

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) am H
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amended: 2/22/24

Offered: 5/11/23

Sponsor(s): SENATORS HOFFMAN, Bishop, Claman, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Kiehl, Dunbar, Olson, Stevens

REPRESENTATIVES Josephson, Hannan, Schrage, Stutes

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; relating to charter**
2 **schools; relating to transportation of public school students; relating to correspondence**
3 **study funding; relating to the base student allocation; relating to funding for reading**
4 **improvement plans; and providing for an effective date."**

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

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

8 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. To the greatest extent possible, a portion of additional
9 funds authorized by this legislation shall be directed to the classroom in the form of educator
10 salary and retention bonuses. Each school district shall provide a report to the senate secretary
11 and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is
12 available not later than February 1 of each regular session of the Thirty-Fourth Alaska State
13 Legislature describing efforts made by the district to direct additional funds to the classroom
14 in the form of educator salary and retention bonuses.

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.127(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) Each fiscal year, a district in which one or more schools qualify for a
3 discounted rate for Internet services under the federal universal services program is
4 eligible to receive an amount for each school that is equal to the amount needed to
5 bring the applicant's share to 100 [25] megabits of download a second of the Internet
6 services.

7 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

8 **Sec. 14.03.256. Charter school termination appeal.** If a local school board
9 terminates a contract with a charter school, the charter school may appeal the decision
10 to the commissioner under regulations established by the commissioner. The
11 commissioner may request written supplementation from the appellant or local school
12 board. The commissioner shall review the decision of the local school board to
13 determine whether the findings of fact are supported by substantial evidence and
14 whether the decision is contrary to law. The commissioner shall issue a written
15 decision within 90 days after the appeal is filed and may

16 (1) remand the appeal to the local school board for further review;

17 (2) reapprove the charter school with or without added conditions; or

18 (3) uphold the decision terminating the charter school.

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

20 **Sec. 14.03.277. Charter school coordinator.** A position dedicated to charter
21 school support is established in the department. This position is responsible for the
22 development of a repository of charter school resources in the department. The charter
23 school coordinator shall provide support to charter schools, including

24 (1) providing charter schools with policy and regulation expertise and
25 guidance;

26 (2) providing groups assistance preparing charter school applications;

27 (3) coordinating with school districts and the Association of Alaska
28 School Boards to support charter school academic policy committees and local school
29 boards; and

30 (4) coordinating with and providing expertise to legal services
31 provided by the state.

1 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.09.010(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

2 (a) A school district that provides student transportation services for the
3 transportation of students who reside a distance from established schools is eligible to
4 receive funding for operating or subcontracting the operation of the transportation
5 system for students to and from the schools within the student's transportation service
6 area. Subject to appropriation, the amount of funding provided by the state for
7 operating the student transportation system is the amount of a school district's ADM,
8 less the ADM for the district's correspondence programs during the current fiscal year,
9 multiplied by the per student amount for the school district as follows, for the school
10 years beginning July 1, 2024:

11 DISTRICT	PER STUDENT AMOUNT
12 Alaska Gateway	\$2,536
13 Aleutians East	378
14 Anchorage	531
15 Annette Island	222
16 Bering Strait	60
17 Bristol Bay	3,257
18 Chatham	342
19 Copper River	1,934
20 Cordova	409
21 Craig	515
22 Delta/Greely	2,019
23 Denali	2,203
24 Dillingham	1,484
25 Fairbanks	995
26 Galena	310
27 Haines	763
28 Hoonah	364
29 Iditarod	258
30 Juneau	735
31 Kake	331

1	Kashunamiut	6
2	Kenai Peninsula	1,115
3	Ketchikan	886
4	Klawock	712
5	Kodiak Island	974
6	Kuspuk	797
7	Lake and Peninsula	468
8	Lower Kuskokwim	338
9	Lower Yukon	1
10	Matanuska-Susitna	1,109
11	Nenana	716
12	Nome	757
13	North Slope	1,365
14	Northwest Arctic	30
15	Pelican	88
16	Petersburg	457
17	Saint Mary's	235
18	Sitka	522
19	Skagway	44
20	Southeast Island	1,408
21	Southwest Region	728
22	Tanana	581
23	Unalaska	790
24	Valdez	897
25	Wrangell	854
26	Yakutat	907
27	Yukon Flats	322
28	Yukon/Koyukuk	365
29	Yupiit	2.

30 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.17.430 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 14.17.430. State funding for correspondence study.** Except as provided

1 in AS 14.17.400(b), funding for the state centralized correspondence study program or
2 a district correspondence program, including a district that offers a statewide
3 correspondence study program, includes an allocation from the public education fund
4 in an amount calculated by using [MULTIPLYING] the ADM of the correspondence
5 program reported under AS 14.17.500(a) and 14.17.600(a) [BY 90 PERCENT].

6 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.17.470 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is \$6,640
8 [\$5,960].

9 * **Sec. 8.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to article 15 to read:

10 **Sec. 14.30.773. Support for reading improvement plans.** The state shall
11 provide to a school district, for each student in grades kindergarten through three who
12 is determined to have a reading deficiency based on the statewide screening or
13 assessment tool, \$500 to provide the support, intervention, and services the student
14 needs for the student's reading improvement plan, including teacher and
15 paraprofessional career development.

16 * **Sec. 9.** Section 2 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

17 * **Sec. 10.** Except as provided in sec. 9 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2024.