



# LAWS OF ALASKA

2001

**Source**  
SCS CSHB 101(HES)

**Chapter No.**  
70

## AN ACT

Relating to charter schools; and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

**Approved by the Governor:** July 3, 2001  
**Actual Effective Date:** July 4, 2001

AN ACT

1 Relating to charter schools; and providing for an effective date.

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3 \* Section 1. AS 14.03.250(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) A charter school may be established as provided under AS 14.03.250 -  
5 14.03.290 upon the approval of the local school board and the state Board of  
6 Education and Early Development of an application for a charter school. The state  
7 Board of Education and Early Development may not approve more than 60 [30]  
8 charter schools to operate in the state at any one time [AND SHALL APPROVE  
9 CHARTER SCHOOLS IN A GEOGRAPHICALLY BALANCED MANNER AS  
10 FOLLOWS: NOT MORE THAN 10 SCHOOLS IN ANCHORAGE; NOT MORE  
11 THAN FIVE SCHOOLS IN FAIRBANKS; NOT MORE THAN THREE SCHOOLS  
12 IN THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH; NOT MORE THAN THREE  
13 SCHOOLS IN THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH; NOT MORE THAN TWO  
14 SCHOOLS IN THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU; NOT MORE THAN  
15 SEVEN SCHOOLS LOCATED IN OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE, AND THESE

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1 SEVEN SCHOOLS SHALL BE ALLOCATED AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE IN A  
2 GEOGRAPHICALLY BALANCED MANNER THROUGHOUT THE REST OF  
3 THE STATE].

4 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.255(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) A charter school operates as a school in the local school district except that  
6 the charter school (1) is exempt from the local school district's textbook, program,  
7 curriculum, and scheduling requirements; (2) is exempt from AS 14.14.130(c); the  
8 principal of the charter school shall be selected by the academic policy committee and  
9 shall select, appoint, or otherwise supervise employees of the charter school; and (3)  
10 operates under the charter school's annual program budget as set out in the contract  
11 between the local school board and the charter school under (c) of this section. A  
12 local school board may exempt a charter school from other local school district  
13 requirements if the exemption is set out in the contract. **A charter school is subject**  
14 **to secondary school competency testing as provided in AS 14.03.075 and other**  
15 **competency tests required by the department.**

16 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.255(c) is amended to read:

17 (c) A charter school shall operate under a contract between the charter school  
18 and the local school board. A contract must contain the following provisions:

- 19 (1) **a** description of the educational program;
- 20 (2) specific levels of achievement for the education program;
- 21 (3) admission policies and procedures;
- 22 (4) administrative policies;
- 23 (5) **a** statement of the charter school's funding allocation from the local  
24 school board and costs assignable to the charter school program budget;
- 25 (6) **the** method by which the charter school will account for receipts  
26 and expenditures;
- 27 (7) **the** location and description of the facility;
- 28 (8) **the** name of the teacher, or teachers, who, by agreement between  
29 the charter school and the teacher, will teach in the charter school;
- 30 (9) **the** teacher-to-student ratio;
- 31 (10) **the** number of students served;

1 (11) the term of the contract, not to exceed a term of 10 [FIVE] years;

2 (12) a termination clause providing that the contract may be terminated  
3 by the local school board for the failure of the charter school to meet educational  
4 achievement goals or fiscal management standards, or for other good cause;

5 (13) a statement that the charter school will comply with all state and  
6 federal requirements for receipt and use of public money;

7 (14) other requirements or exemptions agreed upon by the charter  
8 school and the local school board.

9 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03.255(d) is amended to read:

10 (d) A charter school may be operated in an existing school district facility or  
11 in a facility within the school district that is not currently being used as a public  
12 school, if the chief school administrator determines the facility meets requirements for  
13 health and safety applicable to public buildings or other public schools in the district.

14 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

15 **Sec. 14.03.263. Charter school grant program.** (a) A charter school may  
16 receive a one-time grant from the department equal to the amount of \$500 for each  
17 pupil enrolled in the charter school on October 1 of the year in which the school  
18 applies for the grant. The charter school shall use a grant received under this  
19 subsection to provide educational services. In this subsection, "educational services"  
20 includes curriculum development, program development, and special education  
21 services.

22 (b) The department shall establish by regulation procedures for application for  
23 and expenditure of grant funds under (a) of this section.

24 (c) If the amount appropriated in a fiscal year for the charter school grant  
25 program is insufficient to meet the amounts authorized under (a) of this section, the  
26 department shall reduce pro rata each pupil's grant by the necessary percentage as  
27 determined by the department. If a charter school grant is reduced under this  
28 subsection, the charter school may apply to the department in a subsequent fiscal year  
29 for the balance of the grant.

30 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 14.03.275 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 14.03.275. Contracts; duration.** A contract for a charter school may be

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1           for a term of no more than **10** [FIVE] years [AND MAY NOT EXTEND BEYOND  
2           JULY 1, 2005].

3   \* **Sec. 7.** AS 14.17.905 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:  
4                   (b) Notwithstanding (a)(3) of this section, a charter school shall be counted as  
5           a separate school if the charter school has an ADM of at least 150 students.

6   \* **Sec. 8.** Section 9, ch. 77, SLA 1995, is repealed.

7   \* **Sec. 9.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2001.