

HOUSE BILL NO. 306

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARA, KAWASAKI, NELSON, KERTTULA, AND GRUENBERG, Salmon

Introduced: 1/15/08

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to providing a pre-elementary program within a school district; and
2 providing for the certification of early childhood education plans."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03.060(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) An elementary school consists of grades kindergarten through grade eight
6 or any appropriate combination of grades within this range, and a pre-elementary
7 program provided by a school district for students three through five years of
8 age.

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.080 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (g) A child who is three years of age on or before September 1 following the
11 beginning of the school year and who is under school age may enter a public school
12 pre-elementary program.

13 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.07.020(c) is amended to read:

14 (c) In this section, "pre-elementary school" means a school for children

1 [AGES] three through five years **of age** if the school's primary function is educational,
 2 **and a pre-elementary program that is provided by a school district.**

3 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.07.165 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 14.07.165. Duties.** The board shall adopt

5 (1) statewide goals and require each governing body to adopt written
 6 goals that are consistent with local needs;

7 (2) regulations regarding the application for and award of grants under
 8 AS 14.03.125;

9 (3) regulations implementing provisions of AS 14.11.014(b);

10 (4) regulations requiring approval by the board before a charter school,
 11 state boarding school, or a public school may provide domiciliary services;

12 (5) regulations implementing the secondary school student competency
 13 examination provisions of AS 14.03.075, including the criteria and procedure under
 14 which a governing body uses a waiver to grant a diploma to a student; criteria
 15 regarding granting a waiver must include provisions that a waiver may only be granted
 16 for students who enter the system late or have rare or unusual circumstances meriting
 17 a waiver;

18 **(6) regulations for the certification and implementation of a**
 19 **statewide plan to establish an effective means for providing early childhood**
 20 **education using the model curriculum developed by the department under**
 21 **AS 14.07.030(13); the plan must provide for a cost-efficient alternative to a pre-**
 22 **elementary program provided by a school district under AS 14.17.905(a)(2)(A).**

23 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.17.905(a) is amended to read:

24 (a) For purposes of this chapter, the determination of the number of schools in
 25 a district is subject to the following:

26 (1) a community with an ADM of at least 10, but not more than 100,
 27 shall be counted as one school;

28 (2) a community with an ADM of at least 101, but not more than 425,
 29 shall be counted as

30 (A) one elementary school, which includes those students in
 31 grades kindergarten through six, **and, except as provided in (c) of this**

1 section, a pre-elementary program provided by a school district for
2 students three through five years of age; and

3 (B) one secondary school, which includes students in grades
4 seven through 12;

5 (3) in a community with an ADM of greater than 425, each facility that
6 is administered as a separate school shall be counted as one school, except that each
7 alternative school with an ADM of less than 200 shall be counted as a part of the
8 school in the district with the highest ADM.

9 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.17.905 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (c) A school district may not include in the average daily membership of a
11 school students who are three through five years of age if the students are enrolled in a
12 program that

13 (1) complies with a statewide plan for implementing the model
14 curriculum for early childhood education under AS 14.07.165(6); and

15 (2) receives funding other than funding under this section.