

SCR

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Alaska State Legislature

REP. MAE TISCHER
CHAIRMAN



POUCH V
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
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5-25-84

House of Representatives
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

STAFF REVIEW

Senate Concurrent Resolution 47, relating to new minimum requirements for graduation from a public high school, by the Senate Rules Committee, requests that the State Board of Education make the new minimum requirements for graduation from a public high school effective after the 1984 - 1985 school year. Citing numerous reasons, contained in the resolution's nine "whereas" clauses, the resolution contends that the new minimum graduation requirements would force a considerable hardship on students who are currently juniors in high school and on the staff of the effected schools.



• ALASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS •
9115 Minor Ct. Juneau, Alaska 99801

an organization of Alaskan School Administrators

May 22, 1984

The Honorable Jan Faiks
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Faiks:

The Alaska Council of School Administrators urges the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolutions No. 47 as a reasonable solution to the problem created by the new regulations on High School Graduation requirements adopted by the State Board. The additional procedures adopted by the Department of Education in Numbered Memorandum 84-24 and 27 have confused the process enough, so we urge the adoption of the resolution.

I have enclosed a letter on the subject, that I have transmitted to Commissioner Reynolds, for your information.

Sincerely,

Don Mackinnon
Executive Director

DM:clc

Enclosure



• ALASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS •
9115 Minor Ct. Juneau, Alaska 99801

an organization of Alaskan School Administrators

May 22, 1984

Harold Reynolds, Commissioner
Department of Education
Pouch F
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Commissioner Reynolds:

This letter is a follow-up seeking clarification to your statement at the May 8 State Board meeting about the Department's appeal process for students from school districts for the year 1984-85. It was my understanding, and those districts present, that it was the Department's intent to deal with the exceptions on a district-by-district basis or at least, group like students and not have the department rule on each individual case.

It now appears that D.O.E. No. Memorandum 84-27, dated May 4, in effect runs counter to our understanding of your intent at the State Board meeting. The memo clearly states that waivers will be handled on a student-by-student basis.

The reason that you did not hear additional concerns from both Juneau and Fairbanks school districts at the board meeting was because your answer satisfied their concerns. Both districts, however, were prepared to present their arguments to the State Board urging the Department not to treat the waivers on an individual student basis.


It is our belief you have created a paper nightmare for the Department and allowed little time for districts to react to the individual cases before school is out. This, in fact, will create a hardship on students who by now have planned their next years schedule.

Introduced in Senate Rules is Concurrent Resolution No. 47 which may, in fact, be the best solution to the entire problem. The effect of

this resolution would be to exempt the class of 1984-85 from the new requirements and eliminate the problem if the State Board was to concur.

Your consideration on the matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Don Mackinnon
Executive Director

DM:clc

cc: Ernestine Griffen, Pres. State Board
Mike Adams, Supt. Juneau Schools
Ken Burnley, Supt. Fairbanks Schools