

HOUSE BILL NO. 391

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/14/24
Referred: Education

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to charter schools; and providing for an effective date."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 14.03.254. Board-authorized charter schools.** (a) The board may
5 authorize a charter school in a school district under regulations adopted by the board.
6 The regulations must include an application procedure and provisions for
7 establishment of an academic policy committee consisting of parents of students
8 attending the school, teachers, and school employees.

9 (b) The board shall contract with a local school board to operate a charter
10 school authorized by the board under (a) of this section. A local school board that
11 contracts with the board to operate a charter school under this subsection shall operate
12 the charter school as provided in AS 14.03.255 - 14.03.290.

13 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.165(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) The board shall adopt

15 (1) statewide goals and require each governing body to adopt written

1 goals that are consistent with local needs;

2 (2) regulations regarding the application for and award of grants under
3 AS 14.03.125;

4 (3) regulations implementing provisions of AS 14.11.014(b);

5 (4) regulations requiring approval by the board before a charter school,
6 state boarding school, or a public school may provide domiciliary services;

7 (5) regulations establishing standards for an early education program
8 provided by a school district for children who are four and five years of age; the
9 regulations must include

10 (A) standards for a locally designed, evidence-based program
11 that meets Head Start Program Performance Standards and other federal
12 standards required for early education programs to receive federal funding;

13 (B) a requirement that a teacher in charge of a program hold a
14 valid teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20 and

15 (i) have satisfactorily completed a minimum of six
16 credit hours in early childhood education or complete the minimum
17 credit hours within two years of the date the teacher's employment with
18 the early education program begins; or

19 (ii) have two or more years of experience teaching
20 kindergarten or another early education program and have completed
21 additional coursework related to reading instruction, as required by the
22 department;

23 (C) developmentally appropriate objectives for children four
24 and five years of age rather than academic standards appropriate for older
25 children; the objectives must allow school districts to adapt the content of an
26 early education program to be culturally responsive to local communities;

27 (D) accommodations for the needs of all early education
28 children and their families regardless of socioeconomic circumstances; and

29 (E) standards for day in session requirements appropriate for
30 children four and five years of age;

31 (6) regulations establishing standards for day in session requirements

1 appropriate for kindergarten students;

2 **(7) regulations regarding the authorization of charter schools**
3 **under AS 14.03.254.**

4 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The state Board of Education and Early
7 Development may adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act.
8 The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the
9 effective date of the law implemented by the regulation.

10 * **Sec. 4.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

11 * **Sec. 5.** Except as provided in sec. 4 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2024.