

**HB**

**147**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/3/97

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4/14/97

HESS Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 147(HES) am  
STATE BOARDING SCHOOLS/CHARTER SCHOOLS

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**Senate Bill:**

- same title
- new title
- House Bill:**
- same title
- technical change
- new: SCR# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DQ PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>Karen D. Luman</i>	✓				
<i>Lynne Meehan</i>	✓				
<b>CHAIR:</b> <i>Conn Wilbur</i>	✓	<b>CHAIR:</b>			

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
Education	4/11/97	✓	

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
Education	3/5/97	✓	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*Include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL NO. CS HB 147(HES) am

1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Affected: Education

Title: An act relating to the expenses of housing

BRU: K-12 Support

nonresident charter school students; relating to ...

Component: Mt. Edgecumbe Boarding School

Sponsor: House HESS

Requester: Senate HESS

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1060

**Expenditures/Revenues:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>						
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY97) impact: -0-

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary.) Section 1 states that expenses of housing nonresident students who attend a charter school, including room, board and other reasonable expenses, may not be paid for with state money. Section 2 allows a charter school to serve nonresident students including providing domiciliary services for those students. Section 3 requires the state board to regulate domiciliary services. Sections 4 - 15 expand the current statutory authority so the department may establish and operate multiple state boarding schools. Sections 16 - 18 amend other statutory references from the state boarding school to a state boarding school.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager

Phone: 465-8679

Division: Education Support Services

Date: 4-11-97

Approved by Commissioner: Shirley J. Holloway, Ph. D., Commissioner

Agency: Education

Date: 4-11-97

**PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE**

The department does not anticipate establishing or operating new state boarding schools at this time. The cost of operating additional boarding schools would be based on site specific conditions including availability of facilities, number of students to be served and location.

# HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL, JUNEAU 99801  
(907) 465-3759



## SPONSOR STATEMENT CS HB 147(HES)am

**"An Act relating to the expenses of housing nonresident charter school students; relating to authorizing charter school programs to provide domiciliary and other services to nonresident charter school students; relating to duties of the state board of education; and relating to the establishment of state boarding schools."**

Mt. Edgecumbe, the state's only authorized boarding school, has earned a reputation for academic excellence. Many of our Alaskan leaders have graduated from there.

An increase in the state's boarding school program has been discussed as one way to improve the quality of education in Alaska's rural high schools. CS HB 147 (HES) am would enable the state to open additional boarding schools.

CSHB 147 (HES) am would also allow a charter school to be designed to serve nonresident students. The funds required to pay the expenses of housing nonresident students who attend the charter school, including room, board, and other reasonable housing expenses may not be paid for with state money, but may be paid for with funds contributed by sources other than the state.

There was an amendment on the House floor that says the Board of Education shall adopt regulations that require board approval before schools offer domiciliary services.

Let us build upon the success of Mt. Edgecumbe and provide this opportunity for more students.

# FISCAL NOTE

No. 1  
 Bill Version: CSHB 147(HES)  
 (H) Publish Date: 3/12/97

STATE OF ALASKA  
 1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: An act relating to charter schools and the  
establishment of state boarding schools  
 Sponsor: HESS  
 Requester: HESS

Department Affected: Education  
 BRU: K-12 Support  
 Component: Mt. Edgacumbe Boarding School  
1060

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>						
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY97) impact: -0-

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary.) Section 1 requires a local school board to provide funds to pay the expenses of housing nonresident students who attend a charter school, including room, board and other expenses. Section 1 does not create a financial burden on the State of Alaska, rather obligates the local school board to cover boarding home or residential cost. Section 2 allows a charter school to serve nonresident students including providing domiciliary services for those students. Sections 3 - 14 expand the current statutory authority so the department may establish and operate multiple state boarding schools. Sections 15 - 17 amend other statutory references from the state boarding school to a state boarding school.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager Phone: 465-8679  
 Division: Education Support Services Date: 3-5-97  
 Approved by Commissioner: Shirley Holloway, Ph. D., Commissioner  
 Agency: Education Date: 3-5-97

**PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE**

**COMMITTEE COPY**

For further distribution information call the Governor's Legislative Office

The department does not anticipate establishing or operating new state boarding schools at this time. The cost of operating additional boarding schools would be based on site specific conditions including availability of facilities, number of students to be served and location.

## Article 02. CHARTER SCHOOLS

Sec. 14.03.250. Establishment of charter schools.

(a) A charter school may be established as provided under AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290 upon the approval of the local school board and the state Board of Education of an application for a charter school. The state Board of Education may not approve more than 30 charter schools to operate in the state at any one time and shall approve charter schools in a geographically balanced manner as follows: not more than 10 schools in Anchorage; not more than five schools in Fairbanks; not more than three schools in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; not more than three schools in the Kenai Peninsula Borough; not more than two schools in the City and Borough of Juneau; not more than seven schools located in other areas of the state, and these seven schools shall be allocated as nearly as possible in a geographically balanced manner throughout the rest of the state.

(b) A local school board shall prescribe an application procedure for the establishment of a charter school in that school district. The application procedure must include provisions for an academic policy committee consisting of parents of students attending the school, teachers, and school employees and a proposed form for a contract between a charter school and the local school board, setting out the contract elements required under AS 14.03.255(c).

(c) A local school board shall forward to the state Board of Education applications for a charter school that have been approved or denied by the local board.

History - (sec. 1 ch 77 SLA 1995)

Under sec. 9, ch. 77, SLA 1995, this section is repealed July 1, 2005.

Revisors Notes -

Enacted as sec. 1, ch. 77, SLA 1995 and codified in 1995, at which time "AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290" was substituted for "this Act" in subsection (a), and "AS 14.03.255(c)" was substituted for "sec 2(c) of this Act" in subsection (c).

Sec. 14.03.255. Organization and operation of a charter school.

(a) A charter school operates as a school in the local school district except that the charter school (1) is exempt from the local school district's textbook, program, curriculum, and scheduling requirements; (2) is exempt from AS 14.14.130(c); the principal of

the charter school shall be selected by the academic policy committee and shall select, appoint, or otherwise supervise employees of the charter school; and (3) operates under the charter school's annual program budget as set out in the contract between the local school board and the charter school under (c) of this section. A local school board may exempt a charter school from other local school district requirements if the exemption is set out in the contract.

(b) A charter school shall

(1) keep financial records of the charter school;

(2) oversee the operation of the charter school to ensure that the terms of the contract required by (c) of this section are being met;

(3) meet regularly with parents and with teachers of the charter school to review, evaluate, and improve operations of the charter school; and

(4) meet with the academic policy committee at least once each year to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals.

(c) A charter school shall operate under a contract between the charter school and the local school board. A contract must contain the following provisions:

(1) description of the educational program;

(2) specific levels of achievement for the education program;

(3) admission policies and procedures;

(4) administrative policies;

(5) statement of the charter school's funding allocation from the local school board and costs assignable to the charter school program budget;

(6) method by which the charter school will account for receipts and expenditures;

(7) location and description of the facility;

(8) name of the teacher, or teachers, who, by agreement between the charter school and the teacher, will teach in the charter school;

(9) teacher-to-student ratio;

(10) number of students served;

(11) the term of the contract, not to exceed a term of five years;

(12) a termination clause providing that the contract may be terminated by the local school board for the failure of the charter school to meet educational achievement goals or fiscal management standards, or for other good cause;

(13) a statement that the charter school will comply with all state and federal requirements for receipt and use of public money;  
(14) other requirements or exemptions agreed upon by the charter school and the local school board.

(d) A charter school may be operated in an existing school district facility or in a facility within the school district that is not currently being used as a public school, if the chief school administrator determines the facility meets requirements for health and safety applicable to other public schools in the district.

History - (sec. 2 ch 77 SLA 1995)

Under sec. 9, ch. 77, SLA 1995, this section is repealed July 1, 2005.

Revisors Notes -

Enacted as sec. 2, ch. 77, SLA 1995. Codified in 1995.

Sec. 14.03.260. Funding for charter school.

(a) A local school board shall provide an approved charter school with an annual program budget. The budget shall be not less than the amount generated by the students enrolled in the charter school less administrative costs retained by the local school district, determined by applying the indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Education. The "amount generated by students enrolled in the charter school" is to be determined in the same manner as it would be for a student enrolled in another public school in that school district.

(b) The program budget of a charter school is to be used for operating expenses of the educational program of the charter school, including purchasing textbooks, classroom materials, and instructional aids.

(c) The charter school shall provide the financial and accounting information requested by the local school board or the Department of Education, and shall cooperate with the local school district or the department in complying with the requirements of AS 14.17.190.

History - (sec. 3 ch 77 SLA 1995)

Under sec. 9, ch. 77, SLA 1995, this section is repealed July 1, 2005.

Revisors Notes -

Enacted as sec. 3, ch. 77, SLA 1995. Codified in 1995.

Sec. 14.03.265. Admission.

(a) The program of a charter school may be designed to serve  
(1) students within an age group or grade level; or  
(2) students who will benefit from a particular teaching method or curriculum.

(b) A charter school shall enroll all eligible students who submit a timely application, unless the number of those applications exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building. In the event of an excess of those applications, the charter school and the local school board shall attempt to accommodate all of those applicants by considering providing additional classroom space and assigning additional teachers from the district to the charter school. If it is not possible to accommodate all eligible students who submit a timely application, students shall be accepted by random drawing. A school board may not require a student to attend a charter school.

(c) In addition to other requirements of law, a charter school shall be nonsectarian.

History - (sec. 4 ch 77 SLA 1995)

Under sec. 9, ch. 77, SLA 1995, this section is repealed July 1, 2005.

Revisors Notes -

Enacted as sec. 4, ch. 77, SLA 1995. Codified in 1995.

Sec. 14.03.270. Teacher or employee transfers, evaluations, and negotiated agreements.

(a) A teacher or employee may not be assigned to a charter school unless the teacher or employee consents to the assignment.

(b) All provisions of an existing negotiated agreement or collective bargaining agreement applicable to a teacher or employee of a district apply to that teacher or employee if employed at a charter school in that district, unless the district and the bargaining unit representing the teacher or employee agree to an exemption.

(c) A teacher in a charter school shall be evaluated in an equivalent manner as all other teachers in the district, except that if there is no administrator assigned to the charter school, the local school board, with the agreement of the charter school, shall designate a school district administrator in that district to evaluate a teacher in a charter school.

History - (sec. 5 ch 77 SLA 1995)

Under sec. 9, ch. 77, SLA 1995, this section is repealed July 1, 2005.

Revisors Notes -

Enacted as sec. 5, ch. 77, SLA 1995. Codified in 1995.

Sec. 14.03.275. Contracts; duration.

A contract for a charter school may be for a term of no more than five years and may not extend beyond July 1, 2005.

History - (sec. 6 ch 77 SLA 1995)

Under sec. 9, ch. 77, SLA 1995, this section is repealed July 1, 2005.

Revisors Notes -

Enacted as sec. 6, ch. 77, SLA 1995. Codified in 1995.

Sec. 14.03.280. Regulations.

The state Board of Education may adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) necessary to implement AS

14.03.250 - 14.03.290.

History - (sec. 7 ch 77 SLA 1995)

Under sec. 9, ch. 77, SLA 1995, this section is repealed July 1, 2005.

Revisors Notes -

Enacted as sec. 7, ch. 77, SLA 1995. Codified in 1995, at which time "AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290" was substituted for "this Act."

Sec. 14.03.290. Definitions.

In AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290

(1) "academic policy committee" means the group designated to supervise the academic operation of a charter school and to ensure the fulfillment of the mission of a charter school;

(2) "charter school" means a school established under AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290 that operates within a public school district;

(3) "local school board" means a borough or city school board or a school board of a regional educational attendance area;

(4) "parent" means a biological, adoptive, or foster parent, or an adult who acts as guardian of a child and makes decisions related to the child's safety, education, and welfare;

(5) "parent advisory group" means a group that is recognized by the school as representative of those parents having children attending that school, that has regular meetings, and in which membership is open to all parents within that school's attendance area;

(6) "teacher" means a person who serves a school district in a teaching, counseling, or administrative capacity and is required to be certificated in order to hold the position.(8 ch 77 SLA 1995)

Postponed repeal effective date. - Under sec. 9, ch. 77, SLA 1995, this section is repealed July 1, 2005.

Revisors Notes -

Enacted as sec. 8, ch. 77, SLA 1995. Codified in 1995, at which time "AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290" was substituted for "this Act" in the introductory language and paragraph (2) to reflect the codification, and "school board of a regional educational attendance area" was substituted for "regional school board" in paragraph (3) to correct a manifest error in ch. 77, SLA 1995.

# Legislature targets rural schools for cuts

By DOUGLAS FISCHER  
Staff Writer

JUNEAU—Education is getting a lot of attention this session, and rural lawmakers and school officials are not too happy to see it.

That's because many proposals in this Legislature leave rural school districts with less state money and fewer schools.

Chief among concerns are four different attempts—one of them by the governor—to fundamentally change how the state pays for education. Every proposal requires rural districts to pick up

some of their education costs. All of them erase cash for the 10 schools with under 10 students.

Also viewed with suspicion is an attempt to increase the number of boarding schools in Alaska. Administrators throughout the state applaud the measure as a way to increase options.

But some rural lawmakers wonder if their urban counterparts see it as a way to further consolidate Bush schools.

"This year, more than any other year, I've heard a number of legislators say, 'Well, let's close down those small schools,'" said Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, D-Rampart. "It's really disturbing. The debate is not about providing quality education to all Alaskans, but about how can we balance the budget."

Those who want to rewire education spending insist the current formula is complex, unwieldy and

See LEGISLATURE, Page A-11



LINCOLN



BUNDE

Continued from Page A-1

unfair. And the state's smallest schools, they say, are too expensive to run.

"The reality of closing smaller schools is upon us," said Rep. Con Bunde, R-Anchorage and the author of several education proposals.

"Why, by law, should there be only one state boarding school?" he asked. "As we move toward consolidation ... what happens when those schools close?"

Those 10 schools with less than 10 students cost \$1.5 million to run annually.

That, said Lincoln, is simply the cost of bringing public education to the Bush.

"These teachers have to be everything," Lincoln said. "You have one teacher teaching (grades) K through six, the other teaches seven through twelve. It's not like you have 23 (students) of the same grade level."

Bunde thinks the state can do better than spend \$1.5 million on less than 100 students.

"I don't think the education is sound, nor do I think it is a good investment of our education dollars," he said. "The Lower 48 did away with one-room schoolhouses with four to five students a long time ago. Maybe it's time for Alaska to catch up."

Sitka's Mount Edgecumbe, composed largely of rural students, is by law the state's only boarding school. Educators agree the state should have more but not at the expense of local schools.

"We support charter schools and boarding schools," said Carl Rose, executive director of the Association of Alaska School Boards. But they are "very concerned" about Bunde's bill, House Bill 147, which strips the mandate limiting boarding schools but provides no cash for new ones. The bill cleared its last committee Friday and awaits a full Senate vote.

"It dangles out there like a carrot, and we're not able to take advantage of it," Rose said. "Some of our school districts

Fbxs Daily News-Miner

4/13/97

# LEGISLATURE: Rural schools targeted

## as legislators look to trim budget

might want to do something like this, but to come up with the capital would take some effort."

Money seems to be the root of education's woes. Nearly everybody wants more, but the Legislature has held next year's state spending largely level.

So instead of a cash infusion, lawmakers are considering four proposals that shuffle how the state spreads the cash it has. Last year, that was nearly \$1 billion.

Those leading the call for change chafe at a system where unorganized regions contribute nothing locally to the tax while

boroughs are required to pay a percentage of their local property values. In Fairbanks, that was \$13.8 million last year.

"People just don't want to accept the fact that anything is wrong with the foundation formula," said Sen. Gary Wilken, R-Fairbanks, who heads the reform charge in the Senate. "Those are the people who are today taking advantage of the formula."

Opponents say the formula, last overhauled in 1987, needs only a minor adjustment for inflation and other variables.

"We do not have a funding dis-

tribution problem," said Leland Dishman, the North Slope Borough's school superintendent. "We have a financial funding problem."

Critics of a rewrite note that proposals in the Legislature reduce the amount of general fund dollars going into the Bush. And when funding is held level, that means urban areas benefit.

"Con's (Bunde's) proposal quite often tends to redirect money out of outlying areas and into Anchorage," said Rep. Tom Brice, D-Fairbanks. "If that's what we're trying to accomplish,

I don't think we're doing anyone a service."

Bunde said that's not the goal, though Anchorage will benefit. "It redirects money from the very smallest schools and keeps it in the pot where it gets redistributed," he said, noting every district benefits.

Under Wilken's proposal, Senate Bill 146, 55 percent of the students in unorganized areas receive more education cash, he said. But 45 percent will see less. And four of every five students in borough school districts see more funds.

The issue is a complex one.

"What would be helpful to me is a blackboard," said Rep. Brian Porter, R-Anchorage, at a recent hearing on Bunde's 29-page bill.

Porter spoke for a majority of House Health, Education and Social Services Committee members, who face several long meetings on the issue. Assuming a proposal advances, Republican leaders do not expect a new formula to land on the governor's desk this year..

Following are charter schools around the state in various stages of operation and approval. Others are in the early planning stages, including Excel Charter School in North Pole.

## Up and running

### Chinook Charter School, Fairbanks

**1** Start date: August 1998  
Enrollment: 75  
Grade span: K-7

Program: Multi-age classrooms; individualized learning plans; project-based curriculum; no textbooks, grades or tests; after-school enrichment courses; mandatory parent involvement  
Per-student cost: \$5,013  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 18 to 1  
Facility: Former elementary school  
Start-up group: Four public school teachers who recruited like-minded parents

### Takotna Training Center Charter School, Takotna

**2** Start date: July 1998  
Enrollment: 21  
Grade span: 9-12

Program: Alternative high school and boarding school  
Per-student cost: N/A  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 10.5 to 1  
Facility: Sharing the high school building  
Start-up group: Iditarod School District and local parents

## Approved by state Board of Education

### Project Education Regional Vocational Charter School, Galena

**3** Start date: Projected August 1997  
Enrollment: Up to 50  
Grade span: 11-12, with plans to expand for high school graduates

Program: Boarding school with school-to-work vocational emphasis, college track opportunity through Galena City Schools, eight-week mini courses for out-of-town students, student-advised curriculum, mandatory parent involvement  
Per-student cost: Projected up to \$12,000  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 10 to 1  
Facility: Former Galena Air Force Base buildings  
Start-up group: Galena City Schools with parent advisory council and policy committee

### Delta Greely Cyber Charter School, Delta Junction

**4** Start date: Accepting enrollment statewide for August  
Enrollment: 100 full-time students. Will accept part-time.

Grade span: 7-12  
Program: Delivered via the Internet. Students must have a computer and Internet access and will communicate with teachers by e-mail. Curriculum features the standard requirements of all districts but is not delivered in defined courses. Individual approach is allowed. Seeks to be an electronic substitute for the 2,000 students in the state's correspondence program.  
Per-student cost: \$5,349  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 25 to 1  
Start-up group: Teachers and parents who formed the Academic Policy Committee. To enroll or learn about course descriptions, visit the Cyber School's Web site at: <http://www.dgsd.k12.ak.us/dcybar/dcybarindex.html>

## Approved by local school board and pending approval by state\*

### Aquarian Charter School, Anchorage

**5** Start date: August  
Enrollment: 120  
Grade span: K-6

Program: Targeting bright, high-achieving children from families with working parents; using state academic standards and accelerated learning curriculum based on recent brain research, "using music, joy and elation with high expectations for students."  
Per-student cost: \$3,588  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 24 to 1  
Facility: Free rent in a new building financed by Aquarian Educational Academy, a private school for preschool and kindergarten  
Start-up group: Parents whose children attended Aquarian Educational Academy

### Walden Pond Charter School

**6** Start date: August  
Enrollment: 130  
Grade span: 7-12

Program: Targeting students who are "falling through the cracks"; curriculum focuses on critical thinking skills, dialogue and outdoor experiences; students required to meet academic standards. School calendar is 10 days longer than regular public schools and the schedule alternates five weeks in the classroom with one-week workshops.  
Per-student cost: Up to \$4,700  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 15 to 1  
Facility: Not found yet  
Start-up group: Parents

### Family Partnership Charter School, Anchorage

**7** Start date: August  
Enrollment: About 120  
Grade span: K-12

Program: System of home schools where teachers are paired with families; parents and teachers are equal partners in directing the students' education. A parent/teacher contract defines the program.  
Per-student cost: \$3,400 to \$4,300  
Pupil/teacher ratio: N/A  
Facility: Central office in a classroom in an existing school  
Start-up group: Parents and teachers

### Homer Charter School, Kenai

**8** Start date: August  
Enrollment: 25  
Grade span: Planning for 4-8, adding grade 7 in second year, encompass K-12 in third year.

Program: Socratic practice, individualized learning plans, project-based curricula and interdisciplinary education. Teachers will be aided by mentors from the community and parent volunteers. Students will help tailor their own schedule to fit the task or project. Plan to team with nonprofit organizations and government agencies such as U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife and Pratt Museum in Homer.  
Per-student cost: \$4,400  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 25 to 1  
Facility: Sharing one of the existing schools.  
Start-up group: Parents, community members and teachers.

### Aurora Borealis School, Kenai

**9** Start date: August  
Enrollment: 75  
Grade span: K-8

Program: High expectations, innovative programs, varied educational techniques, parent survey helping to guide program; individualized, self-paced and competency-based curriculum, advanced learning technology; Calvert School curriculum will be core curriculum.  
Per-student cost: \$4,389 to \$5,739  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 20 to 1  
Facility: A hall with gymnasium and classrooms belonging to Peninsula Grace Lutheran Church.  
Start-up group: Parent group with assistance by the school district

### Bayview Charter School, Seward

**10** Start date: August  
Enrollment: 20 and perhaps more  
Grade span: 6- to 9-year-olds (no grades)

Program: Individually centered program grounded in the theory of multiple intelligence, based on Harvard professor Howard Gardner's book, "Frames of Mind." Would use hands-on materials and a project-based curriculum for in-depth learning that combines study areas. Would draw from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District's curriculum.  
Per-student cost: \$4,300  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 20 to 1  
Facility: Sharing space in existing middle school. Hope to move into the Sealife Center, still under construction.  
Start-up group: Parents, teachers, community members.

### New Beginnings Charter School, Fairbanks

**11** Start date: August  
Enrollment: 20, expanding to about 70  
Grade span: 7-12

Program: The school would expand Fairbanks Native Association's residential treatment facility for teens, where students recover from alcohol and drug addictions while continuing with school. It would serve mostly Native Alaskan students, many of whom have dropped out of regular public schools or been expelled.  
Per-student cost: \$8,320  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 10 to 1  
Facility: Sharing building with residential treatment program, Graf Rheenerhaenji, which serves students with drug and alcohol addictions, on Lawlor Road.  
Start-up group: Fairbanks Native Association

### Academy Charter, Palmer

**12** Start date: August  
Enrollment: 20  
Grade span: Kindergarten first year, K-4 by second year

Program: High emphasis on parent involvement, curriculum centered on core studies such as math, science, social studies, language arts, with heavy emphasis in technology and fine arts.  
Per-student cost: Negotiating with school district, though probably about \$5,700 per student.  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 20 to 1  
Facility: Leasing space adjacent to a day-care center.  
Start-up group: Teachers and parents

### Midnight Sun Family Learning Center, north of Wasilla

**13** Start date: August  
Enrollment: 90-100  
Grade span: K-8

Program: High emphasis on parent involvement, curriculum centered on core studies such as math, science, social studies, language arts, with heavy emphasis in technology.  
Per-student cost: Negotiating with school district, though probably about \$5,700 per student.  
Pupil/teacher ratio: 20 to 1  
Facility: Leasing space in a mall being remodeled  
Start-up group: Teachers and parents

\* On the agenda for approval at the state Board of Education's April meeting.  
Sources: Alaska Department of Education, school officials, charter school organizers