

SB

95

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 3/4/99

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3/11/99
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3/29/99

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 95

"An Act relating to the combination of grades that constitute junior high, middle, or secondary school."

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 title
 - new: SCR# _____

SIGNING <u>DO</u> PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
CHAIR:		CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓		

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department Date Zero Fiscal

<i>Educational</i>	<i>3/22/99</i>		✓

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department Date Zero Fiscal

<i>Est</i>	<i>3/22/99</i>		✓

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

SENATE BILL NO. 95

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR PHILLIPS

Introduced:

Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the combination of grades that constitute junior high, middle,
2 or secondary school."

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

4 * Section 1. AS 14.03.060(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) A secondary school consists of grades six [SEVEN] through 12 or any
6 appropriate combination of grades within this range. The establishment of one or two
7 grades beyond the 12th grade is optional with the governing body of the school
8 district.

9 * Sec. 2. AS 14.03.060(c) is amended to read:

10 (c) Grades six [SEVEN] through [EIGHT,] nine [, AND TEN] or any
11 appropriate combination of grades within this range may be organized as a junior high
12 school or a middle school.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR RANDY PHILLIPS
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Sponsor Statement

SB 95

Senate Bill 95 amends the current definition of secondary school student to include the grade 6 to 8 middle school concept. Currently only junior high school students in grades 7 to 9 are considered secondary students.

Many junior high schools statewide have been converted to middle schools for instructional purposes. All Anchorage junior high schools have been converted to middle schools. This change seeks to expand Department of Education regulations in a manner that conforms with the middle school concept chosen by many local school boards.

Inclusion of sixth grade in the middle school configuration also has an impact on facilities planning. All students in the middle school program require the same facilities and space allocation. Changing this definition allows 6th grade students enrolled in a middle school program to be counted at the secondary school allowance of 150 square feet per student rather than the 106 square feet per student allowance.

The current elementary square foot allowance for sixth grade students hinders a local school board's ability to properly plan and design a middle school facility to meet the educational needs of the students it serves.



ASD Memorandum

To: Senator Rick Halford
Senator Randy Phillips.

Cc: Anchorage Caucus Co-Chairs:
Senator Dave Donley
Representative Andrew Halcro

From: *Larry Wiget*, Executive Director, Public Affairs

Subject: Proposed Changes/Additions to State Statute

Date: March 2, 1999

Attached please find per your request suggested changes to state statute to accommodate the following ASD Legislative priorities:

- (1) Definition of a Secondary Student
- (2) Flexibility in State Capital Improvement Grants and School Debt Reimbursement
- (3) Charter School Space Allocation

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

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Anchorage School District Legislative Priority

Definition of a Secondary Student

The Anchorage School Board supports changing education regulations or state statute to expand the definition of junior high to include the words "middle school" and include the option of sixth grade in the configuration of the junior high/middle school. It is also requested that the square footage allowable for 6th graders housed in a middle school be calculated at the secondary allowance of 150 square feet per student, rather than the elementary calculation of 106 square feet per student.

ASD Intent/Suggested Language

The following suggested revisions to statute are provided to assist in the development of a bill to meet the intent of the ASD legislative priority regarding the definition of a secondary student.

"An Act relating to the combination of grades that constitute junior high, middle, or high school."

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

* Section 1. AS 14.03.060(b) is amended to read:

- (b) A secondary school consists of grades six [SEVEN] through 12 or any appropriate combination of grades within this range. The establishment of one or two grades beyond the 12th grade is optional with the governing body of the school district.

* Sec. 2. AS 14.03.060(c) is amended to read:

- (c) Grades six [SEVEN] through 9 [EIGHT AND NINE] or any appropriate combination of grades within this range may be organized as a junior high school, a middle school. Middle schools are a

separate funding component from elementary and secondary schools for purposes of calculating square footage.

Add a new (d) to read:

(d) Grades 9 through 12, or any appropriate combination of grades within this range may be organized as a high school.

Currently, under 4 AAC 31.020, School Construction Guidelines, no mention is made of "Allowable Square Feet Per Elementary Student."

Rationale: Many junior high schools statewide have been converted to middle schools for instructional purposes. All Anchorage junior highs have been converted to middle schools.

The way that the law and current regulations are written, however, the middle school model is not addressed. Many sixth grade students across the state are in middle school programs. Sixth grade is not given approval to be included in the junior high/middle school mix. The grade configuration of middle schools varies but may include 6, 7, 8 or 9th grades in various combinations. Several districts, including Anchorage, already have configurations ranging from 6th grade to ninth grade and are therefore out of compliance with Department of Education regulations.

Inclusion of sixth grade in the middle school configuration also has an impact on facilities planning. All students in the middle school program require the same programs and space allocation. The current elementary square foot allowance for sixth graders hinders a district's ability to properly plan and design a middle school facility to meet the educational needs of the students it serves.