



# 32nd Alaska State Legislature

## House Finance Budget Subcommittee

### Department of Education and Early Development

### FY22 Operating Budget

#### **Chair:**

Rep. Dan Ortiz  
Capitol Room 513  
465-3824

#### **Members:**

Rep. Harriet Drummond  
Capitol Room 108  
465-3875

Rep. Andi Story  
Capitol Room 403  
465-3744

Rep. Grier Hopkins  
Capitol Room 434  
465-4457

Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky  
Capitol Room 416  
465-4942

Rep. Mike Prax  
Capitol Room 114  
465-4797

Rep. Mike Cronk  
Capitol Room 110  
465-4527

Rep. Ronald Gillham  
Capitol Room 409  
465-2693

#### **Committee Aide:**

Caroline Hamp  
465-3642

### **Narrative Report**

House Finance Subcommittee  
Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)  
March 26, 2021

#### **Recommendations:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Education and Early Development submits the following operating budget for FY2022 to the House Finance Committee:

#### **Fund Source:** (dollars are in thousands)

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$58,950.2
Designated General Funds (DGF)	\$24,285.8
Other Funds	\$33,234.5
Federal Funds	\$247,182.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$363,663.3</b>

The total fund difference from FY22 Adjusted Base to the House Subcommittee budget is -\$1,417.0, or a decrease of 0.4%. The Unrestricted General Fund difference from FY22 Adjusted Base to the House Subcommittee budget is -\$11.2, or a decrease of 0.02%.

#### **Positions:**

Permanent Full-Time	251
Permanent Part-Time	12
Temporary	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>

#### **Budget Actions:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Education and Early Development reviewed the FY2022 budget requests from the Governor and member amendments, and submits the following actions for consideration:

#### Governor's Budget Action Items

The subcommittee adopted 32 of the 33 budget action items proposed by the Governor. Rejections and changes are below.

- 1) The subcommittee adopted the Governor's proposal to use the Mental Health Trust Reserve to fund the Alaska Autism Resource Center. However, there was discussion regarding the funding source, which resulted in an affirmative vote for a recommendation to the House Finance Committee and is expanded under "Recommendations" #3 below.
- 2) The subcommittee rejected the Governor's proposal to delete an Education Associate II position (05-1809). The subcommittee recommends that the Department uses those funds of \$109.2 to address the State Board goal to "support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade" (*Education Challenge*). More detail is provided under "Wordage Intent" #2 and "Recommendations" #4 below.

#### Wordage Intent

The subcommittee adopted two member amendments regarding intent language:

- 1) It is the intent of the legislature that federal funds be used to create statewide standards for instruction in social and emotional learning.
- 2) It is the intent of the legislature that 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 certified K-3 teachers with reading endorsement. The Department is to provide report of findings to the Finance co-chairs and the Legislative Finance Division on or before December 1, 2021 and notify the Legislature that the report is available.

#### Recommendations:

The subcommittee adopted four member recommendations:

- 1) The Department of Education and Early Development House Finance Subcommittee recommends that the House Finance Committee consider a \$5,000.0 UGF increment to the Pre-K Grants allocation. The increment provides two-year grant awards to school districts to support statewide Pre-K programs. It is a multi-year appropriation with a lapse date of June 30, 2023 and is a continuation of the Pre-K grant program already housed in the department. It is recommended that it is funded from the FY21 lapsed funds in the Residential Schools Program allocation due to COVID-19.
- 2) The Department of Education and Early Development House Finance Subcommittee recommends that the House Finance Committee consider a \$635.9 DGF increment to the Library Operations allocation. The increment allows the continuation of Alaska's statewide online library system, including Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) and the Alaska Library Catalog (ALC). It is recommended that it is funded from the Higher Education Investment Fund (1226).
- 3) The Department of Education and Early Development House Finance Subcommittee recommends that the House Finance Committee work with the Alaska Mental Health Trust to determine an appropriate funding source for the Alaska Autism Resource Center allocation.

- 4) The Department of Education and Early Development House Finance Subcommittee recommends that staff and funding be retained, instead of reducing the budget by \$109.2 and 1 PFT, in the State System of Support allocation (budget item #13) and redirected to the State Board's goal of all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

**Attached Reports:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Education and Early Development adopts the attached reports:

- Multi-year Agency Totals
- Transaction Comparison between FY22 Adj. Base and House Sub.
- Transaction Comparison between Gov. Amend and House Sub.
- Wordage Report
- Subcommittee Amendments (in form of BA Sheet)

Respectfully submitted,



Representative Dan Ortiz  
Chair of House Finance DEED Subcommittee