

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 392(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to education; relating to charter schools; relating to transportation of**
2 **public school students; relating to correspondence study funding; relating to the base**
3 **student allocation; relating to funding for reading improvement plans; and providing**
4 **for an effective date."**

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

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

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

12 (b) The board shall contract with a local school board to operate a charter
13 school authorized by the board under (a) of this section. A local school board that
14 contracts with the board to operate a charter school under this subsection shall operate

1 the charter school as provided in AS 14.03.255 - 14.03.290.

2 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

3 **Sec. 14.03.256. Charter school termination appeal.** If a local school board
4 terminates a contract with a charter school, the charter school may appeal the decision
5 to the board under regulations established by the board. The board may request written
6 supplementation from the appellant or local school board. The board shall review the
7 decision of the local school board to determine whether the findings of fact are
8 supported by substantial evidence and whether the decision is contrary to law. The
9 board shall issue a written decision within 90 days after the appeal is filed and may

10 (1) remand the appeal to the local school board for further review;

11 (2) reapprove the charter school with or without added conditions; or

12 (3) uphold the decision terminating the charter school contract.

13 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

14 **Sec. 14.03.277. Charter school coordinator.** A position dedicated to charter
15 school support is established in the department. This position is responsible for the
16 development of a repository of charter school resources in the department. The charter
17 school coordinator shall provide support to charter schools, including

18 (1) providing charter schools with policy and regulation expertise and
19 guidance;

20 (2) providing groups assistance preparing charter school applications;

21 (3) coordinating with school districts and the Association of Alaska
22 School Boards to support charter school academic policy committees and local school
23 boards; and

24 (4) coordinating with and providing expertise to legal services
25 provided by the state.

26 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.07.165(a) is amended to read:

27 (a) The board shall adopt

28 (1) statewide goals and require each governing body to adopt written
29 goals that are consistent with local needs;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (6) regulations establishing standards for day in session requirements
29 appropriate for kindergarten students;

30 **(7) regulations regarding the authorization of charter schools**
31 **under AS 14.03.254.**

* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.09.010(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(a) A school district that provides student transportation services for the transportation of students who reside a distance from established schools is eligible to receive funding for operating or subcontracting the operation of the transportation system for students to and from the schools within the student's transportation service area. Subject to appropriation, the amount of funding provided by the state for operating the student transportation system is the amount of a school district's ADM, less the ADM for the district's correspondence programs during the current fiscal year, multiplied by the per student amount for the school district as follows, for the school years beginning July 1, 2024:

DISTRICT	PER STUDENT AMOUNT
Alaska Gateway	\$2,536
Aleutians East	378
Anchorage	531
Annette Island	222
Bering Strait	60
Bristol Bay	3,257
Chatham	342
Copper River	1,934
Cordova	409
Craig	515
Delta/Greely	2,019
Denali	2,203
Dillingham	1,484
Fairbanks	995
Galena	310
Haines	763
Hoonah	364
Iditarod	258
Juneau	735
Kake	331

1	Kashunamiut	6
2	Kenai Peninsula	1,115
3	Ketchikan	886
4	Klawock	712
5	Kodiak Island	974
6	Kuspuk	797
7	Lake and Peninsula	468
8	Lower Kuskokwim	338
9	Lower Yukon	1
10	Matanuska-Susitna	1,109
11	Nenana	716
12	Nome	757
13	North Slope	1,365
14	Northwest Arctic	30
15	Pelican	88
16	Petersburg	457
17	Saint Mary's	235
18	Sitka	522
19	Skagway	44
20	Southeast Island	1,408
21	Southwest Region	728
22	Tanana	581
23	Unalaska	790
24	Valdez	897
25	Wrangell	854
26	Yakutat	907
27	Yukon Flats	322
28	Yukon/Koyukuk	365
29	Yupit	2.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 14.17.430 is amended to read:

Sec. 14.17.430. State funding for correspondence study. Except as provided

1 in AS 14.17.400(b), funding for the state centralized correspondence study program or
 2 a district correspondence program, including a district that offers a statewide
 3 correspondence study program, includes an allocation from the public education fund
 4 in an amount calculated by multiplying the ADM of the correspondence program by
 5 **the special needs funding factor as provided in AS 14.17.420(a)(1)** [90 PERCENT].

6 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.17.470 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is **\$6,640**
 8 [\$5,960].

9 * **Sec. 8.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 **Sec. 14.30.773. Support for reading improvement plans.** Subject to
 11 appropriation and in addition to the state aid received under AS 14.17, the state shall
 12 provide to a school district, for each student in grades kindergarten through three,
 13 \$180 to provide the support, intervention, and services the student needs to reach
 14 reading proficiency by the end of grade three. The state shall provide to a school
 15 district an additional \$100 for each student in grades kindergarten through three at
 16 each school in the school district that receives funds under 20 U.S.C. 6311 - 6339.

17 * **Sec. 9.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2024.