

SENATE BILL NO. 257

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR JONES BY REQUEST

Introduced: 4/17/91
Referred: HES, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to education planning, to the establishment of curricula, and to an
2 Alaska studies curriculum."

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

4 * Section 1. AS 14.03.120(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) A district shall [ANNUALLY] file with the department by November 30 of each
6 year, and make available to the public, a report that

- 7 (1) establishes district goals and priorities for improving education in the district;
8 (2) includes a plan for achieving district goals and priorities; [AND]
9 (3) includes a means of measuring the achievement of district goals and priorities;

10 and

11 (4) establishes a secondary Alaska studies curriculum based on the Alaska
12 studies learning objectives published by the department.

13 * Sec. 2. AS 14.03.120(b) is amended to read:

14 (b) The department shall summarize the reports submitted under (a) of this section as a

1 statewide report, and provide a copy by February 15 of each year to the governor and to each
2 member of the legislature.

3 * Sec. 3. AS 14.03.120(d) is amended to read:

4 (d) Each public school shall, by November 1 [MAY 31] of each year, prepare a report
5 on the school's performance and the performance of the school's students. The report shall be
6 presented to parents, students, and community members at a public meeting and forwarded to the
7 chief school administrator of the district.

8 * Sec. 4. AS 14.03.120(e) is amended to read:

9 (e) A district shall, by November 30 [OCTOBER 31] of each year, provide to the state
10 board, and make available to the public, a report on the performance of each public school and
11 public school students in the district. The report must be entitled "School District Report Card
12 To The Public" and must be prepared on a form prescribed by the department. The report must
13 include

14 (1) the percent of district students in the top and bottom quarter of standardized
15 national achievement examinations required under regulations adopted by the board; results
16 under this paragraph shall be disclosed in a manner that does not reveal the individual identities
17 of students;

18 (2) the percent of students who are not promoted to the next grade;

19 (3) student, parent, and community member comments on the school's
20 performance;

21 (4) the annual percent change in enrollment and the percent of enrollment change
22 due to student transfers into and out of the district;

23 (5) attendance, retention, and graduation rates;

24 (6) the ways in which meaningful parent involvement in school performance was
25 achieved;

26 (7) other indicators of school performance required by the state board; and

27 (8) indicators of school performance in Alaska studies at the secondary school
28 level and other indicators of school performance selected by the district.

29 * Sec. 5. AS 14.03.120(f) is amended to read:

30 (f) The department shall, by February [JANUARY] 15 of each year, provide to the
31 legislature and the governor, and make available to the public, a summary comparison of the

1 reports submitted under (e) of this section in the previous year. The summary comparison shall
2 be prepared in a manner that allows school performance to be measured against state and district
3 education goals established in prior years.

4 * Sec. 6. AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The department shall

6 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state except the
7 University of Alaska;

8 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state, adopt or
9 recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school performance awarded under
10 AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement of the public schools;

11 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school governing
12 bodies and personnel;

13 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public schools; the
14 regulations must include a year-long course requirement in Alaska studies during the seventh
15 and eighth grades or a one credit requirement in Alaska studies within the social studies
16 requirements for graduation and provide that if a course in American Sign Language is given,
17 the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

18 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social Services,
19 a program for the continuing education of children who are held in detention facilities in the state
20 during the period of detention;

21 (6) accredit those public schools which meet accreditation standards prescribed
22 by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the department and
23 presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular session, and become effective
24 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session, whichever is earlier, unless disapproved
25 by a resolution concurred in by a majority of the members of each house;

26 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire marshal and the
27 state sanitarian, standards in addition to the requirements of AS 18.15.145 that will assure
28 healthful and safe conditions in the public and private schools of the state including a
29 requirement of physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards
30 for private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

31 (8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that receive direct

1 state or federal funding;

2 (9) provide accredited elementary and secondary correspondence study programs
3 available to any Alaskan through a centralized office of correspondence study;

4 (10) accredit private schools which request accreditation and which meet
5 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this paragraph
6 authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be licensed;

7 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and secondary
8 schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public elementary and secondary
9 schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the department, determine and approve
10 the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school construction project begun after July 1, 1978; for
11 the purposes of this paragraph, "plans" include educational specifications, schematic designs, and
12 final contract documents;

13 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational education and
14 training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who are no longer attending
15 school;

16 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

17 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a school bus
18 driver training course.

19 * Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY. The seventh and eighth grade course requirement and the one credit
20 requirement in Alaska studies imposed under AS 14.07.020(4), as amended by sec. 6 of this Act, does
21 not apply to a person who graduates from high school before June 30, 1994.

22 * Sec. 8. TRANSITION. The first reports required under AS 14.03.120(a), (d), and (e), as amended
23 in secs. 1, 3, and 4 of this Act, shall be submitted beginning in 1992. The first reports required under
24 AS 14.03.120(b) and (f), as amended in secs. 2 and 5 of this Act, shall be submitted beginning in 1993.