



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
Senate Education Committee

SENATOR Löki Gale Tobin, Chair
State Capital Room 11, Juneau AK 99801, Phone 465-3704

Senate Bill 266 – Correspondence Study Programs

Version B – Sectional Analysis

Section 1 – Amends AS 14.03.016 by repealing the blanket withdrawal provisions of statewide assessments for students in K-12. The statutory requirement for at least two-week notification of statewide assessments remains unchanged. Parents may still withdrawal their public-school participating child from statewide assessments when testing dates fall on religious holidays. Accommodations for students covered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, who have a 504 or Transition Impairment Plan, or are identified as English Learners are not affected by this repeal.

Section 2 – Adds a new subsection to AS 14.03.300 requiring the Alaska Department of Education or a local school district report annually on student participation in their correspondence study program. The report must include demographic information, expenditures made by a student fund account, appropriately aggregated performance on a statewide assessment, and administrative costs associated with operation of the correspondence study program.

Section 3 – Repeals and reenacts AS 14.03.310 and reinstates components of a 2008 correspondence study program regulatory package promulgated by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Under AS 14.03.310, the department or a local school district may provide a correspondent study program enrollee a fund account to meet the purpose of providing individualized academic instruction. The department or a local school district is prohibited from supplanting federally required services with a student fund account. AS 14.03.310 directs the State Board of Education and Early Development to adopt regulations pertaining to student fund account expenditures and outlines stipulations for regulations. The

regulations must comply with AS 14.03.090, which prohibits educators or schools from advocating for partisan, sectarian, or denominational doctrines and AS 14.18.060, which prohibits the selection of textbook and instructional materials that are biased toward one sex. Regulations propagated under this section also must meet additional requirements outlined under new sections (e) through (g) of AS 14.03.310.

The new AS 14.03.310 also directs the department or local public school district to return the unexpended student fund balance to the budget of the department or district including any funds that remain when a student disenrolls from a correspondence study program.

Section 4 – Amends AS 14.07.168 to include information collected under the new subsection established under AS 14.03.300 in the annual report submitted by the State Board of Education and Early Development to the Alaska State Legislature.

Section 5 – Amends AS 14.07.158, sec. 23, ch. 40 SLA 2022, which repeals AS 14.07.168 (4) on June 30, 2034, to include in the annual report provided to the Alaska Legislature by the Alaska Board of Education and Early Development that includes the information established under the new subsection established under AS 14.03.300. Section 4 and 5 relate to the 2034 repeal of the Alaska Reads Act, ensuring continued reporting of the information collected under AS 14.03.300.

Section 6 – Repeals AS 14.03.300 (b).

Section 7 – Stipulates that Section 5 of this Act takes effect on the effective date of sec. 23, ch. 40, SLA 2022.

Section 8 – Sets an immediate effective date for the Act, except for Section 7.