

STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE

1988

Source

SR 34

Senate

Resolve No.

25



Establishing a Senate Special Committee on School Performance.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS expenditures for public education in Alaska are higher on a per capita basis than in any other state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, despite this level of expenditures, standardized achievement tests show 60 to 80 percent of the students in many of our school districts to be performing below the national average in reading, language arts, mathematics, and other basic skill areas; and

WHEREAS these low levels of achievement are largely found in districts having low-income families, bilingual pupils, and environments culturally different from that of most Alaskans; and

WHEREAS despite the varied efforts of individual school districts and the Department of Education, the performance levels in these basic skill areas in most of these districts have shown little change in recent years; and

WHEREAS the Senate believes the student test results are indicators not only of student performance but school performance as well; and

WHEREAS effective school performance is generally believed to be dependent upon the joined efforts of students, parents, teachers, and administrators; and

WHEREAS the Senate is deeply concerned over what appears to be the inadequate preparation of hundreds of Alaska's youth for employment, training, or further education;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate that a Special Committee on School Performance is established consisting of five members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate who shall designate a member to chair the committee; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall identify steps being taken by school districts with low student performance in basic skill areas to improve that performance and recommend actions that may be taken by the legislature to improve student performance in those districts, and that the committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature on the first day of the First Regular Session of the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is authorized to meet during the Second Regular Session of the Fifteenth Alaska State Legislature and during the interim, and is terminated on the first day of the First Regular Session of the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature.