

HOUSE BILL NO. 151

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES REINBOLD, LeDoux, Olson, Keller, Higgins

Introduced: 3/1/13

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing a public school and school district grading system for purposes of
2 improving accountability and transparency; providing for Alaska strategic educators in
3 public schools; and providing for an effective date."

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

5 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Parental Education Information Act.

8 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.123(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) By **July** [SEPTEMBER] 1 of each year, the department shall assign a
10 performance designation to each public school, **including charter schools and**
11 **boarding schools, to each** [AND] school district, and to the state public school
12 system in accordance with (f) of this section **and AS 14.03.124.**

13 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.123(c) is amended to read:

14 (c) The state board shall adopt regulations implementing this section,

1 providing for a statewide student assessment system, and providing for the process of
2 assigning a designation under (a) of this section, including

3 (1) the **method** [METHODOLOGY] used to assign the performance
4 designation, including the measures used and their relative weights;

5 (2) high performance and low performance designations that are based
6 on the accountability system under this section **and AS 14.03.124**;

7 (3) a procedure for appealing a designation that may be used by the
8 principal of a public school or by the superintendent of a public school district;

9 (4) additional measures that may be progressively implemented by the
10 commissioner to assist schools or districts to improve performance in accordance with
11 this section and with federal law; to the extent necessary to conform to federal law, the
12 additional measures may be unique to a certain school or district if that school or
13 district receives federal funding that is not available to all schools or districts in the
14 state.

15 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03.123(f) is amended to read:

16 (f) In the accountability system for schools and districts required by this
17 section, the department shall

18 (1) implement 20 U.S.C. 6301 - 7941 (Elementary and Secondary
19 Education Act of 1965), as amended;

20 (2) implement state criteria and priorities for accountability including
21 the use of

22 (A) measures of student performance on **statewide** standards-
23 based assessments in reading, writing, [AND] mathematics, and **science**,
24 including competency tests required under AS 14.03.075;

25 (B) measures of student improvement; and

26 (C) **indicators of school progress, including**

27 **(i) a comparison of student performance over**
28 **sequential years in each grade level at each school;**

29 **(ii) gains in individual student learning for the**
30 **lowest performing 25 percent of students** [OTHER MEASURES
31 IDENTIFIED THAT ARE INDICATORS OF STUDENT SUCCESS

1 AND ACHIEVEMENT]; and

2 (3) to the extent practicable, minimize the administrative burden on
3 districts.

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

5 **Sec. 14.03.124. Public school and school district grading system.** (a) Except
6 as provided in (d) of this section, the department shall annually assign to each public
7 school, including charter schools and boarding schools, and to each school district a
8 performance designation as provided under this section for the purpose of improving
9 accountability and transparency of public school progress in the state. The
10 performance designation shall be based on the accountability system established under
11 AS 14.03.123(f) and the measurements provided in this section.

12 (b) The department shall establish by regulation the criteria that accounts for
13 improvement in student achievement for assigning annual performance designations as
14 follows:

- 15 (1) "A" for a school making excellent progress;
- 16 (2) "B" for a school making above average progress;
- 17 (3) "C" for a school making satisfactory progress;
- 18 (4) "D" for a school making less than satisfactory progress;
- 19 (5) "F" for a school failing to make adequate progress.

20 (c) The department shall assign a performance designation based on two years
21 of data collected under AS 14.03.123(f) as follows:

- 22 (1) 50 percent on combined student achievement data;
- 23 (2) 25 percent on the individual learning gains of all students; and
- 24 (3) 25 percent on the individual learning gains in reading and
25 mathematics, if any, achieved by students who scored at or below the 25th percentile
26 on the statewide standards-based assessment in reading or mathematics.

27 (d) A school that has fewer than 20 full-time equivalent students is exempt
28 from this section.

29 (e) The department shall adopt regulations to implement this section and
30 provide annual incentives, including increased autonomy, to a district, to the extent
31 authorized by law, for making improvements in school and student performance in at

1 least two grade levels and for a grade of "A."

2 (f) The department shall assign to each school district a performance
3 designation that is based on the combined accountability data for all schools operated
4 by the district as provided under this section.

5 (g) Each school shall prominently display the performance designation
6 assigned each year under this section on the main entrance of the school and on the
7 Internet website for the school.

8 (h) A school principal, a school district, and the department shall identify as
9 an Alaska Strategic Educator a teacher who volunteers to be assigned and is assigned
10 to teach in a classroom in a school for the school year immediately after a school year
11 for which that school earned a designation of "D" or "F" under this section.

12 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2014.