



March 6, 2023

Senate Education Committee – Foundation Funding Program

Follow-up on Committee Member Comments

Prepared by DEED Staff

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1. Chair Tobin requested clarification on if English as a Second Language (ESL), English Language Learners (ELL), and other children who do not have fluency in any language are included in the special needs funding.

The Foundation formula does not categorically fund ESL nor ELL, however, any funding related to this category would most likely be under the 20% funding factor of bilingual under [AS 14.17.420\(a\)\(1\)](#) *Funding for special needs, secondary school vocational and technical instruction, and intensive services.*

The Alaska State Legislature contracted with Augenblick, Palaich and Associates to produce a report titled *Review of Alaska's School Funding Program* in 2015:

- *Enclosure 1 - Review of Alaska's School Funding Program 2015*

Further analysis of this aspect of the formula may be found in the following sections of the Enclosure 1 report:

Section	Document Page #	Adobe PDF Page #
IV. Review of Components in Detail <i>Special Needs Funding</i>	Document page v	PDF page 7
Components of the Alaska School Funding Program <i>Special Needs Funding</i>	Document page 9	PDF page 29
General Themes from District Focus Groups and Interviews <i>Special Needs Funding</i>	Document page 13	PDF page 33
Alaska's Approach & District Perspectives	Document pages 34-35	PDF pages 54-55
Bilingual/Bicultural Students	Document pages 38-39	PDF page 58-59
Variation in Special Needs Populations across Alaska Districts	Document page 41	PDF page 61
Relationship between Student Need and Formula Adjustments	Document page 86	PDF page 106
Special Needs Funding	Document page 111	PDF page 131

2. Chair Tobin requested reporting information for Intensive Need funding in the formula.

[4 AAC 09.015](#) *Student count; intensive services funding* requires school districts to submit reports for students receiving intensive services and funding under [AS 14.17.420\(a\)\(2\)](#) *Funding for special needs, secondary school vocational and technical instruction, and intensive services*.

[AS 14.17.420](#) *Funding for special needs, secondary school vocational and technical instruction, and intensive services* addresses the availability of intensive funding and the amount of the support based on the per student count reported in OASIS. The OASIS report is used to identify new claims to be reviewed for intensive status.

[4 AAC 52.700](#) *Public school foundation program* provides a summary of required documentation that districts must provide to the Department of Education and Early Development to receive Intensive Services Funding. Reports required for verification include the student Individual Education Program (IEP) and in most cases the student's Evaluation Summary and Eligibility Report (ESER).

These documents are typically sufficient to provide information necessary to verify intensive status, but on occasion additional information may be needed to clarify the claim which may include, but is not limited to schedules, testing documentation, and progress reporting.

The student educational plan is contained in the student's IEP with the educational needs identified from the ESER.

The review process allows for school districts to receive the results of the review and have a 30-day period to submit additional information to address any corrections.

3. President Stevens requested a summary of school districts that are contributing to the required and the maximum amounts of local contribution.

Please see:

- *Enclosure 2 - FY2023 Foundation Program AS 14.17.410 Local Effort based on FY2023 Budgets*