



## **House Bill 69 – Education: Funding, Schools, Devices**

### ***Version S – Explanation of Changes***

**Section 1** – Amends AS 14.03 to add a new section directing school districts to adopt a target average class size policy for each grade level. Maximum class sizes are set for grades pre-K through sixth grade and seventh through twelfth grade. Districts may exclude non-essential courses and mixed-grade classes from the class size restrictions. Districts unable to meet the target class size limits, would be required to report why they were unable to meet the limits and how they plan to meet the limits in the future.

**Section 2** – Amends AS 14.03.080 to direct districts to adopt an inter-district open enrollment policy. Districts must address the military status of parents or guardians, the placement of siblings, and the employment of parents or guardians. Districts must establish a procedure for appealing the denial of an enrollment application.

**Section 3** – Directs district to public enrollment practices and policies.

**Section 4** – Amends AS 14.03.080 by requiring the Department of Education and Early Development to report on student academic progress over time.

**Section 5** – Amends AS 14.03.120 and directs DEED to publish class sizes for grades K through 12th grade.

**Section 6** – Directs DEED to collaborate with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development to collect data on each high school graduating class every 5 years until 20 years after graduation.



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**Section 7** – Establishes a student academic improvement recognition program.

**Section 8** – Reduces the time the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development is required to review a charter school application appeal.

**Section 9** – Conforming language for section 11.

**Section 10** – Adds a new subsection under AS 14.03.255 to allow a school board to establish a simplified renewal process for a charter school in good standing.

**Section 11** – Adds a new section under AS 14.03 regarding appeal procedures for a charter school contract. The language mirrors administrative law governing contracts.

**Section 12** – Amends AS 14.03.260 to allow a school district to apply an indirect administrative cost rate for a charter school for actual accrued administrative costs or up to eight percent, whichever is less.

**Section 13** – Extends the report on correspondence study programs that was set to expire on July 1, 2025.

**Section 14** – Conforming language for section 15.



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**Section 15** – Amends AS 14.03.310 to provide an allotment to a student enrolled in a correspondence program who participates in a state standards-based assessment, alternative assessment, or provides a student portfolio based on criteria established by DEED.

**Section 16** – Conforming language to section 13.

**Section 17** - Conforming language to section 13, based on the Alaska Reads Act repeal in 2034.

**Section 18** – Conforming language to section 19.

**Section 19** – Amends AS 14.17.410 by adding a new subsection to allow a city or borough school district to support non-classroom related activities permitted by federal guidance.

**Section 20** – Increases the base student allocation by \$1,000.

**Section 21** – Conforming language related to inter-district open enrollment policies by permitting a child over age 16 to attend a school chosen by the student’s parent or guardian.

**Section 22** – Conforming language relate to inter-district open enrollment policies by permitting a child who receives services under a 504 special education plan to attend a school of their parent or guardian’s choice.



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**Section 23** – Conforming language related to section 22.

**Section 24** – Provides reading proficiency grants for non-Kindergarten ready students, Kindergarten through third grade students who are not reading at grade level, and kindergarten through third grade students who are reading at grade level. Grants are subject to appropriation.

**Section 25** – Amends AS 14.33 by adding a new section that directs districts to adopt a wireless telecommunications device policy.

**Section 26** – Directs the Alaska Workforce Investment Board to work with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and DEED to develop a statewide policy for coordinated and effective technical and vocational education training including offering each high school student an opportunity to take a career or college entrance exam or assessment. The section also requires the creation of a recognition program for high schools that achieve a 90% assessment rate.

**Section 27** – Conforming language to section 6.

**Section 28** – Allows DEED to adopt correspondence programs in regulation.

**Section 29** – Removes the exemption from complying with AS 14.17.505 for unobligated allotment funds.

**Section 30** – Establishes a Task Force on Education Funding to review and recommend education reforms. The task force's report will be due January 31, 2027.



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**Section 31** – Amends uncodified law to add a new section with applicability language noting that sections 8-12 apply to a contract that becomes legally binding on or after the effective date of sections 8-12 of this act.

**Section 32** – Conforming language for section 13 regarding the repeal of the Alaska Reads Act in 2034.

**Section 33** – Sets a July 1, 2025, effective date for the act.

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