, and families, experts and practitioners will work together to develop these standards and give our students the support they need to succeed.

2021 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance DEED Subcommittee

TO: HB 69 / HB 71

OFFERED BY: Story

DEPARTMENT: Education and Early Development

APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Administrative Services

ALLOCATION: State System of Support

BACKGROUND: Per Committee action to deny item #13, DEED Subcommittee cutsheet, \$109.2 UGF and 1 PFT is retained in the DEED budget, State System of Support component.

ADD: INTENT: It is the intent of the Legislature that staff and funding be directed to the State Board's goal of all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade. This work is to include a baseline assessment of current practice in Alaska's 53 School Districts, including but not limited to adopted K-3 reading curriculum and assessment tools; Dyslexia screening tools; intervention strategies and timeline; frequency of parent teacher conferences for those students experiencing reading deficits; teacher and staff training offered to support K-3 reading instruction; and number of certificated K-3 teachers with reading endorsement. The Department is to provide a report of findings to the Legislature no later than Dec. 1, 2021.

EXPLANATION: The goal of this amendment is to increase DEED capacity to address the State Board goal to "support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade" (*Education Challenge*).

2021 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

OFFERED IN: The House Finance DEED Subcommittee

TO: HB 69 / HB 71

OFFERED BY: Story

DEPARTMENT: Education and Early Development

APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Administrative Services

ALLOCATION: Pre-K Grants

ADD: \$5,000.0 UGF (1004)

Grant line

Multi-year appropriation; Lapse date of June 30, 2023

EXPLANATION: The DEED subcommittee recommends the House Finance Committee consider an increment to Pre-K Grants.

Too many children arrive to kindergarten unprepared. DEED reports that 68% of students entering kindergarten are not coming to school with the skills they need to be successful as they enter kindergarten.

Data from some of Alaska's school district operated pre-K programs show that high quality pre-K programs significantly increase children's readiness for kindergarten and success in school.

To address the State Board of Education goal of all children reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade, an investment is needed prior to kindergarten to ensure more students come to school ready and eager to learn.

This increment provides two-year grant awards to school districts to support high quality, voluntary pre-K programs in communities across Alaska.

2021 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

OFFERED IN: The House Finance DEED Subcommittee

TO: HB 69 / HB 71

OFFERED BY: Story

DEPARTMENT: Education and Early Development

APPROPRIATION: Library, Archives & Museums

ALLOCATION: Library Operations

ADD: **\$635.9 Alaska Higher Education Fund (DGF) (fund code 1226)
Contractual Line**

EXPLANATION: The DEED Subcommittee recommends the House Finance Committee to consider an increment to Library Operations.

These funds support the continuation of Alaska's statewide online library system, including Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) and the Alaska Library Catalog (ALC).

The Alaska Library Catalog is a cooperative network that includes more than 85 public, academic, special and K-12 school libraries across Alaska. Citizens can access materials from any participating library across the state, leveraging local resources exponentially. During a recent twelve-month period, 3.6 million items circulated through ALC libraries.

SLED is a statewide web-based service that provides access to hundreds of millions of vetted journal articles and ebooks, online research guides, reference source to search for current and historical information, access for students to Live Homework Help, BrainPop and much more. For the do-it-yourself Alaskan there are online resources for auto and small engine repair, videos on home improvements, plus instructions for craft enthusiasts.

Due to budget reductions and erosion in purchasing power, funds are needed to keep these two systems fully operational. The pandemic saw significant increase in usage. These are times that call for efficient, equitable access to the world of information, which SLED and ALC deliver to Alaskans.