

**SENATE BILL NO. 127**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON BY REQUEST**

**Introduced: 3/12/25**

**Referred: Education, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the education of visually impaired students in public schools."**

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

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.30.278 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 (d) When developing an individualized education program for a student with  
5 visual impairment, the school district shall presume that proficiency in literacy is  
6 essential for the student to meet the student's annual education goals. An  
7 individualized education program for a student with visual impairment must include  
8 braille instruction unless it is determined while developing the individualized  
9 education plan that other special education services are more appropriate to the  
10 student's educational needs; however, the provision of other appropriate services does  
11 not preclude the provision of braille instruction.

12 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.30.630 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 (c) The agency, in cooperation with the department and school districts, shall  
14 administer a program of special education services, in addition to the special education  
15 services provided by the public school system, that is designed to meet the educational

1 needs of visually impaired children who are at least three years of age but less than 22  
2 years of age. The program may provide special materials or services and employ  
3 teachers who are not assigned to a specific classroom or special education teachers for  
4 visually impaired students. The agency shall assist the department and school districts  
5 with in-person training in braille for currently employed teachers of students who are  
6 visually impaired.

7 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.60.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

8 (11) "braille" means the system of reading and writing through touch,  
9 which is commonly known as Standard English Braille, Grade 2.