



Sponsor Statement

House Bill 202: Opioid Overdose Drugs in Schools

33-LS0705U

"An Act relating to the availability and administration of opioid overdose drugs in public schools."

Between 2018 and 2022, 886 drug overdose deaths occurred in Alaska. Last year, Anchorage School District officials reported at least ten opioid overdoses over the course of one month, including five of these overdoses happening in one day.

From August 17th, 2023, to February 9th, 2024, there were 117 visits to emergency departments for kids aged 5-18 that occurred on school days that could have happened at schools. Ten of these cases specifically mentioned that the school the child attended was involved, and many of these were proven to be intentional overdoses.

The Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recommends that schools keep Naloxone on hand as fatal opioid overdose numbers rise. As of October of 2023, 33 states had adopted laws that allow schools or school employees to store and administer opioid overdose drugs, according to Jon Woodruff, the managing attorney at the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association.

HB 202 will require all school districts to keep at least two opioid overdose drug kits in each main school building and ensures that at least one person trained to administer the opioid overdose drug is present during all hours that the main school building is open to students or the public. This bill also requires each school-sponsored event, and weekend activities that are on school grounds to have at least one opioid overdose drug kit present and at least one person who is trained to administer. Finally, this bill requires the Department of Health to provide each school district with the opioid overdose drug, and the Commissioner of Health to develop and provide a short video to each school district about how and when to administer an opioid overdose drug.

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