

SB3094

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/11/92

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 3-24-92

The Finance Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 394

"An Act creating the Alaska school counseling program grant fund."

and recommends:

- replace with _____ CS _____ (FINANCE)
- or adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attaches amendment(s)

- same title
- new title
- technical title change (HB only)

adopts _____ Letter of Intent

further referral to the _____

- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations

NEW FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

zero fiscal notes _____

fiscal notes _____

SFC for DOE 676.8 3-24-92

appropriation--no fiscal note

DO PASS:

Al Adams
Dick Cheney

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

zero fiscal notes _____

fiscal notes _____

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Paul Kelly (No Rec)

1. Ken [unclear] do pass

Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

(with fiscal note)

2. Pat Sanchez do pass

Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 3/24/92 Affected Agency: Education
 Title: Alaska school BRU: EdSupport
counseling program grant fund
 Sponsor: Sen. Collins Components: Basic Ed
 Requestor: Senate Finance Instruct. Improve.

171

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
Personal Services	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7
Travel	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Contractual	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Supplies	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants, Claims	650.0	650.0	650.0	650.0	650.0	650.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	676.8	676.8	676.8	676.8	676.8	676.8

CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

General Fund	676.8	676.8	676.8	676.8	676.8	676.8
Federal Fund						
Other						
TOTAL	676.8	676.8	676.8	676.8	676.8	676.8

POSITIONS:

Full-Time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-Time	2	2	2	2	2	2
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (ATTACH A SEPARATE PAGE IF NECESSARY)

Prepared By: _____ Date: 3/24/92
 Division: Sen. Jalmar Kerttula, Co-chairman Phone: 465-4985
Senate Finance Committee
 Approved By: *J. Kerttula* 3/24/92
 Agency: _____ Date: _____

DISTRIBUTION (BY PREPARER)
LEGISLATIVE FINANCE
LEGISLATIVE SPONSOR

REQUESTOR
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
AGENCY (IES)

Fiscal Note Analysis
for
SB 394

Act creating the Alaska school counseling program grant fund.

Personal Services:

.33 FTE Education Associate II, Range 15 \$16.9

.10 FTE Clerical Support, Range 8 2.8

Travel:

Lead training for Training Cadre 1.0

Contractual:

Phone, postage, photocopying and
audioconferencing 5.6

Commodities:

General supplies .5

Grants \$650.0

SENATE BILL NO. 394

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR COLLINS

Introduced: 2/12/92

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act creating the Alaska school counseling program grant fund."

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

3 * Section 1. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of this Act to

4 (1) provide a comprehensive counseling program to public school students in grades K-
5 12;

6 (2) implement and expand the model school counseling program developed and piloted
7 by the Department of Education as a result of recommendations of the Governor's Interim Commission
8 on Children and Youth;

9 (3) create a fund for providing financial aid to school districts specifically for the purpose
10 of implementing and expanding the model Alaska School Counseling Program.

11 * Sec. 2. AS 14.07.020(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

12 (15) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.30.750.

13 * Sec. 3. AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

14 ARTICLE 10. ALASKA SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM GRANT FUND.

1 Sec. 14.30.750. ALASKA SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM GRANT FUND. (a)
2 The Alaska school counseling program grant fund is established. The fund consists of legislative
3 appropriations and public or private donations made for the purpose of the fund.

4 (b) The department may make grants from the fund to eligible districts in the public
5 school system for a counseling program in grades K-12. The department may not award

6 (1) more than \$50,000 to a school district in a single fiscal year;

7 (2) a grant to a school district under this section for more than three consecutive
8 fiscal years; or

9 (3) a grant to a school district that is greater than 80 percent of a grant awarded
10 to that district under this section in the preceding fiscal year.

11 (c) In this section,

12 (1) "counseling program" means personnel and materials, including professional
13 training in counseling program delivery, and in the use of counseling materials;

14 (2) "school district" has the meaning given in AS 14.30.350.

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1
 Bill Version: SB 394
 (S) Publish Date: 3-11-92

STATE OF ALASKA
 1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Creating the Alaska school counseling program grant fund
 Sponsor: Sen. Collins
 Requestor: (S) HESS

Department Affected: Education
 BRU: Educational Program Support
 Component: Basic Education and Instructional Improvement

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

	1	7	1
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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7
TRAVEL	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
CONTRACTUAL	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
SUPPLIES	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	150.0 150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	176.8	176.8	176.8	176.8	176.8	176.8

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

JK motion to add 750.0 to grants line - Adopted

GENERAL FUND	176.8	176.8	176.8	176.8	176.8	176.8
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL	176.8	176.8	176.8	176.8	176.8	176.8

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	2	2	2	2	2	2
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

This fiscal note assumes retention of existing department staff and resources dedicated to the school counseling function and assumes an allocation of 150.00 to the grant fund. SEE ATTACHED.

Prepared by: Mike Maher
 Division: Commissioner's Office

Phone: 465-2800
 Date: 3/9/92

Approved by Commissioner: *M. L. Mahan*
 Agency: Education

Jerry Covey
 Date: 3/9/92

Fiscal Note Analysis (continued)
SB 394 Creating the Alaska school counseling program grant fund

Personal Services:

.33 FTE Education Associate II, Range 15	\$16.9
.10 FTE Clerical Support, Range 8	\$2.8

These staff support the grant recipients through coordination of training and provision of resources to implement a comprehensive school counseling program. It is the Department's intention to utilize existing staff and resources to the maximum extent possible, including use of staff funded with a combination of federal and state general funds. The existing staff devoted to the \$100,000 in federal grants program is one Counseling Specialist, two part time Education Associates and clerical support for a total of \$149.5 in personnel, travel, contracts and commodities for FY92.

Travel:

Lead training for Training Cadre \$1.0

Contractual:

Phone, postage, photocopying and audioconferencing \$5.6

Commodities:

General supplies \$.5

Grants:

An allocation of \$150.0 is proposed for the School Counseling grant fund.

03/06/92 S(ITE)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 394

Revision Date: _____
Title: Creating the School Counseling Program Grant
Fund
Sponsor: Sen. Collins
Requestor: (S) HESS

Department Affected: Education
BRU: Educational Program Support
Component: Basic Education and Instructional
Improvement
COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

	1	7	1
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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5
TRAVEL	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
CONTRACTUAL	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6
SUPPLIES	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	199.6	199.6	199.6	199.6	199.6	199.6

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	199.6	199.6	199.6	199.6	199.6	199.6
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL	199.6	199.6	199.6	199.6	199.6	199.6

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	1	1	1	1	1	1
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

This fiscal note assumes retention of existing department staff and resources dedicated to the school counseling function and assumes an allocation of \$150.00 to the grant fund.

See attached.

Prepared by: Mike Maher
Division: Commissioner's Office

Phone: 465-2800
Date: 3-3-92

Approved by Commissioner: *Mike Maher*
Agency: Education

Jerry Covey
Date: 3-3-92

S/S 5/4

Fiscal Note Analysis (continued)
SB 394 Creating the Alaska school counseling program grant fund

Personal Services:

1 PT Education Associate II, Range 15	\$25.3
.25 FTE clerical support, Range 8	\$7.2

It is the Department's intention to utilize existing staff and resources to the maximum extent possible, including use of staff funded with a combination of federal and state general funds.

Travel:

Attendance at School Counselor's association training. \$1.0

Contractual:

Fiscal management/subgrant accounting functions	\$10.0
Phone, postage, photocopying and audioconferencing	\$5.6

Commodities:

General supplies \$.5

Grants:

An allocation of \$150.0 is proposed for the School Counseling grant fund.

Alaska State Legislature

During Session
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-2828



During Interim
3111 C Street, Suite 540
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-2040

Senator Virginia Collins

SB 394

Alaska School Counseling Program Grant Fund

SB 394 creates the Alaska School Counseling Program Grant Fund consisting of legislative appropriations and public and private donations.

SB 394 authorizes the Department of Education to make grants from the fund to school districts for a counseling program in grades K through 12. It places three limitations on the awarding of these grants: (1) not more than \$50,000 may be given to any district in one year; (2) a district may not receive a grant for more than three consecutive years; and, (3) a grant may not be for more than 80 percent of the prior year's grant.

SB 394 resurrects last year's SB 195 which was vetoed by the governor. The governor was concerned that the bill undermined local school boards' authority to prioritize education expenditures and that it placed on them additional financial burdens.

The Alaska School Counseling Program Grant Fund is intended to attract private monies for the resolution of social ills and to be consonant with the governor's desire to drum up more local participation in providing services communities want to have. It will neither burden nor interfere with local school boards. This has been more clearly communicated with the governor, and I hope it has allayed his concerns.

With the increase in teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide among Alaska youth, the Alaska School Counseling Program implements a model program that has received support and has claimed success in thirty other states.

SB 394 will help in extending this unbeatable program throughout Alaska.

WALTER J. HICKEL
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

June 24, 1991

The Honorable Richard Eliason
President of the Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear President Eliason:

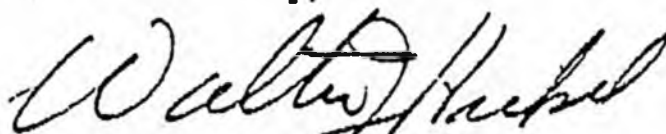
Under the authority of art. II, sec. 15, of the Alaska Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill No. 195.

Senate Bill 195 would create a fund to provide financial aid to school districts for the purpose of implementation and expanding Alaska School Counseling programs.

School districts already have the authority to fund counseling projects as they see fit. Our school boards are properly charged with the responsibility of prioritizing these expenditures.

Laudable as the goals of this bill may be it would, in effect, undermine the school board's responsibility of prioritizing education expenditures.

Sincerely,



Walter J. Hickel
Governor



Southwest Region Schools

P.O. Box 90
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone (907) 842-5287



April 15, 1991

State Senator Virginia Collins
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Collins,

This letter comes to you to express support for and documentation of need for the passage of Senate Bills 195 and 196.

As a supervisor for Counseling in a rural Alaskan Community, I highly endorse the idea of a School Counseling Grant fund to supplement and/or establish Counseling in the Bush. The need is tremendous! There are so many critical issues that must be addressed if students are to



Southwest Region Schools

P.O. Box 90
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone (907) 842-5287



succeed! The "whole child" must
be taken in consideration. Our
"Student Outcomes" ^{Chpt. 173} are clearly
centered on many areas that
require the intervention of a
trained Counselor (ex) increasing
self-esteem, learning to form
satisfying relationships etc.

Aside from that the very
real issues of substance abuse,
teen pregnancy, lack of goals,
domestic violence, are needs
that require professional
counselor's interventions and
prevention!!

Please consider the need
in rural Alaska! Thank you for
your efforts!

Sincerely,
(Ruth L. Reichen)



WASILLA HIGH SCHOOL

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

701 Bogard Wasilla, Alaska 99687



Main office-(907)376-5341
Attendance Office-373-1572

Jane A. Feisthamel Ed.D - Principal
Dwight Probasco - Assistant Principal
Leonard Lusk - Assistant Principal

April 12, 1991

Senator Virginia Collins
Alaska Legislature

Reference: Senate Bills 195 and 196

On behalf of counselors and other staff currently working as a Pilot Site for development of the Alaska School Counseling Program, I would like to encourage your support for these two bills. Continuation of the funding for the ASCP Pilot Project grant funds would enable us to continue improving our services to all students. The ASCP follows closely State Board of Education student outcome goals. We intend to enable all of our schools to participate in implementing this model for next year. Funding for guidance and counseling programs in the state education budget and SB 195 and 196 would help enable us to meet these important outcomes for all students. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Hoiem
Guidance Counselor

"Success of the student is our goal; excellence in education, our means!"



HOMER HIGH SCHOOL
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



600 E. FAIRVIEW
HOMER, ALASKA 99803-7661
PHONE: (907) 235-8188
FAX: (907) 235-8833

"MARINERS"

DENNIS DEMPSEY, PRINCIPAL
MICHAEL BUNDY, ASST. PRINCIPAL
BOB MACAULAY, ATH. DIRECTOR

April 4, 1991

Senator Arliss Sturgulawski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewaki,

This is a letter of support for Senate Bill 195, the Alaska School Counselor Program Grant Fund.

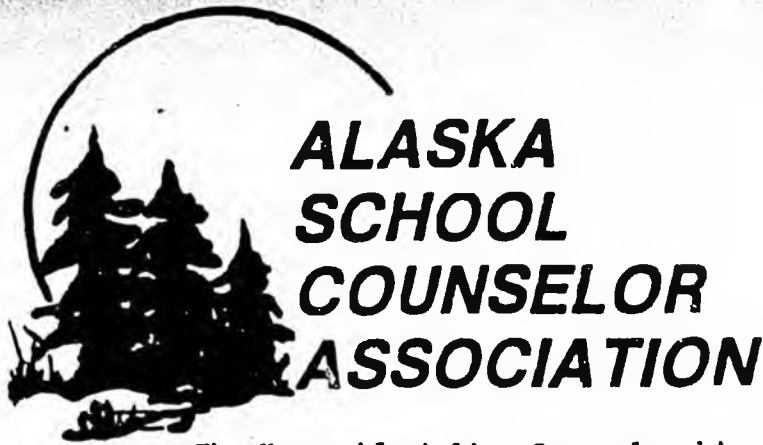
We are part of the pilot program and found it to be an extremely beneficial improvement to our current guidance counseling curriculum. Through this program we learned how to organize our counseling duties, which enables us to provide more services to more students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hill

Kathy Hill, Guidance Counselor
Homer Junior High School



**ALASKA
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION**

Rod Poole, Gov't Relations Chair
Alaska School Counselor Association
c/o Sitka High School
1000 Lake Street Extension
Sitka, AK 99835
January 7, 1991

The Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski
P. O. Box V-Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

As Government Relations Chair for the Alaska School Counselor Association, I am pleased to write to you with an update from our organization. Enclosed you will find a legislative proposal which is reasonable and positive, an effort to make school counseling more available to more of Alaska's children and teens.

Since I have been sending legislative packets for five years now from ASCA, you are already aware that our state is involved in a counseling pilot project program. If you are new to the legislature, this information may not be familiar to you. From the time that the state Board of Education adopted the Alaska School Counseling Program Guide as the official state model on May 2, 1989, interest has grown rapidly. The model guide is now being piloted in about two dozen schools around the state. A copy of the Alaska School Counseling Program brochure is also enclosed for you and your staff to review. You will find this informative.

You will also want to know that ASCA has engaged the services of Ms. Wanda Cooksey as our professional representative in Juneau during the 1991 legislative session. With her educational experience and legislative staff experience, she is uniquely qualified to speak to school counseling concerns.

No doubt you are aware that the Governor's Interim Commission called for initiating, expanding, and funding school counseling programs K-12 for Alaska. ASCA Executive Board and membership, Alaska State Vocational Association Executive Board and membership, Elementary and Secondary Principals and Superintendents have all gone on the record calling for K-12 school counseling programs in Alaska. NOW is the time to take concrete steps in that direction. We hope you will give serious consideration to our legislative proposal for the sake of Alaska's next generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rod Poole'.

Rod Poole, Counselor, Sitka High School

cc: Cindy Folsom, ASCA President
Alecia Lybrand, ASCA President-Elect
Robbi Nadeau, ASCA Past President
Wanda Cooksey, ASCA Professional Representative in Juneau

WHY NOT HERE?

by Rod Poole, Government Relations Chair

Alaska School Counselor Association
December 3, 1990

There is a very strong legislative movement nationally towards providing funding for K-12 counseling programs in school districts across the nation. Congress is currently considering funding an Elementary School Counseling Demonstration Act to encourage hiring of additional school counselors around the nation in accordance with good standards of professional school counseling procedures.

In Alaska, the Governor's Interim Commission called for the hiring of more school counselors around the state. The Elementary/Secondary Principals, Superintendents, Alaska State Vocational Association and Executive Board, and Alaska School Counselor Association and Executive Board have all called for K-12 school counseling programs statewide.

We have a terrific school counseling pilot program going currently around the state in an ever-growing number of sites. Currently a small amount of money is channeled to some of the pilot sites through the Office of Adult and Vocational Education to provide training for site counselors and principals to gear up to put the model plan into use in as many schools as possible. This model plan was developed by a task force of counselors and administrators in 1988 and 1989. After the model was approved unanimously by the State Board of Education on May 2, 1989, as the official state counseling model, the pilot project got underway full-steam.

I propose that the state legislature in Alaska set aside a specific amount of money, \$ 1,000,000, through the Department of Education budget, either within the regular DOE budget or as a separate incentive grant to be offered to districts which either want to 1) hire more school counselors or 2) want to pay to provide pilot program training for their current counselors and principals. If the grant were to be awarded to hire a new counselor, then it could be issued in the amount of perhaps \$ 40,000.00 or \$ 50,000.00 per site to help defray the cost of hiring the new staff person. Local districts would have to pay the rest, whether salary or benefits, retirement contribution, or whatever the local contract required. Districts that participate in the grant application process would have to agree to structure their programs in accordance with the official model program.

**Recent Events in the K-12 Counseling Movement in Alaska
by Rod Poole, ASCA Government Relations Chairperson, 1-7-91**

February of 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990--Proclamation of School Counseling Week in Alaska, to coincide with national week.

Jan., 1988--Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth calls for state "to initiate and expand school counseling programs in grades K-12, especially at the elementary level."

Feb., 1988--Office of Adult and Vocational Education funds development of K-12 counseling model for Alaska. Task Force is selected, starts work in Juneau, second meeting in October, 1988.

October, 1988--Alaska School Counselor Association meeting in Anchorage unanimously adopts resolution for Alaska to establish and fund K-12 counseling programs statewide. Same resolution is adopted by Elementary/Secondary Principals and Alaska State Vocational Association in Oct., by Superintendents in November.

February, 1989--final meeting of Task Force group, completion of comprehensive K-12 Alaska School Counseling Program Guide.

May 2, 1989--Alaska State Board of Education unanimously adopts National School Boards Association resolution calling on local school boards to support comprehensive guidance and counseling programs K-12. The Board also unanimously adopts and accepts the Alaska School Counseling Program Guide as the official model for Alaska and encourages its use in Alaska schools.

May, 1989--Legislature funds a full-time statewide counseling coordinator position for the first time since the mid-70's.

September, 1989--selection of 7 official pilot sites for the implementation of the Alaska School Counseling Program Guide.

October, 1989--formal training for all pilot sites in Soldotna with about one dozen schools actually represented.

March, 1990--Dr. Christine Jensen begins work as full-time counseling coordinator for Alaska.

September, 1990--pilot project training in Juneau and Mat-Su for new groups of pilot schools.

October, 1990--training for second year pilot sites in Anchorage. ASCA membership unanimously approves proposal for legislature to set up state grants to get districts to hire school counselors and put state model into practice in more pilot sites.

November, 1990--ASCA Executive Board contracts with Wanda Cooksey to be the ASCA professional representative to 1991 legislature.

January, 1991--ASCA legislative proposal to all 60 legislators.



NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W 33RD AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
907) 274-0536
FAX: (907) 274-0551

JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 586-3090
FAX: (907) 586-2744

FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
907) 456-4435
FAX: (907) 456-2159

Alaska School Counseling Program Grant

RE: SB 195

NEA-Alaska believes that the shortage of school counselors in Alaska public schools is perhaps the greatest weakness in our schools. The problem is especially acute in the primary through eighth grades but is certainly serious in all of our schools.

We believe the number of counselors should be no less than one for every 250 elementary students, or major fraction thereof, or every 175 students of combined grades K-12 or major fraction thereof. In every case there should be at least one certificated school counselor in every school.

It is important that our school counselors have training in drug and alcohol abuse, suicide prevention, crisis intervention and related mental health areas--as well as other guidance skills required by their duties.

The Department of Education should have the financial and technical support needed to implement and expand the model school counseling program developed and piloted by the Department as a result of recommendations of the Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth.

It is good public policy to provide funding for the department for grants to school districts to implement counseling programs--including personnel and materials. Each school district should be encouraged to apply for the grants.

NEA-Alaska believes such grants are only a stop-gap measure and should not be construed as meeting the state obligation to provide adequate counseling services for the schools. A far better social and educational policy would be to provide additional funding on a yearly basis to each school district for counselors on a formula as stated above. Such funding should be in addition to the current foundation allotment.

We believe improved counseling services in our Alaska Public schools will greatly enhance the learning of our students and help our children better work through many of the social and educational problems maturing youngsters face in our rapidly changing environment.

LE04/Counselng/dl



ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

• ALASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS •
326 Fourth St., Suite 408, Juneau, AK 99801-1101 (907) 586-9702 FAX (907) 586-5879

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 195/SB196

'COUNSELING SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM'

The Alaska Council of School Administrators supports the concept of counseling in the k-12 school program and supports the grant program which will provide incentives for those schools who have not implemented a counseling program, the ability to start a pilot project if they desire to do so.

We recognize the complexity of today's society and the need for a variety of services to the children in schools to provide them with the necessary tools to be successful learners and to become productive members of society.

We caution the legislature on mandating programs and would strongly encourage the continued flexibility for the local school district to make the final determination as to the level and involvement they desire in the counseling project as well as other individual programs which are currently before the legislature.

We also recognize that school counseling has taken on a new meaning in order to meet the changing needs in our schools. The pilot projects which have taken place over the past two years have proven the value to the total commitment to children by the school district.

Alaska School Counseling Program Grant Fund SB 394

The Alaska School Counseling Program is a new approach to providing counseling services in Alaska's schools. It is a curriculum based student oriented program — an integral part of the total education program. The program is designed to reach all students and to provide them with the skills they need for success in school, work and society.

Twelve Alaskan school counselors and administrators, with the help of the Department of Education and a national leader in counseling, developed a model counseling program for Alaska in 1988. In 1989 the program was piloted, implementing and testing the model. In 1990, the second year of piloting, 34 sites located in 12 school districts participated.

The program has been expanded for the 1991-92 school year bringing four additional school districts aboard. At this time 16 of the 54 Alaska School Districts are participating, representing large, small, urban and rural districts in cities, boroughs, and REAAs. The model works!

The Department of Education has been able to use their Carl Perkins Vocational Education Grant funding to assist with this activity over the past three years. The approximately \$100,000 per year has been able to get the program designed and field tested but is not adequate to provide the start-up costs that are needed across the state. These federal funds are limited and directed primarily at secondary programs, leaving out a great portion of Alaskan students grades K-12 who would benefit from a comprehensive, high quality, student support service

SB 394 addresses a grant program to be set up in the Department of Education. Funds from this account would be used to assist interested districts in:

- 1) beginning a model counseling program,
- 2) restructuring an existing counseling program to the model, and/or
- 3) furthering the model program throughout their district.

Training of personnel is the major expense. It has taken three (3) years to reach all or part of 16 districts. SB 394 grants would assist districts, who voluntarily choose to participate, up to a three year period. The purpose is not to pay personnel for 3 years and then drop the district, but to help a district make the transition. Once schools have the curriculum-based counseling program in place it will be a basic component of the education program and supported as such.

The Alaska School Counseling Program grew out of a need identified by the Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth.

*Prepared on behalf of Alaska School Counselor Association
By Wanda J. Cooksey
586-9073*

Alaska School Counseling Program

SB 195 and SB 196

The Alaska School Counseling Program is a student oriented program that is curriculum based. The 1990-91 school year is the second year of a pilot program in Alaska.

In 1988, a group of 12 Alaskan school counselors and administrators, with the help of the Department of Education and a national leader in counseling, developed a model counseling program for Alaska. In 1989 the program was piloted, implementing and testing the model. In 1990, the second year of piloting, 34 sites located in 12 school districts are participating.

Forty-two, or 78%, of Alaska's school districts are not yet participating in the program. The Department of Education has been able to use their Carl Perkins Vocational Education Grant funding to assist with this activity over the past two years. The approximately \$100,000 per year has been able to

get the program designed and started but is not adequate to provide the start-up costs that are needed across the state. These federal funds are limited and directed primarily at secondary programs, leaving out a great portion of Alaskan students grades K-12 who would benefit from a comprehensive, high quality, student support service. These services are directed at assisting students with skills to help them succeed in school, work and society. Alaska has approximately 475 school sites. Presently 441 sites, or 93% of the schools, are excluded from the Alaska School Counseling Program.

SB 195 and SB 196 address the need through a grant program providing incentive grants on a diminishing basis over a period of three years. A grant, as called for in SB 196, would provide excellent assistance to districts desiring to implement or further this program.

The grant account would be available to help school districts or school sites:

- Begin a program—Phase I
- Move to Phase II
- Implement program district-wide.

The funds would primarily provide assistance for:

- Counselor, teacher, administrator inservice training
- Materials for counselors and classroom teachers
- Completion of the Curriculum Guides, Scope and Sequence and Needs Assessment Instruments.

It is anticipated that the Alaska School Counseling Program needs financial assistance for getting it into the schools. Once schools have a curriculum-based program in place, it will be a basic component of the education program and supported as such.

The Alaska School Counseling Program grew out of a need identified by the Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth.

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EVERY DAY 2,989 AMERICAN CHILDREN SEE THEIR PARENTS DIVORCED.

EVERY 26 SECONDS, A CHILD RUNS AWAY FROM HOME.

EVERY 47 SECONDS, A CHILD IS ABUSED OR NEGLECTED.

EVERY 8 SECONDS OF THE SCHOOL DAY, A CHILD DROPS OUT.

EVERY DAY, SIX TEENAGERS COMMIT SUICIDE.

(Source: Children's Defense Fund, 1990)



FOR MANY PEOPLE, THE WORD "COUNSELOR" BRINGS TO MIND THE IMAGE OF SOMEONE THEY SEE ONCE OR TWICE DURING THEIR HIGH SCHOOL YEARS. THE STEREOTYPIC SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OF 20 YEARS AGO WAS THE PERSON WHO GAVE TESTS, PASSED OUT INFORMATION, HELPED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH THEIR CLASS SCHEDULES, FILLED OUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS, AND OFTEN ACTED AS A DISCIPLINARIAN. BUT THIS IS NOT AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF WHO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELORS ARE AND WHAT THEY DO. FOR MANY CHILDREN, THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR MAY BE THE ONE PERSON WITH WHOM THEY FEEL SAFE AND CAN CONFIDE IN. UNLIKE TEACHERS, COUNSELORS DO NOT GRADE STUDENTS. CAN OFTEN MEET WITH THEM INDIVIDUALLY, AND DO NOT CHANGE CLASSES FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

(Source: "Children Achieving Potential: An Introduction to Elementary Counseling and State-Level Policies" by American Association for Counseling and Development and the National Conference of State Legislatures, 1990)

THE COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING PROGRAM
FOR...
ALASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS...



*A GUIDE FOR
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
K-12TH GRADE*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
OFFICE OF ADULT AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
P.O. BOX F
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

This guide was developed by a statewide task force of school counselors and administrators of education. Alaska State Board of Education endorsed this document as the State Guide for Alaska School Counseling Programs at their regular meeting, May 2, 1989.

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ALASKA SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM DEFINITION

School counseling is an integral part of the total educational program. It is developmental by design and includes sequential activities organized and implemented by certified school counselors with the support of teachers, administrators, students, and parents. A school counseling program shall deliver services in four areas:

1. Personal and Career Development Curriculum
2. Individual Student Planning
3. Responsive Services
4. System Support

The program addresses the needs of all students by helping them to:

- Acquire and apply knowledge of self and others.
- Develop competencies in career/life planning.
- Achieve educational success.

The philosophy statement from the *Alaska School Counseling Program Guide* best states the change in direction of the program.

Counseling in the school setting has evolved through recognition that individuals living in a dynamic, complex society benefit most from the broad range of learning experiences. Such experiences prepare them to lead productive lives characterized by feelings of self worth. Individual acquisition of knowledge and skills has been and will continue to be a major goal of public education. In addition, parallel efforts to assist students to grow socially and emotionally as well as intellectually and physically are essential. Guidance processes are designed to assist individuals with total development on a K-12 basis. The school counseling program is preventive rather than remedial in nature. It complements the core instructional offerings and involves a cooperative effort among counselors, administrators and classroom teachers.

STRUCTURAL AND PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The state plan for school counseling programs has two major parts with ten components:

Structural Components:

- Program Definition and Philosophy
- Advisory Council
- Budget
- Counseling Program Facilities
- Counseling Resources
- Staffing Patterns

Program Components:

- Personal and Career Development Curriculum
- Individual Student Planning
- Responsive Services
- System Support