

Alaska State Legislature

Session:
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HB 139 Sponsor statement

The current funding formula for education directs school funding to Correspondence Programs at the rate of 90% of the Average Daily Membership (ADM). School districts receive 100% of the ADM, plus five multipliers as outlined in the foundation formula. Correspondence Schools do not currently receive any multipliers through the formula.

Alaska statutes require schools to meet the same instructional standards, provide the same level of curriculum, and meet the needs of students regardless if the student is receiving their education from a physical school, or a home-based school.

Under Special Needs statutes, schools are required to provide services including vocational education, special education, gifted and talented, and bilingual/bicultural education. Correspondence Programs meet these needs but do not receive the Special Needs 1.20 multiplier to accomplish this requirement.

HB 139 recognizes Correspondence Programs as one of the methods for the delivery of education throughout Alaska. Many families choose the brick & mortar option for the education of their child, and others choose to educate their student through a correspondence school. Parents determine the most appropriate method of schooling for their child. There are currently 34 Correspondence Programs in Alaska serving more than 20,000 students.

HB 139 seeks to increase funding to Correspondence Programs to the full ADM level, plus the special needs multiplier of 1.20 that currently every school district in the State receives for their brick & mortar schools. HB 139 creates a more level playing field where funding is commensurate with the requirements to educate students across Alaska.