

HOUSE BILL NO. 333

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE BYNUM

Introduced: 2/23/26

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to technical readiness and career training education in public schools."**

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

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

5 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the Alaska technical
6 readiness and career training system will serve as the foundation of a statewide framework for
7 comprehensive career and technical education by providing dedicated and direct funding to
8 school districts to offer high quality, hands-on learning opportunities for students in grades six
9 through 12, through the incentivized integration of technical readiness, career training, and
10 work-based learning alongside traditional academic curricula and programs.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.17.420(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) As a component of public school funding, a district is eligible for special
13 needs and secondary school vocational and technical instruction funding and may be
14 eligible for intensive services funding as follows:

15 (1) special needs funding is available to a district to assist the district

1 in providing special education, gifted and talented education, vocational education,
2 and bilingual education services to its students; a special needs funding factor of 1.20
3 shall be applied as set out in AS 14.17.410(b)(1);

4 (2) in addition to the special needs funding for which a district is
5 eligible under (1) of this subsection, a district is eligible for intensive services funding
6 for each special education student who needs and receives intensive services and is
7 enrolled on the last day of the count period; for each [SUCH] student, intensive
8 services funding is equal to the intensive student count multiplied by 13;

9 (3) in addition to the special needs and intensive services funding
10 available under (1) and (2) of this subsection, secondary school vocational and
11 technical instruction funding is available to assist districts in providing vocational and
12 technical instruction to students who are enrolled in a secondary school; a secondary
13 school vocational and technical instruction funding factor of 1.025 [1.015] shall be
14 applied as set out in AS 14.17.410(b)(1); in this paragraph, "vocational and technical
15 instruction" excludes costs associated with

16 (A) administrative expenses; and

17 (B) instruction in general literacy, mathematics, and job
18 readiness skills.

19 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.17 is amended by adding a new section to article 2 to read:

20 **Sec. 14.17.530. Minimum expenditure for technical, career, and work-**
21 **based instruction.** A district shall budget for and spend at least 80 percent of the
22 funds obtained for vocational and technical instruction under AS 14.17.420(a)(3) on
23 directly offering and supporting technical readiness, career training, and work-based
24 learning opportunities for students in grades six through 12.

25 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

26 **Article 17. Career and Technical Education.**

27 **Sec. 14.30.810. Alaska technical readiness and career training system.** (a)
28 The Alaska technical readiness and career training system is established in the
29 department to help develop and expand technical readiness and career training
30 programs across districts and to support the ongoing maintenance of the programs.

31 (b) A technical readiness and career training program developed under this

1 section may include classroom instruction, laboratory-based technical education,
2 industry-aligned certification programs, hands-on training, apprenticeships,
3 internships, cooperative education, and other work-based learning opportunities. Each
4 technical readiness and career training program must

5 (1) be structured so that a student is evaluated based on the student's
6 degree of mastery of defined knowledge, skills, and abilities, as determined by the
7 program instructor;

8 (2) be designed to provide students with

9 (A) career pathways;

10 (B) credentials that build progressively on one another over
11 time and collectively contribute toward additional credentials, postsecondary
12 degrees, advanced training, or career achievements within a defined career
13 pathway; and

14 (C) opportunities through technical readiness, career training,
15 or work-based learning programs that are accepted for credit toward high
16 school graduation, postsecondary education, or advanced standing or
17 placement in a public or private educational or training institution;

18 (3) be developed in collaboration with partners in the private sector,
19 labor organizations, tribal entities, postsecondary educational institutions, private
20 training providers, and municipal governments to ensure the program is aligned with
21 current and future workforce needs;

22 (4) integrate technical readiness and work-based learning by providing
23 students with

24 (A) foundational academic knowledge;

25 (B) industry-recognized technical skills; and

26 (C) practical competencies necessary for successful entry into
27 the workforce, apprenticeships, technical training programs, or postsecondary
28 educational institutions.

29 (c) In this section, "industry-aligned certification program" means a course of
30 education or training that prepares students for the attainment of credentials that are
31 recognized, endorsed, or required by employers, industry associations, labor

1 organizations, or regulatory bodies within a specific industry or occupational field and
2 that reflect current or projected standards of workforce skills and employment needs
3 as identified through collaborations with private sector, labor, tribal, or postsecondary
4 partners.

5 **Sec. 14.30.820. Technical readiness and career training system**
6 **coordinator.** A technical readiness and career training system coordinator is
7 established in the department to oversee the Alaska technical readiness and career
8 training system established in the department. The coordinator shall

9 (1) develop and maintain a repository of career and technical education
10 resources in the department, including resources relating to curricula, best practices,
11 and industry-aligned training modules;

12 (2) support districts with developing, implementing, and maintaining
13 technical readiness and career training programs;

14 (3) facilitate partnerships between districts, industry partners, labor
15 organizations, tribal entities, private training programs, and postsecondary institutions
16 to support technical readiness and career training programs;

17 (4) regularly evaluate the effect of career and technical education on
18 student outcomes and workforce readiness;

19 (5) provide recommendations for program improvements;

20 (6) collect and analyze data on technical readiness and career training
21 program enrollment and completion rates and the number of career and technical
22 education students who are placed in apprenticeships, obtained employment, and
23 attended postsecondary educational institutions; and

24 (7) create and maintain a model agreement for districts and partner
25 entities to use as provided under AS 14.30.830(a).

26 **Sec. 14.30.830. Technical readiness and career training in our**
27 **neighborhood program.** (a) A district may enter into an agreement with a partner
28 entity to allow high school students to earn school credit for participation in technical
29 readiness, career training education, and work-based learning opportunities provided
30 by the partner entity. To take effect, an agreement must be ratified by the school board
31 and approved by the technical readiness and career training system coordinator. A

1 district and partner entity may use the model agreement created and maintained by the
2 coordinator under AS 14.30.820(7) or develop another agreement to establish the
3 terms of participation. A district shall allow school credits earned under an agreement
4 to apply toward meeting the requirements for a certificate of graduation from high
5 school.

6 (b) Subject to appropriation, a district is eligible to receive \$150 for each half-
7 unit of credit earned by a student through an agreement with a partner entity, up to a
8 maximum of \$450 a student each school year.

9 (c) On or before the 10th legislative day of each regular session of the
10 legislature, the department shall submit a report on education offered under this
11 section, including, for the previous school year, the total amount awarded to each
12 district under (b) of this section, the number of students in each grade level for whom
13 each district received funding under (b) of this section, and the names of partner
14 entities that have entered into agreements with districts authorized under (a) of this
15 section. The department shall deliver a copy of the report to the senate secretary and
16 the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report
17 is available.

18 **Sec. 14.30.840. Definitions.** In AS 14.30.810 - 14.30.840,

19 (1) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.900;

20 (2) "partner entity" means an in-state postsecondary educational
21 institution, tribal entity, labor organization, business, nonprofit, or municipal
22 government with which a district has entered into an agreement under AS 14.30.830.