

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 30(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/22/19

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS STEVENS, Begich

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska middle college program for public school students;**
2 **relating to the powers of the University of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.07.168 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature.** Not later than the 30th legislative
6 day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present in
7 person to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual
8 report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously
9 improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the
10 bylaws of the board. The report must include

11 (1) a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of
12 policy decisions made under AS 14.03.015;

13 (2) program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or
14 recommended in meetings held under AS 14.07.125;

(3) additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and maintain the public education system;

(4) a summary of the Alaska middle college program established in AS 14.30.780; the summary must include the

(A) number of students participating in the program;

(B) types of courses in which students have enrolled;

(C) total number of credits that students have earned;

(D) rate of subsequent enrollment in postsecondary institutions by students who participated in the program; and

(E) postsecondary remediation rates of students who participated in the program for courses taken through the program.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Article 15. Dual Credit.

Sec. 14.30.780. Alaska middle college program established. (a) The Alaska middle college program is established for eligible students to enroll in courses offered by the University of Alaska. A student shall earn both high school and college credit for each course the student has satisfactorily completed through the program. College credit earned through the program is fully transferable within the University of Alaska system.

(b) Every school district shall participate in the program. Each school district shall enter into an agreement with the University of Alaska for the purpose of carrying out the program. An agreement under this subsection must allow any student eligible under (c) of this section to participate in the program.

(c) A student is eligible for the program if the student

(1) is enrolled in public school in the state;

(2) has completed the eighth grade and has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the school district and the University of Alaska, the academic ability necessary to complete college level coursework;

(3) has not been awarded a high school diploma; and

(4) complies with the requirements of the program.

(d) Every school district shall provide information about the program to

1 students in grades eight through 12 who are enrolled in a public school in the state.
 2 The information provided must include the

3 (1) process that the University of Alaska uses in awarding credit for
 4 completing a course through the program, including the minimum scores generally
 5 required to receive college credit from a state postsecondary institution;

6 (2) availability of program courses offered online and throughout the
 7 school district;

8 (3) benefits of earning college credit while enrolled in high school;

9 (4) availability of academic support services;

10 (5) academic and social responsibilities associated with participating in
 11 the program; and

12 (6) consequences of failing or not completing a course taken through
 13 the program.

14 (e) A student who is enrolled in the program may not be required to pay
 15 tuition or other costs associated with the program. An agreement entered into by a
 16 school district and the University under (b) of this section must state the manner in
 17 which costs associated with the program will be shared between the participating
 18 school district and the University of Alaska. The agreement may provide for
 19 scholarship opportunities and fee waivers to reduce the cost to the school district of
 20 participating in the program.

21 (f) A program course may be offered and taught at a public high school in the
 22 state if

23 (1) the content and curriculum of the course is consistent with the
 24 standards and learning outcomes of the equivalent course offered at the University of
 25 Alaska;

26 (2) the instructor teaching the course meets the University of Alaska's
 27 standards for adjunct faculty members;

28 (3) the instructor uses the same textbooks and instructional materials
 29 used for the equivalent course offered at the University of Alaska; and

30 (4) the course and the instructor are subject to regular evaluation by the
 31 University of Alaska to ensure compliance with these standards.

(g) A student who enrolls in the program shall be permitted to enroll in up to 12 credits each semester and earn up to 60 total credits.

(h) For the purpose of calculating a school district's ADM under AS 14.17.410, a student participating in the program is considered a full-time student of the school district in which the student is enrolled.

(i) The University of Alaska and a school district may release to each other the transcript of a student to determine the student's eligibility for the program or for graduation.

(j) In this section,

(1) "program" means the middle college program established under this section;

(2) "school district" has the meaning given in AS 14.30.350.

*** Sec. 3.** AS 14.40.040 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) The University of Alaska shall implement the Alaska middle college program established under AS 14.30.780. The University of Alaska may not require an applicant to the program to meet eligibility criteria in addition to the eligibility requirements under AS 14.30.780(c). The University of Alaska shall

(1) evaluate and regularly review each course offered in the middle college program under AS 14.30.780(f) to ensure consistency with national standards for awarding dual credit;

(2) enter into an agreement with a school district consistent with the middle college program standards; and

(3) award to a student college credit that is fully transferable within the University of Alaska system for each course satisfactorily completed under the middle college program.

*** Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2020.