

January 19, 2023

Re: AS 14.17.430 State Funding for Correspondence Study

Dear House Education Committee:

We write to you regarding AS 14.17.430 State Funding for Correspondence Study.

The Galena City School District (GCSD), Yukon Koyukuk School District (YKSD), Denali Borough School District (DBSD), Craig City School District (CCSD), Nenana City School District (NCSD), Chugach School District (CSD), and Alaska Gateway School District (AGSD) all operate correspondence school (homeschool) programs. Students attending our correspondence programs are funded at 90% of the Base Student Allocation (BSA). For this school year (FY 23), districts operating correspondence programs receive \$5,337 for each Full Time Equivalent (FTE) correspondence student, or 90% of the \$5,930 BSA. For next school year (FY 24), districts operating correspondence programs will receive \$5,364 for each FTE correspondence student, or 90% of the \$5,960 BSA.

Districts with correspondence programs have the responsibility to serve correspondence students with identified disabilities with the same level of support as students with identified disabilities attending brick-and-mortar schools. Alaska regulation 4 AAC 33.432 appropriately requires that correspondence programs enroll special education students on the same basis as brick-and-mortar students. As such, districts operating correspondence programs must provide school psychologist, speech/language pathologist, and occupational/physical therapy support for students who qualify for these services, yet no additional instructional monies are provided to help offset these responsibilities. No school is allowed to refuse a free and appropriate public education to a student based on a disability. These students deserve the same level of support as their peers who attend brick-and-mortar schools.

The undersigned districts urge the 33rd Legislature to recognize the responsibility of Alaska's correspondence programs to serve students with identified disabilities and to provide the same State funding support for special education correspondence students that is provided for students attending brick-and-mortar schools. We recommend that AS 14.17.430 be amended to read as follows (additional language in **green** text mirrors the wording already in AS 14.17.420(1) special needs funding for brick-and-mortar schools): "Except as provided in [AS 14.17.400\(b\)](#), funding for the state centralized correspondence study program or a district correspondence program, including a district that offers a statewide correspondence study program, includes an allocation from the public education fund in an amount calculated by multiplying the ADM of the correspondence program by 90 percent **plus a special needs funding factor of 1.20 shall be applied as set out in AS 14.17.410(b)(1).**"

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Johnson
GCSD Superintendent



Dan Polta
DBSD Superintendent



Kerry Boyd
YKSD Superintendent



Chris Reitan
CCSD Superintendent



Patrick Manning
NCSD Superintendent



Scott MacManus
AGSD Superintendent



Ty Mase
CSD Superintendent

Enclosures: School Board Resolutions



ALASKA GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ph: 907.883.5151 Fax: 907.883.5154

Scott MacManus – Superintendent of Schools

RESOLUTION 2023 - 01

RESOLUTION Supporting the statutory formula-based special education funding for correspondence students

WHEREAS, State of Alaska regulation 4 AAC 33.432 requires that correspondence programs enroll special education students on the same basis as any other student,

WHEREAS, all school must create the opportunity for a free and appropriate public education to all student without regard to a disability,

WHEREAS, currently, the State of Alaska does not provide funding for the additional support of these students in correspondence programs that it does for students in brick-and-mortar schools, and

WHEREAS, these students deserve the same level of support to a free and appropriate public education as prescribed in law as their peers going to different schools.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Alaska Gateway School District Board of Education urges the legislature to recognize the responsibility of state-approved correspondence programs to serve students with identified disabilities and to provide the same special education funding support for these students that is provided to students attending brick-and-mortar schools.

ADOPTED this 16th day of January, 2023 by the Alaska Gateway School District Board of Education.



Peter Talus, Board President

Superintendent

“Educating all students to reach their full potential as responsible citizens”

DotLake
907-882-2663
Fax: 907-882-2112

Eagle
907-547-2210
Fax: 907-547-2302

Mentasta
907-291-2327
Fax: 907-291-2325

Northway
907-778-2287
Fax: 907-778-2221

Tok
907-883-5161
Fax: 907-883-5165

Tanacross
907-883-4391
Fax: 907-883-4390

Tetlin
907-324-2104
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Chugach School District

9312 Vanguard Drive, Suite 100

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(907) 522-7400 Phone

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATUTORY FORMULA-BASED SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING FOR CORRESPONDENCE STUDENTS

WHEREAS, Alaska's homeschool programs (referred to in regulation as "correspondence" programs) are increasingly meeting the needs of students and families across our state,

WHEREAS, Alaska regulation 4 AAC 33.432 appropriately requires that correspondence programs enroll special education students on the same basis as any other student,

WHEREAS, no school is allowed to refuse a free and appropriate public education to a student based on a disability,

WHEREAS, currently, the state does not provide funding for the support of these students in correspondence programs as it does for brick-and-mortar schools,

WHEREAS, these students deserve the same level of support as their peers going to different schools - a funding multiplier of .20 of the ADM.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Chugach School District Board of Education urges the legislature to recognize the responsibility of state-approved correspondence programs to serve students with identified disabilities and to provide the same special education funding support for these students that is provided to students attending brick-and-mortar schools.

ADOPTED this 08 day of 12, 2022 by the Chugach School District Board of Education.


Signature of Board Officer


Signature of Board Officer



Whittier Community School
(907) 472-2575

Valdez FOCUS
Homeschool
(907) 835-5528

Tatitlek Community School
(907) 325-2252

Anchorage FOCUS
Homeschool
(907) 522-7400

Chenega Bay Community School
(907) 573-5123

Fairbanks FOCUS
Homeschool
(907) 457-2545

Voyage to
Excellence
(907) 222-2712





GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 299 GALENA, ALASKA 99741

PHONE (907) 656-1205

FAX (907) 656-1368

SUPERINTENDENT

Jason R. Johnson, Ed.D.

RESOLUTION #22-02

RESOLUTION Supporting the statutory formula-based special education funding for correspondence students

WHEREAS, Alaska regulation 4 AAC 33.432 appropriately requires that correspondence programs enroll special education students on the same basis as any other student,

WHEREAS, no school is allowed to refuse a free and appropriate public education to a student based on a disability,

WHEREAS, currently, the state does not provide funding for the support of these students in correspondence programs as it does for brick-and-mortar schools, and

WHEREAS, these students deserve the same level of support as their peers going to different schools.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Galena City School District Board of Education urges the legislature to recognize the responsibility of state-approved correspondence programs to serve students with identified disabilities and to provide the same special education funding support for these students that is provided to students attending brick-and-mortar schools.

ADOPTED this 16 day of November, 2022 by the Galena City School District Board of Education.


Signature of Board Officer


Signature of Board Officer

NENANA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Phone: (907) 832-5464

Fax: (907) 832-5625



P.O. BOX 00010

Nenana, AK 99760

RESOLUTION NUMBER 02-2022

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATUTORY FORMULA-BASED SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING FOR CORRESPONDENCE STUDENTS

WHEREAS, The Nenana City School District urges the legislature to recognize the responsibility of state-approved correspondence programs to serve students with identified disabilities; and

WHEREAS, provide the same special education funding support for these students that is provided to students attending brick and motor schools; and

WHEREAS, 4 AAC 33.432 appropriately requires that correspondence programs enroll special education students on the same basis as any other students; and

WHEREAS, no school is allowed to refuse a free and appropriate public education to a student based on a disability; and

WHEREAS, the state does not currently provide funding for the support of these students enrolled in correspondence programs as it does for students in brick and motor schools; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NENANA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT that special education students enrolled in correspondence schools deserve the same level of support as their peers attending brick and motor schools.

DATED THIS 9th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2022.

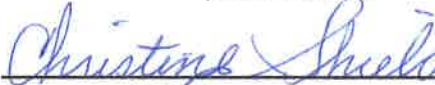
ATTEST:

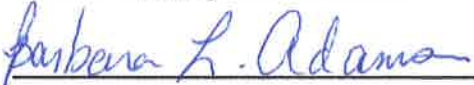

Maryellen Robinson, Board President



Samuel Verhagen, Board Clerk


Jeremiah Baker, Board Member


Donald Charlie, Board Member


Christine Shields, Board Member


Barbara Adams, Advisory Board Member


Gerald Babcock, Advisory Board Member

Mission Statement

The Nenana City School District will provide an innovative education, using trauma-engaged techniques and relevant activities promoting problem-solving and citizenship, that empowers each student to achieve their highest potential.



Yukon Koyukuk School District
4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent
kboyd@yksd.com

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Fax: (907) 374-9440

Resolution 23-01

Title: Supporting the statutory formula-based special education funding for correspondence students.

Resolution: YKSD urges the legislature to recognize the responsibility of state-approved correspondence programs to serve students with identified disabilities and to provide the same special education funding support for these students that is provided to students attending brick-and-mortar schools.

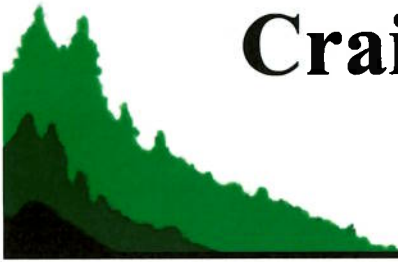
Rationale: 4 AAC 33.432 appropriately requires that correspondence programs enroll special education students on the same basis as any other student. No school is allowed to refuse a free and appropriate public education to a student based on a disability. Currently, the state does not provide funding for the support of these students in correspondence programs as it does for brick-and-mortar schools. These students deserve the same level of support as their peers going to different schools.

ADOPTED, November 10, 2022 at a duly convened regular meeting of the Yukon Koyukuk School District Board of Education at which a quorum was present and voting:

ATTEST:

Fred Bifelt, Board Chairman
YKSD Board of Education

Anne Titus, Secretary
YKSD Board of Education



Craig City School District

P.O. Box 800, Craig, Alaska 99921
www.craigschools.com
Phone (907) 826.3274
FAX (907) 826.3322

Chris Reitan, Superintendent
David Harris, Elem./MS Principal
Betty Hall, HS Principal
Christina Woodward, PACE Principal

RESOLUTION 23-01

Supporting the Statutory Formula-Based Special Education Funding for Correspondence Students

WHEREAS, the Craig City School District (CCSD) School Board has the responsibility to serve students with identified disabilities and to provide the same special education funding support to these students that is provided to students attending brick-and-mortar schools.

WHEREAS, 4 AAC 33.432 appropriately requires that correspondence programs enroll special education students on the same basis as any other student. No school is allowed to refuse a free and appropriate public education to a student based on a disability.

WHEREAS, the state does not provide funding for the support of these students in correspondence programs as it does for brick-and-mortar schools. These students deserve the same level of support as their peers going to different schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of CCSD urges the legislature to recognize the responsibility of state-approved correspondence programs to serve students with identified disabilities and to provide the same special education funding support for these students that is provided to students attending brick-and-mortar schools.

Approved this 14th day of December 2022.

Ayes 5

Nays 0



HANS HJORT, CCSD Board President

12/15/22

Date



CHRIS REITAN, Superintendent

12/15/22

Date











House - AS 14.17.430 State Funding For Correspondence Study Letter

Final Audit Report

2023-01-20

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Signer tmase@chugachschools.com entered name at signing as Ty Mase

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Document e-signed by Ty Mase (tmase@chugachschools.com)

Signature Date: 2023-01-20 - 11:21:15 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 206.174.13.71



Agreement completed.

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