

SB

57

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 1/21/09

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 2/2/09

Education Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 57

SB 57 CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING

"An Act relating to charter school funding."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| SENATE BILL: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Same Title |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Title |
| <hr/> | |
| HOUSE BILL: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Same Title |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical Title Change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Title w/ SCR # _____ |




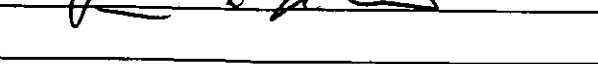
NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

| Department | Date | Fiscal | Indet | Zero | FN# |
|------------|---------|--------|-------|------|-----|
| EETC | 1/22/09 | ✓ | | | |
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PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

| Department | Date | Fiscal | Indet | Zero | FN# |
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APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

| SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS | PRINTED LAST NAME | DO PASS | DO NOT PASS | NO REC | AMEN |
|---|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------|------|
|  | OLSON | X | | | |
|  | DAVIS | X | | | |
|  | Huggins | X | | | |
|  | Elton | ✓ | | | |
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| | | | | | |
| CHAIR: | | | | | |

Sen. Kim Elton

Sen. Kim Elton

From: payroll@ci.nome.ak.us on behalf of Dana Handeland [dhandeland@nomealaska.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 8:29 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: supporter of SB 57

Donny,

I want to thank you any your fellow Senators for supporting Charter Schools in Alaska. We have actively worked for the past several years to provide a more permanent "fix" to the funding dilemma that we face due to the typical charter school enrollment and the current method of funding. We believe that great strides have been taken with SB 57.

Our school here in Nome has an enrollment of 44 which is capped due to space constraints at the current facility. We are paired with the largest school in our district causing concerns each year of whether we still can continue to provide the Nome community with optional educational opportunities. We have a proven program and a waiting list each year.

We work hand in hand with our district, many times providing a venue to try new methods that can later be implemented into the larger district. Providing a more equitable funding formula for charter schools only furthers the endless opportunities that our Alaskan education system can provide all Alaskan children especially in the future.

Thank you again for your continued support. The community of Nome appreciates this most important work for our children.

Dana Handeland
Anvil City Science Academy, APC member

Sen. Kim Elton

From: jodi [jodiwynne@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 1:25 PM
To: Sen. Kim Elton
Subject: Support for our school

Dear Senator Elton,

My name is Jodi Scolamiero. My husband David and I have our 1st grade son at Juneau Community Charter School (JCCS) this year and hope to have our 2nd son start there next year.

First, we would like to thank you for all your past support for our wonderful school.

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to send our children to a school such as JCCS. Without an option such as JCCS we fear our child would not be thriving as he has this past year. Due to his personality and learning style we have determined that the type of education JCCS offers is best suited for our children in that the school is smaller, therefore giving a more secure atmosphere. With the class size remaining the same as the district average, children are able to experience learning in smaller groups as well as giving a multi-grade class situation where each child can benefit from student mentoring as well as being a student mentor.

Next, I would like to add to the collective voice asking for your further support for the upcoming bill SB 57 giving smaller Charter schools the same funding as larger neighborhood schools. Without this increase in funding we fear our beloved school will not survive more than a couple of more years. The JCCS is a valuable addition to Juneau's wonderful elementary educational system. The school has proven itself academically with students ranking high on standardized testing scores, and also in that there is a high success rate for students transitioning back into the neighborhood school setting.

SB 57 would not only benefit our existing Charter school but give opportunity for more schools such as JCCS to establish and thrive. This would give parents even more choices when choosing what setting would be best for their individual children. In my opinion giving each child the type of education that works best for him or her is in essence ensuring our future as well as theirs.

Thank you so much for your time and support,
Jodi Scolamiero

Sen. Kim Elton

From: Jeri Kohlin [jeri_kohlin@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 1:35 PM
To: Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Senate Bill 57

To: The Senate Education Committee

Dear Senators,

First of all, I would like to thank each of you for your past support to increase charter school funding. Secondly, I would like to ask the Education Committee to, please, support SB 57 making it possible for charter schools of 150 or less to receive funding based on the same per student rate as larger schools. Our school, Juneau Community Charter School, offers an educational program that isn't available elsewhere in the school district. Although the overall school size is small, class size is no smaller than elsewhere in the school district. JCCS is able to support *every* child's attitude and enthusiasm towards learning, provides highly enriched curriculum while developing strong thinking skills while implementing increased parental involvement, multi-age classes, trips into the community, teacher autonomy, more opportunities for parent/teacher interaction than if he attended a larger neighborhood school. JCCS is a good "fit" for the needs of my child and family specifically because the curriculum is individualized to challenge each child at their skill level, in all domains, while supporting positive self esteem, diversity, and community involvement.

JCCS has proven itself educationally. Its students perform well on standardized tests and do well when they transition back into the neighborhood school settings. The Juneau school district supports this bill and has included increased charter school funding in its list of legislative priorities as well.

Education isn't one size fits all. It's important for families to have choice. Different settings are a better fit for some children and their families than others. All children should be allowed the opportunity to learn and succeed in a way that reaches their own unique learning style. We value our school, how it impacts our family, and the community of families (which includes staff and volunteers) that make it happen and strongly feel our children should not be penalized by inadequate funding. Currently, the funding situation is so inadequate that our school will have to close within 2-3 years.

Please, support our students and schools by authorizing same per student rate as larger schools receive. If we as parents felt the local neighborhood schools were the best fit for meeting the individual needs of our children, they would be attending those schools now and receiving the funds we are asking for now. But that is not the case, please, support our children now where they are excelling.

Thank you for your consideration and support,
Jeri Kohlin

Sen. Kim Elton

Sen. Kim Elton

From: jgeselle@gci.net on behalf of Jon Geselle [jgeselle@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 2:47 PM
To: Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: Catherine Reardon
Subject: In support of SB 57

Dear Senators,

We are writing to thank you for your past support for charter schools. Your support is critical to providing educational options for the next generation of Alaskans.

We are also writing to express our support of SB 57. Should this bill pass it would allow smaller school districts across the state to offer charter school options to the families they serve. This is important for many reasons, but foremost is the fact that not all students thrive in a traditional academic setting.

To this, we speak from experience. Our son Ezra has excelled at the Juneau Community Charter School because of the arts integrated curriculum and small overall school size. In this environment his social confidence has steadily grown allowing him to experience successes he did not have in a larger school setting.

I hope that you too will support SB 57, thus providing educational options for the future of Alaska.

Thank you,

Annie & Jon Geselle

Sen. Kim Elton

From: Diane Cathcart [Diane_Cathcart@ci.juneau.ak.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 2:53 PM
To: Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: Catherine Reardon
Subject: Support for SB57

Dear Senators and Staff,

Thank you for taking a moment out of your busy schedules to read this email.

I am writing to request your full support of SB57-An Act Relating to Charter School Funding.

As you are well aware; education is not a one size fits all. It is important for families to have a choice and different settings are a better fit for different children and their families. By creating more equitable funding it helps ensure small charter schools will continue to exist. Small Charter Schools are constantly trying to reach out to families with diverse needs for their children; whether it is a smaller overall school size so children don't feel "lost" in the crowd or children that have special learning needs. Small Charter Schools have the ability to help more children that are in danger of falling through the cracks, *if* they are properly funded. In my humble opinion this also helps relieve the stress larger schools may feel from trying to help children in need while maintaining the needs of the general school populous.

Full funding for ALL our children and schools should be every Alaskans priority; we owe it to our children and their future.

Thank you for your time and your service to our State.

Sincerely,

Diane Cathcart (Juneau Community Charter School 4/5/6 Class parent)
310 Irwin St Apt B
Juneau, AK 99801
907-523-2166

Sen. Kim Elton

From: Tim and Jeannie [tjmaxa@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 9:44 PM
To: Sen. Kim Elton
Subject: SB 57 - Charter school funding

January 27, 2009

Dear Senator Elton,

I am writing to express my support for SB57. I believe legislation like this will provide more equitable funding for small charter schools. I like SB 57 because it is comprehensive and effectively addresses the very different needs of different types of small charter schools and their host school districts.

I currently have two children attending the Juneau Community Charter School. My eleven year old son has attended the charter school for all 6 years of his education and my youngest son is in first grade.

I believe Charter schools are an important way to provide for school choice in Alaska and support parent involvement in education. We are very happy that the Juneau Community Charter School exists to provide a small school environment (a total of 66 children in the school) and involve parents in the school in meaningful ways. I want my children to be educated in a small environment and want to be involved in their education. We like the multi-age classrooms, the daily interaction between children of different ages, and the whole child view of education.

Since home schooling is not an option for our family due to employment obligations we are happy to have a charter school available to address many of our needs. My older son was born with a serious congenital heart defect that has required many open heart surgeries and has had special physical needs. We have greatly appreciated him being able to attend a small school where his needs are known and met within the regular classroom.

I believe Charter Schools have an important place in Alaska's education system. I hope that through your efforts, solutions to the challenges faced especially by small charter schools can be addressed. The current funding situation means it is very difficult for a charter school with under 150 students to operate. Alaska is a state of small numbers and we need legislation that will allow charter schools of all sizes to thrive. Without this legislation our charter school may have to close in the next 2-3 years. SB57 will make a big difference and allow small charter schools to survive in Alaska and offer valuable educational alternatives throughout the state.

Please support more equitable funding of charter schools to allow educational options around the state. Thanks very much for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Monk
Juneau Community Charter school parent

--

Tim, Jeannie, Max and Aaron

Sen. Kim Elton

From: Linda Newman [newman@alaska.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 12:35 AM
To: Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: Catherine Reardon; Sen. Kim Elton
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for Senate Bill 57

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee: My wife and I are forwarding a copy of this email that we sent to Senator Kim Elton earlier this week. We are sending this to you so that you can see how much we appreciate his co-sponsorship of Senate Bill 57, and so that you will know that we are grateful to you for considering this bill. Thank you for the support you've provided charter schools in the past; we hope you will support this effort to assist Alaska's small charter schools, which currently operate under an inequitable and unsustainable funding scheme. We look forward to the discussion about the bill at your Thursday meeting.

Sincerely,

Tony and Linda Newman
newman@alaska.net

Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda Newman <newman@alaska.net>
Date: January 25, 2009 11:11:53 PM AKST
To: Senator_Kim_Elton@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Thank you for Senate Bill 57

Senator Elton: Every year for the past several we've written to you to ask for your help in trying to fund Alaska's small charter schools, including Juneau's, in a more equitable way. We're extremely pleased and excited to be able to write to you tonight and thank you for taking leadership on this issue right away this session, by cosponsoring Senate Bill 57.

If this bill successfully makes it through the legislative process and passes into law this year it will provide relief to the Juneau Community Charter School just in the nick of time. We know that we've said in my prior letters to you that the situation is already urgent, but this year, for the first year in the seven years that we've been involved as parents of JCCS students, we are operating at a budget deficit and drawing down the school's savings. We probably have less than two years of funding left at the rate we're depleting the savings. The Charter School simply can't operate indefinitely on the unfair funding formula that leaves charter schools funded at a per-student rate that is significantly lower than other similar-sized schools in the district. We've all but resigned ourselves to the fact that our kids' school will likely need to close in a year or two because it will simply run out of money. (Believe us, we've exhausted ourselves trying to fundraise out of this mess.)

The importance of this bill for all of Juneau's kids is demonstrated by the fact that the Juneau School District has made more equitable small charter school funding one of its legislative priorities this year, and has resolved to support us in our efforts to correct the current funding inequity. We've just reviewed the bill and have exchanged a few emails with our fellow Charter School parents, and we are in agreement that the approach outlined

through this bill may be the best one yet. This bill makes it possible for small schools to operate, but still maintains the legislature's intent to encourage the formation of larger schools.

In our prior-year emails and letters to you on this issue we've taken much time and space to tell you about our kids and how much they--our whole family--gain from our participation in Juneau's Charter School. All of those things remain true. Our kids are learning so much and so well, but best of all, the Charter School has become an important part of all our lives because of the community that's grown around it.

Let us know what you would like us to do to assist you in securing passage of this bill this year.

Sincerely,

Tony and Linda Newman
308 Distin Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801
586-2172
newman@alaska.net

Sen. Kim Elton

Sen. Kim Elton

From: aukebaybetty@alaska.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 8:06 AM
To: Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Donny Olson
Cc: Catherine Reardon
Subject: SB 57

Attachments: Dear Senator Elton.docx



Dear Senator
Elton.docx (136 K...

Dear Senate Education Committee Members: Senator Elton, Senator Davis, Senator Huggins, Senator Stevens and Senator Olson,

Attached is a letter in support of SB 57. Please share your support with other Senators and House Members to help pass this bill.

Thank you very much for your support.

Beth Rivest

January 26, 2009

Dear Senator Elton, Senator Davis, Senator Olson, Senator Huggins and Senator Stevens; members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 57. It is a well written piece of legislation that would help small charter schools continue to serve students all across Alaska. These students' schools are in need of more equitable funding to support salaries and supplies. I am grateful you support charter schools as an option for parents to meet their child's needs.

I have three children in the Juneau School District public school system. I chose to enroll in the lottery when my eldest child was in the first grade. Luckily she got in the charter school and since the second grade it has been a wonderful educational and social environment for her and her siblings.

While I attended Arizona State University as a college student, I took almost every math class offered. I have always loved math and the sciences. The methods used to teach math at the charter school are rigorous, build solid understandings of number patterns and such strong flexibility in solving problems that I sincerely wished I had had the opportunity to be exposed to and to learn math in such a progressive, skill-building, visual way. It is exciting to see students experience this type of meaningful math.

I attended public school throughout my life and I loved school, however I believe my children are far more comfortable and intensely involved in their projects while also thoroughly enjoying attending school. They are being given an exceptional chance to become all they can. The projects that incorporate writing, research, art, social studies/science and teambuilding are solid methods of fun and learning. The parents of these students become involved as well and work hard to support this small charter school.

The Juneau Community Charter School is in need of financial support. Parents contribute by supporting teachers in the classroom, helping teachers prep for the week to come, we work around the school facility to build shelves, clean and make it work efficiently. Parents also work very hard to fundraise to meet the financial commitments it takes to run the charter school. It is sorely underfunded at present.

The charter school has been part of the Juneau School District, serving a wide array of students for over ten years. It sets high standards and builds leadership, competence and love of our environment in such a compassionate manner.

To be very honest, if it were not for the charter school, I know I would begin a small child-care business and home school my children.

It has been stated, from President Obama to our Governor's State of the State, that education is one of the top legislative priorities. I sincerely hope that funding small

charter schools, through creative use of resources, educate children in a way that many children need, to become successful is also a priority within your committee.

In Alaska, small charter schools are funded dramatically lower per student compared to district counterparts. This bill recognizes charter schools as important options and is an attempt to balance educational funding per student at a reasonable percentage.

Please continue your support and know that small charter schools are doing important works on behalf of students all across Alaska, in particular here in Juneau. Please know that besides the many, many parents and educators who believe in the success of small charter schools and its' students high achievement, test scores and critical thinking skills we have no lobbying force to help other Senators or House members understand this issue. Please I ask each of you to help by sharing your support for SB 57.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Senate Bill 57.

Sincerely,

Beth Rivest, wife of a hard-working, small business owner; loving and caring parent of three wonderful children; and a member of the Juneau Community.

Sen. Kim Elton

Sen. Kim Elton

From: Rhonda Vaughan [rhonda.vaughan@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 9:38 AM
To: Sen. Kim Elton
Subject: Supporting Charter Schools

Dear Mr. Elton,

I'm a parent at Juneau Community Charter School. I'm writing to you to express my hope that the Charter School funding bill be passed.

If this bill is passed, it would mean a lot to the Charter School families. One major improvement would be the benefit of having buses for the children. Currently, all families drive the children to Charter School. Driving downtown twice a day to Charter School adds many miles to our car and uses a lot gasoline; both have an impact on the environment. In this time of economic and environmental crisis, a small thing like buses would make a great change!

Safety would also be improved if the Charter School received bus service. Students who live downtown can walk to school, but with snow covered sidewalks, they have to walk on the street, which presents a safety hazard. Parking is very limited at the Charter School, making drop off and picks up potentially dangerous. Parents have to find a parking spot that allows space for a car, yet not get hit. Children have to use extra caution when crossing the street, and as is common with young children, they sometimes don't look before they leap.

Thank you for your time in reading this, Sen. Elton. The families at Juneau Community Charter School are eager to see the Charter School funding bill passed.

Regards,

--
Rhonda Vaughan

209-8950

Dana Owen

From: Comeau_Carol [Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 3:00 PM
To: Dana Owen
Cc: Sen. Kim Elton; Comeau_Carol
Subject: RE: SB 57

Dana,

Thanks for taking my call just now. I am sorry I am unable to testify tomorrow as I had planned due to participation in a conference call with the new Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. I would appreciate it if you could distribute these comments to the Senate Education Committee members tomorrow.

Dear Senate Education Committee:

The Anchorage School Board does not have a position on SB 57 specifically, but we strongly support our charter schools. We have much concern on the "draconian" funding situation for a charter school that does not make the 151 student count through the count period, particularly in the first year of operation. Many of our charter schools have struggled with this issue and the funding problems that ensue.

The Anchorage School District would like to work with your committee on this important issue. Last year, I suggested that maybe a working group could work on this issue over this session and into the summer. If that was ever possible, I would like to ask that the ASD participate. We have participated on many groups over the years and have some good suggestions on how to resolve funding and facility issues for charter schools. We believe that the public school choices, including charters, are important for parents and students.

I appreciate your commitment to education and the opportunity to provide input.
Carol Comeau, Superintendent
Anchorage School District

Dana Owen

From: Catherine Reardon
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 5:27 PM
To: Dana Owen
Subject: FW: SB57 letter

-----Original Message-----

From: sarah hopkins [mailto:hopkins_sarah@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 5:16 PM
To: Catherine Reardon
Subject: SB57 letter

January 28, 2009

Dear Senators,

This letter is in regards to Senate Bill 57 which will have its first hearing in front of the Senate Education Committee on Thursday January 29th. The bill addresses funding for small (charter) schools.

I support this bill because it will benefit the Juneau Community Charter School. My son is currently enrolled at JCCS. I believe that ALL students can be the most successful in school when they are in an environment that best fits their educational and social needs. This is the case for my son, and daughter, and as parents my husband and I try to find our children's best "fit" educationally. I hope to enroll my daughter as a 7th grader next year at JCCS. If Bill 57 is passed, this may be more possible.

With the funds that Bill 57 would provide, JCCS could be more accessible (in terms of growth) and serve a greater number of Juneau families. A community is more enriched when families have as many educational choices as possible for their children. Students are more successful when they are in an environment where they feel safe and are motivated and interested in their own education. No child is alike, and providing Juneau's students with a choice of educational environments addresses the educational needs of all our children. Juneau Community Charter School plays a vital roll in the school district in meeting these needs.

The Juneau Community Charter School APC members (made up of parent volunteers), other JCCS families, and teachers, have put in many hours of research and work in coming up with a plan of how JCCS can offer additional classrooms and serve a greater number of families. Bill 57 will support these efforts. Please give your support for this bill. Thank-you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sarah Hopkins

Dana Owen

From: Catherine Reardon
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 5:26 PM
To: Dana Owen
Subject: FW: Charter School Funding Bill - Please Support

From: Elise and Jay Boyer [mailto:ejez_2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 5:18 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Charter School Funding Bill - Please Support

Dear Senator Stevens:

I understand that you will be considering a bill this week to correct the funding inequities that hamper small charter schools in Alaska. I heartily encourage you to pass this bill. My husband and I have been so happy with our sons' charter school experiences, both in Homer (Fireweed Academy), and in Juneau, at the Juneau Community Charter School. Although these schools are different in many ways, they are wonderful examples of how the charter school law can enable our public school system to reach students in ways the traditional programs may not. I have learned that "one size" does not fit all in education, and our children benefit from choices in program. When those choices can be made available to all, regardless of income or test scores, then our state is truly doing them a service.

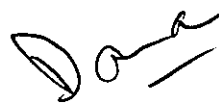
Treating small programs as if they have the economies of scale of the largest schools in the state has always been an unfortunate glitch in the current law (although there are some who see it as a deterrent to the explosion of small schools). The proposed bill will correct that problem, and enable our students to continue to share in the promise of the charter school system. In fact, in our case in Juneau, it will enable us to achieve even more diversity than we already enjoy, by making it possible to hire employees who can serve students with special needs and to provide bus service to children who need it.

I know times are tough. I hope you will see that this bill is worth the investment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elise Nacht Boyer
780-2528



Sen. Kim Elton

To: Larry Johansen
Subject: RE: Charter school Bill

Larry--

Thanks. As chair of the education committee, I'm holding a committee hearing on the bill in a half hour and am co-sponsor of the bill.

Kim

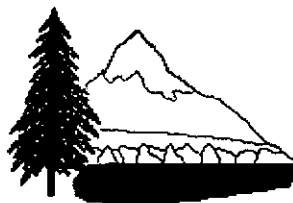
From: Larry Johansen [mailto:rowdydog@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:05 AM
To: Sen. Kim Elton
Subject: Charter school Bill

Senator Elton,

I quick word in support of the funding formula equalization bill. I am a charter school parent. We do school jobs to save our school money to make our program happen. My wife and I perform janitorial service and recess duty to save cost. Its not that we mind doing these jobs but we would like to be able to spend our volunteer efforts on jobs that would directle lead to improving oue children's educational experience. AS it is the Juneau charter school is an educational success meeting core standards and for all social classes. Please help us help our kids.

-Larry Johansen
3010 Foster
Juneau, AK

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Dana Owen

From: Sen. Kim Elton
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:45 AM
To: Dana Owen
Subject: FW: Support for SB 57

-----Original Message-----

From: Hubert Angaiak [mailto:hangaiak@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:40 AM
To: Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Support for SB 57

Honorable Senators,

I would like to thank you for your continued support in providing the best education for Alaska's children. I fully support SB 57 and I urge you to pass it. Charter Schools provides a positive alternative in education for our children. We are always looking for solutions in providing what's best in education for our children and Charter Schools are part of the solution.

Thank you.

kind regards,
Hubert Angaiak
Bethel, Alaska 99559
907-543-3074

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB 57
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): SB057-EED-ESS-01-22-09 Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
 Title: An Act realting to charter school funding. RDU: K-12 Support
 Component: Foundation Program
 Sponsor: Senator Thomas
 Requester: Education, Finance Component Number: 141

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | Appropriation Required | Information | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | FY 2010 | FY 2010 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 |
| Personal Services | | | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | | | |
| Contractual | | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | 714.3 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 714.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | 714.3 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | | |
| Other Interagency Receipts | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 714.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: _____

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time | | | | | | | |
| Part-time | | | | | | | |
| Temporary | | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would increase funding for those charter schools with an Average Daily Membership [ADM] under 150 through the school size adjustment mechanism.

There are two methods to determine eligibility:

1) If the charter school is under 150 ADM, then the ADM count will be multiplied by 1.18.

OR

2) If the charter school has an ADM of 120 but less than 150 and in the 1st year of operation; or had an ADM count of 150 in the prior year but fell below in the current fiscal year, then the ADM count will be multiplied by 1.38.

The GF appropriation capitalizes on the Public Education Fund [PEFL].

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, Director
 Division: School Finance
 Approved by: Larry LeDoux, Commissioner

Phone 465-8679
 Date/Time 1/22/08 12:00 AM
 Date 1/22/2008

| District/School Name | FY09 Charter School ADM | FY10 Charter School ADM | x 1.18 | x 1.38 |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | Cost if Eligible under Sec. 1 ('c) | Cost if Eligible under Sec. 1 (d) |
| ANCHORAGE | | | | |
| Alaska Native Charter School [Eff. FY09] | 160.70 | 180.00 | | |
| Aquarian Charter | 361.15 | 360.00 | | |
| Highland Tech Charter | 240.20 | 260.00 | | |
| Winterberry Charter | 184.50 | 200.00 | | |
| Eagle Academy Charter | 164.00 | 165.00 | | |
| Rilke Schule Charter | 209.90 | 240.00 | | |
| FAIRBANKS | | | | |
| Chinook Montessori Charter School | 153.20 | 153.00 | | |
| Star of the North Secondary School (charter) | 200.55 | 201.00 | | |
| Effie Kokrine Charter School | 140.65 | 145.00 | \$ 350,590 | |
| Watershed Charter School [to open in FY10] | - | 155.00 | | |
| JUNEAU | | | | |
| Juneau Community Charter School | 68.00 | 78.00 | \$ 194,684 | |
| KENAI | | | | |
| Aurora Borealis Charter (soldotna) | 184.00 | 185.00 | | |
| Kaleidoscope Charter School | 233.00 | 248.00 | | |
| Fireweed Academy Charter (Homer) | 72.75 | 76.00 | \$ 147,231 | |
| Soldotna Montessori Charter | 161.60 | 161.00 | | |
| KETCHIKAN | | | | |
| Tongass School of Arts & Sciences Charter | 152.40 | 150.00 | | |
| Ketchikan Charter School | 173.30 | 170.00 | | |
| LOWER KUSKOKWIM | | | | |
| Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion (bethel) | 172.05 | 172.00 | | |
| MAT-SU | | | | |
| Academy Charter School | 228.95 | 231.00 | | |
| Fronteras Charter School | 186.85 | 187.00 | | |
| Midnight Sun Charter School | 165.00 | 165.00 | | |
| NOME | | | | |
| Anvil City Science Academy | 44.00 | 44.00 | \$ 21,796 | |
| Total Revenue | | | \$ 714,301 | |

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR JOE THOMAS

Sponsor Statement SB 57

SB 57 corrects a flaw in the school funding law as it applies to charter schools with fewer than 150 students. Current law results in these charter schools receiving 30% to 45% less state funding than neighborhood schools of their same size. SB 57 funds these charter schools at a per-child rate closer to that of average, urban elementary schools.

Charter schools are public schools that provide valuable education options to Alaska families. They increase learning opportunities and encourage parent and community involvement in our schools. Charter schools are designed and managed by parent-elected boards, under contract with their local school district. In 1995, the legislature passed Alaska's initial charter school law, authorizing local school districts to approve charter schools in their communities. However, the funding system has limited communities' ability to use the law to create and sustain these innovative programs.

SB 57 solves the funding problem in an equitable, fiscally responsible manner. It will support our schools and districts as they carry out the legislature's intent in creating the charter school law.

The Current Funding System

The root of the problem is the way the foundation formula calculates the "adjusted student count" for charter schools versus neighborhood schools.

The adjusted student count is the basis of state funding for all schools in Alaska. The funding a school district receives is calculated by multiplying the adjusted student count by the district cost factor, the special needs factor and, finally, by the dollar amount in the base student allocation.

The adjusted student count is determined by the school size formula in AS 14.17.450. The formula recognizes that economies-of-scale make it less expensive to operate a large school than a small school. Therefore, the enrollment of small schools is increased by a factor much higher than the adjustment for large schools. For example, the enrollment of a school with 75 students is adjusted to 123, a school with 400 students is adjusted to 472, and a school with 1,000 students is adjusted to 1,004.

Charter schools with an enrollment of less than 150 students are not treated as separate schools for the purpose of the adjusted student count calculation. Instead, the Department of Education adds

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR JOE THOMAS

Sectional Analysis SB 57

Section 1

Subsection (c) states that charter schools with fewer than 150 students will have their student count adjusted by the same per-student rate as neighborhood schools with 400 students.

Under the school size factor statute, AS 14.17.450(a), the per-student rate of adjustment for 400-student neighborhood schools is 1.18, which means their student enrollment is multiplied by 1.18 to determine their "adjusted student count." The adjusted student count is the basis for the calculation of state funding provided to school districts.

Subsection (d) is an exception to subsection (c) for charter schools that are either in their first year of operation or had more than 150 students the previous year. It grants these charter schools a one-year hold-harmless period, during which they will receive 95% of the per-student rate of neighborhood schools with 150 students.

Under the school size factor statute, the per-student rate of adjustment for 150-student neighborhood schools is 1.45, and 95% of that rate is 1.38. Charter schools in the hold-harmless year will have their enrollment multiplied by 1.38 to determine their adjusted student count.

Subsection (d) requires charter schools that are in the hold-harmless year to submit a plan for the following year to their local school board. The plan must describe what will happen the following year if the school again has fewer than 150 students and no longer qualifies for the hold-harmless provision.

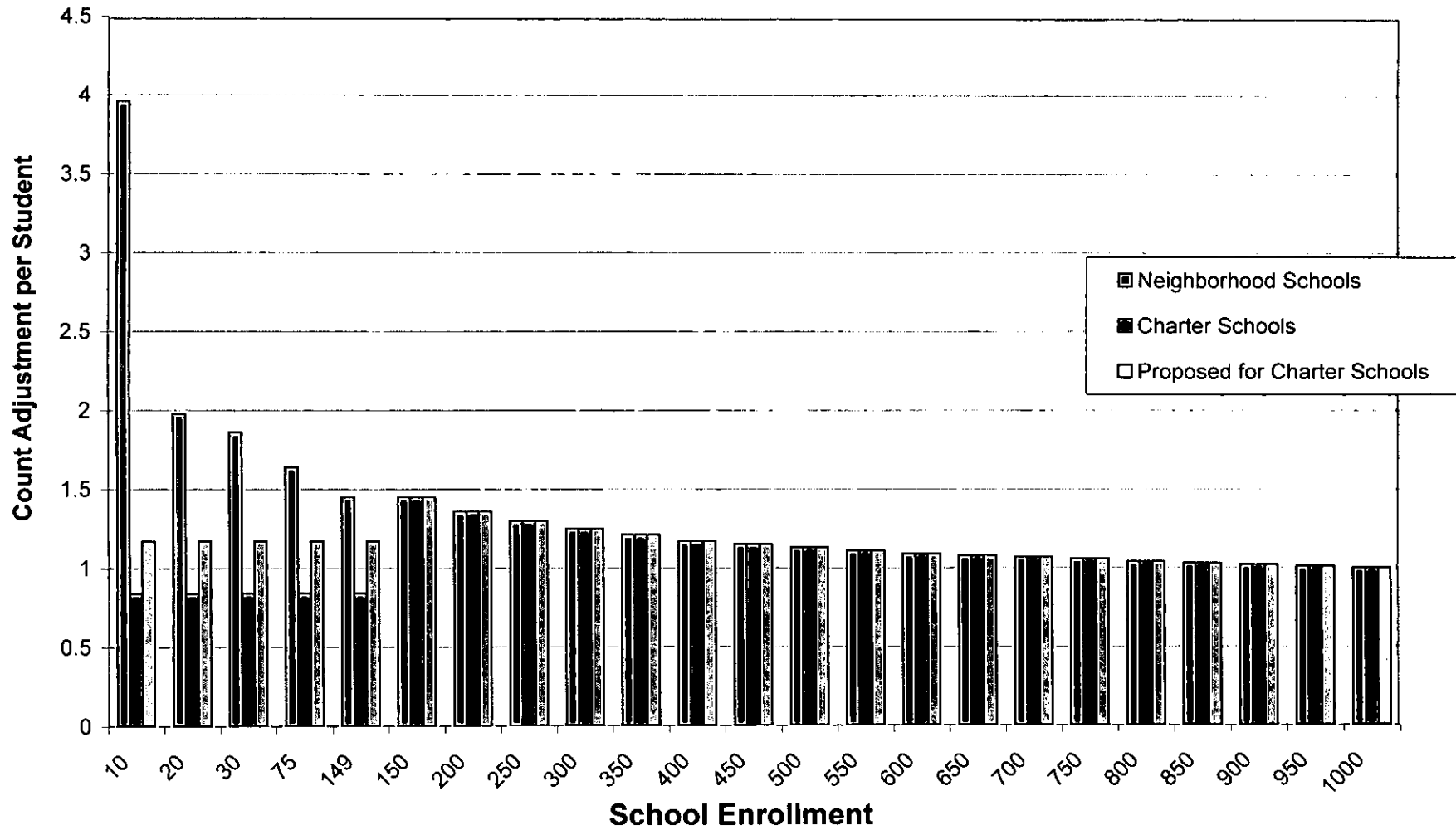
Subsection (e) defines the term "student rate." The student rate is the base plus the multiplier under AS 14.17.450(a) divided by the student count.

Section 2:

This is a technical amendment creating the exception from the existing requirement that charter schools have at least 150 students to have their own adjusted student count calculation. Without this amendment, the Department of Education would continue to calculate school funding as if the students at charter schools under 150 attended the largest school in their district.

Adjusted Student Count for Charter Schools vs. Neighborhood Schools

The adjusted student count of each school is the basis of state funding. The number of students enrolled in a school is increased or decreased according to the formula in AS 14.17.450, to determine the school's adjusted student count. That adjusted student count is then multiplied by the district cost factor, the special needs factor and, finally, by the base student allocation to determine the amount of funding.



* This chart assumes that a charter school with fewer than 150 students has a student count adjustment of .84 under current law, because it is located in a district that contains a school with over 750 students, such as Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su or Juneau. A charter school in a community such as Kenai, Bethel, Ketchikan or Nome would have a student count adjustment of .92 or .97.

Charter School Statutes: AS 14.03.250 – 14.03.290

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 and Early Development of an application for a charter school. The state Board of Education and Early Development may not approve more than 60 charter schools to operate in the state at any one time.

(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 and Early Development applications for a charter school that have been approved or denied by the local board.

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. A charter school is subject to secondary school competency testing as provided in AS 14.03.075 and other competency tests required by the department.

(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) a description of the educational program;

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

(3) admission policies and procedures;

(4) administrative policies;

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

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

(7) the location and description of the facility;

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

(9) the teacher-to-student ratio;

(10) the number of students served;

(11) the term of the contract, not to exceed a term of 10 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 public buildings or other public schools in the district.

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 and Early Development. 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 Early Development and shall cooperate with the local school district or the department in complying with the requirements of AS 14.17.910 .

(d) 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.

Sec. 14.03.263. Charter school grant program. [Repealed, Sec. 1 ch 100 SLA 2003].

Repealed or Renumbered

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;

(2) students who will benefit from a particular teaching method or curriculum; or

(3) nonresident students, including providing domiciliary services for students who need those services, if approved by the board.

(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.

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.

Sec. 14.03.275. Contracts; duration.

A contract for a charter school may be for a term of no more than 10 years.

Sec. 14.03.280. Regulations.

The state Board of Education and Early Development may adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) necessary to implement AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290.

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) "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.

Statutes That Determine Adjusted Student Count

Sec. 14.17.905. Facilities constituting a school.

(a) For purposes of this chapter, the determination of the number of schools in a district is subject to the following:

(1) a community with an ADM of at least 10, but not more than 100, shall be counted as one school;

(2) a community with an ADM of at least 101, but not more than 425, shall be counted as

(A) one elementary school, which includes those students in grades kindergarten through six; and

(B) one secondary school, which includes students in grades seven through 12;

(3) in a community with an ADM of greater than 425, each facility that is administered as a separate school shall be counted as one school, except that each alternative school with an ADM of less than 200 shall be counted as a part of the school in the district with the highest ADM.

(b) Notwithstanding (a)(3) of this section, a charter school shall be counted as a separate school if the charter school has an ADM of at least 150 students.

Sec. 14.17.450. School size factor.

(a) For purposes of calculating a school's ADM to determine state aid, the ADM of each school in a district shall be computed by applying the following formula:

| If the student count In a school is | | | The adjusted student count is | | | |
|--|---------------|--------|-------------------------------|-------|---|-------|
| At least | But less than | Base | Multiplier | | The number of Students in excess of | |
| 10 | - 20 | 39.6 | | | | |
| 20 | - 30 | 39.6 | + | (1.62 | x | 20) |
| 30 | - 75 | 55.8 | + | (1.49 | x | 30) |
| 75 | - 150 | 122.85 | + | (1.27 | x | 75) |
| 150 | - 250 | 218.1 | + | (1.08 | x | 150) |
| 250 | - 400 | 326.1 | + | (0.97 | x | 250) |
| 400 | - 750 | 471.6 | + | (0.92 | x | 400) |
| 750 or over | | 793.6 | + | (0.84 | x | 750). |

the charter students to the students attending the largest school in their district, and calculates the adjusted student count for the combined enrollment. This system makes the adjusted student count of the charter schools lower than their actual enrollment, while almost all other schools are adjusted upwards.

The Consequences

The impact of this system on charter schools is shown in the attached graph. The consequences include:

1. School districts can be penalized for allowing school choice.

The adjusted student count calculation for charter schools with fewer than 150 students can result in districts receiving less state funding than they would if their charter school students attended their neighborhood schools. The state will spend more if these charter schools close.

2. The law provides an inadequate amount of money for charter schools with fewer than 150 students to survive. Charter schools with fewer than 150 students in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau have a count adjustment of .84, which is lower than even the largest high schools in those communities, and is close to the .80 rate the state provides to correspondence programs that do not have to pay for school buildings and teachers.

3. There is a dramatic decrease in funding when a charter school's enrollment drops from 150 students to 149. The loss of that one student costs a school district \$500,000 - \$700,000. The unanticipated funding cut occurs in November, when it is too late to significantly reduce costs. In the past five years, this has happened to the Anchorage School District, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and the Lower Kuskokwim School District.

The Solution

SB 57 states that charter schools with fewer than 150 students will have their student count adjusted by the same per-student rate as neighborhood schools with 400 students. Under the school size factor statute, the per-student rate of adjustment for 400-student neighborhood schools is 1.18.

SB 57 also contains a one-year, hold-harmless provision for charter schools that are either in their first year of operation or had more than 150 students the previous year. These schools will receive 95% of the per-student rate of neighborhood schools with 150 students. Under the school size factor statute, the per-student rate of adjustment for 150-student neighborhood schools is 1.45, and 95% of that rate is 1.38.

Finally, SB 57 requires charter schools that are in the hold-harmless year to submit a plan for the following year to their local school board. The plan must describe what will happen the following year if the school again has fewer than 150 students and no longer qualifies for the hold-harmless provision.

Alaska Public Charter Schools Directory 2008-2009



Charter School Contacts Summary

Julie Morris: Program Manager

Phone: 465-8689

Fax: 465-2713

E-Mail: Julie.morris@alaska.gov

Kristina Monson: Grants Administrator

Phone: 465-2930

Fax: 465-6760

E-Mail: Kristina.monson@alaska.gov

Revised: January 2009

CHARTER SCHOOLS BY DISTRICT

Anchorage School District

Alaska Native Cultural Charter School
Aquarian Charter School
Eagle Academy
Family Partnership Charter School
Frontier Charter School
Highland Tech High
Winterberry Public School
Rilke Schule German School of Arts and Sciences

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Chinook Montessori
Effie Kokrine Charter School
Star of the North Secondary School

Juneau Borough Schools

Juneau Community Charter School

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Aurora Borealis Charter School
Fireweed Academy
Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Sciences
Soldotna Montessori Charter School

Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District

Ketchikan Charter School
Tongass School of Arts & Sciences

Lower Kuskokwim Schools

Ayaprun Elitnaurvik

Mat-Su Borough Schools

Academy Charter School
Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School
Midnight Sun Family Learning Center
Twindly Bridge Charter School

Nome City Schools

Anvil City Science Academy

CHARTER SCHOOL CONTACTS

| | |
|--|---|
| <p><u>Alaska Native Cultural Charter School</u> Tim Godfrey Muldoon Community Assembly Church 7041 DeBarr Road Anchorage, AK 99504 Phone: 575-6195 Fax: handcockelizabeth@asd12k.org</p> | <p><u>Academy Charter School</u> Barbara Gerard 801 East Arctic Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 746-2358 Fax: 746-2368 barbara.gerard@matsuk12.us</p> |
| <p><u>Anvil City Science Academy</u> Todd Hindman P.O. Box 931 Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 443-6207 Fax: 443-5144 thindman@nomeschools.com</p> | <p><u>Aquarian Charter School</u> Susan Forbes 1705 W. 32nd Avenue Anchorage, AK 99517 Phone: 742-4900 Fax: 742-4919 forbes_susan@asdk12.org</p> |
| <p><u>Aurora Borealis Charter School</u> Larry Nauta 705 Frontage Rd., Suite A Kenai, AK 99611 Phone: 283-0292 Fax: 283-0293 lnauta@kpbsd.k12.ak.us</p> | <p><u>Ayaprun Elitnaurvik</u> Panigkaq Agatha John-Shields P.O. Box 1468 Bethel, AK 99559-1468 Phone: 543-1645 Fax: 543-1647 agatha_john-shields@lkdsd.org</p> |
| <p><u>Chinook Montessori Charter School</u> Michele Halbrook 3002 International Street Fairbanks, AK 99701 Phone: 452-5020 Fax: 452-5048 theproject@awcable.com</p> | <p><u>Eagle Academy Charter School</u> Mary Meade 10901 Mausel Street, Suite 101 Eagle River, AK 99577 Phone: 742-3025 Fax: 742-3035 meade_mary@asdk12.org</p> |
| <p><u>Effie Kokrine Charter School</u> Linda Evans 601 Loftus Road Fairbanks, AK 99709 Phone: 474-0958 Fax: 479-2104 elaughlin@northstar.k12.ak.us</p> | <p><u>Family Partnership Charter School</u> Reed Whitmore 401 E. Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503 Phone: 742-3700 Fax: 742-3710 whitmore_reed@asdk12.org</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p><u>Fireweed Academy</u> Kiki Abrahamson P.O. Box 474 Homer, AK 99603 Phone: 235-9728 Fax: 235-8561 kabrahamson@kpbsd.k12.ak.us</p> | <p><u>Frontier Charter School</u> Tim Scott 400 W. Northern Lights Blvd. Suite # 9 Anchorage, AK 99503 Phone: 742-1180 Fax: 742-1188 scott_tim@asdk12.org</p> |
| <p><u>Fronteras Spanish Immersion School</u> Casey Bowen 7010 E. Bogard Road Wasilla, AK 99687 Phone: (907) 868-3103 Fax: (907) 745-6132 casey.bowen@matsu12.us</p> | <p><u>Highland Tech High</u> Mark Standley 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., #1 Anchorage, AK 99504 Phone: 742-1700 Fax: 742-1711 standley_mark@asdk12.org</p> |
| <p><u>Juneau Community Charter School</u> Marjorie Hamburger 430 4th Street Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 586-2526 Fax: 586-3543 marjorie_hamburger@jsd.k12.ak.us</p> | <p><u>Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Sciences</u> Mick Wykis 549 N. Forest Dr. Kenai, AK 99611 Phone: 283-0804 Fax: 283-3786 mwykis@kpbsd.k12.ak.us</p> |
| <p><u>Ketchikan Charter School</u> Harry Martin 410 Schoenbar Road Ketchikan, AK 99901 Phone: 225-8568 Fax: 247-8568 spinkm@kgbsd.org</p> | <p><u>Midnight Sun Family Learning Center</u> Jeanne Troshynski 7362 W. Parks Hwy., #714 Wasilla, AK 99654 Phone: 357-3733 Fax: 373-6786 jeanne.troshynski@matsuk12.us</p> |
| <p><u>Rilke Schule Charter School</u> Chrystal Wrabetz 650 West International Airport Anchorage, AK 99518 Phone: (907) 742-7455 Fax: (907) wrabetz_crystal@asdk12.org</p> | <p><u>Soldotna Montessori Charter School</u> Mo Sanders 162 Park Avenue Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 260-9221 Fax: 260-9032 msanders@kpbsd.k12.ak.us</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Star of the North Secondary School</u> Annemarie Keep-Barnes 2945 Monk Court North Pole, AK 99705 Phone: 490-9025 Fax: 490-9021 akeep-barnes@northstar.k12.ak.us</p> | <p><u>Tongass School of Arts & Sciences</u> Janet Johnson 410 Schoenbar Road, Suite 202 Ketchikan, AK 99901-3309 Phone: 225-5720 Fax: 225-8822 millerk@kgbsd.org</p> |
| <p><u>Twindly-Bridge Charter School</u> Greg Miller 141 E Seldon Road Wasilla, AK 99654 Phone: 376-6680 Fax: 376-6683 greg.miller@matsuk12.us</p> | <p><u>Winterberry Public School</u> Shanna Mall 508 W. 2nd Ave. Anchorage AK 99501 Phone: 742-4980 Fax: 742-4985 mall_shanna@asdk12.org</p> |

Charter school profiles are on the following pages.

CHARTER SCHOOL PROFILES

Alaska Native Charter School

Students Enrolled: 153

Grade Levels: K-6

Type: Citizen/Community

State Board of Education Approval: March 28, 2007

Date Charter Expires: March 28, 2010

Mission: The mission of the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School is to realize the reality of our unique urban environment with its rich Alaska Native traditions including cultural corporations and organizations, and with their partnership develop well prepared Alaska Native students who are able to contribute to the community. The school will bring Elders, Alaska Native Leaders, youth, parents, and teachers together to infuse Alaska Native values, cultures, and languages into active learning experiences. A curriculum that utilizes traditional ways of knowing and methods of instruction will successfully transition rural Alaska Native students into urban community while fostering pride and a strong sense of cultural identity. The school engages in educational research and serves as a demonstration school for other teachers and administrators who wish to develop effective methodologies and approaches for working with Alaska Native and Native American students and their families.

Purpose: Alaska Native Cultural Charter School builds student excellence through traditional cultural learning.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|---|---|--|
| Carol Comeau, Superintendent Anchorage Schools P.O. Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4312 Fax: 742-4312 | Connie Bensler, Liaison Anchorage Schools P.O. Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 868-3103 Fax: 742-4318 | Tim Godfrey, Principal Muldoon Community Assembly Church 7041 DeBarr Road Anchorage, AK 99504 Phone: 575-6195 Fax: no fax at this time |

Website:

<http://www.asdk12.org/schools/anccs/pages/>

Academy Charter School

Students Enrolled: 231

Grade Levels: K-8

Type: Citizen/Community

State Board of Education Approval: April 28, 1997

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2015

Mission: Our mission is to create a learning system that encourages and develops students' inherent abilities to be competent, confident, productive and responsible young adults. We will strive to produce a generation of young people who possess the habits, skills and attitudes necessary to empower them to succeed as life long learners and outstanding citizens.

Purpose: The primary focus of the Academy Charter is on the well-being of the children of our community. It is the goal of the approximately 10 currently active members (project designers) to create a purposeful, living laboratory, which will operate in a caring, supportive and closely monitored environment. As an integral part of the Matanuska-Susitna School District, the Charter's successful innovations will be transferable to other schools in the District and to the larger world community, thus benefiting all of our children. Charter Community members seek to make education a community passion.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| School District George Troxel, Superintendent Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools 501 N. Gulkana Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 746-9255 Fax: 761-4076 | District Contact John Weetman, Liaison Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools 501 N. Gulkana Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 746-9200 Fax: 746-9292 | Charter School Contact Barbara Gerard 801 East Arctic St. Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 746-2358 Fax: 746-2368 |
|--|--|--|

Website:

<http://www.acc.matsuk12.us/>

Aquarian Charter School

Students Enrolled: 351

Grade Level: K-6

Type: Language & Arts

State Board of Education Approval: April 28, 1997

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2012

Mission: The Aquarian Charter school is dedicated to providing Anchorage area children freedom to achieve their human potential by endeavoring to: celebrate each child's uniqueness and diversity; provide a stimulating academic program with high expectations in a joyful, stress-free atmosphere; assure there is a safe and nurturing environment to instill well-being for all students; empower thinking, understanding individuals to communicate and live in a challenging and changing world; pique interest, awareness and involvement in the neighborhood and global community; facilitate creative expression through language, drama, art, music and sports; stimulate continual family interaction with children and their educational development.

Purpose: The Aquarian Charter School is designed for bright, high-achieving children from families with working parents.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|---|---|
| Carol Comeau, Superintendent Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4000 Fax: 742-4318 | Connie Bensler, Liaison Anchorage Schools P.O. Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 868-3103 Fax: 742-4318 | Susan Forbes, Principal 1705 W. 32nd Ave. Anchorage, AK 99517 Phone: 742-4900 Fax: 742-4919 |

Website:

http://www.aquariancharterschool.com/Aquarian_Charter/Home.html

Anvil City Science Academy

Students Enrolled: 44

Grade Level: 5-8

Type: Science

State Board of Education Approval: June 9, 1998

Date Charter Expires: October 1, 2013

Mission: "Through a cooperative network of parents, teachers and community members, ACSA will provide a safe, nurturing, family-oriented, multi-age learning environment supporting a highly rigorous academic program for higher education preparation with high standards of responsible citizenship. Current technology will be incorporated in all aspects of the students' education. ACSA will promote academic excellence, character development and educational enthusiasm resulting in responsible, productive citizens."

Purpose: Anvil City Science Academy was created and shaped by a small nucleus of like-minded parents, teachers, and community members interested in a family-oriented, character-developing, highly rigorous academic education as well as concern for the future of their own and community children. It is an expectation that all students will have a high achievement, for each has great potential. Technology and scientific research methods are an integral part of the curriculum, as it will be an integral part of every child's future.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|--|--|
| Rick Luthi, Superintendent Nome City Schools P.O. Box 131 Nome, AK 99762-0131 Phone: 443-2231 Fax: 443-5144 | Rick Luthi, Superintendent Nome City Schools P.O. Box 131 Nome, AK 99762-0131 Phone: 443-2231 Fax: 443-5144 | Todd Hindman P.O. Box 931 Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 443-6207 Fax: 443-5144 |

Website:

<http://nome.nosd.schoolaccess.net/~acsa/>

Aurora Borealis Charter School

Students Enrolled: 178

Grade Levels: K-8

Type: Individual Learning Styles

State Board of Education Approval: April 28, 1997

State Board of Education Approval: July 1, 2012

Mission: To provide teachers and parents with the opportunity, responsibility, and accountability for the management and control of the total school curriculum and environment; to produce a flexible set of learning outcomes measured with different and authentic forms of assessment; to provide students with an educational opportunity of the highest quality; and to foster student, parent, and community involvement through the use of community resources and partnerships.

Purpose: The purpose of Aurora Borealis School is to offer the finest academic program possible that will provide for increased learning opportunities for all students in an environment designed to meet the unique needs of each student by providing opportunities consistent with their learning styles [and] to improve pupil learning by creating a school with high and rigorous standards for pupil performance.

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| School District Donna Peterson, Superintendent Kenai Peninsula Schools 148 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 714-8888 Fax: 262-9645 | District Contact Dave Jones, Asst. Superintendent Kenai Peninsula Schools 148 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 714-8888 Fax: 262-9645 | Charter School Contact Larry Nauta 705 Frontage Rd., Ste. A Kenai, AK 99611 Phone: 283-0292 Fax: 283-0293 |
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Website

https://www.edline.net/pages/Aurora_Borealis

Ayaprun Elitnaurvik

Students Enrolled: 145

Grade Levels: K-6

Type: Yup'ik Immersion

State Board of Education Approval: June 5, 1999

Date Charter Expires: June 1, 2009

Mission: Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion School is committed to providing a public school option where all members, students, staff, and parents, function democratically. Students are valued as unique individuals who are encouraged to learn both independently and collaboratively. A hands-on approach is emphasized integrating the arts and the appreciation of the natural world. The School Community embraces diversity, creating small, mixed-aged, and family-oriented environments, which exhibit mutual respect, and caring.

Purpose: Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion School is a public school operating under the auspices of the Lower Kuskokwim School District Board of Education. Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion School offers a choice for students who might benefit from an integrated, thematic approach to education using the arts, the environment, and culture in a small, intimate learning community.

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| School District Gary Baldwin, Superintendent Lower Kuskokwim School District P.O. Box 305 Bethel, AK 99559-0305 Phone: 543-4912 Fax: 543-4904 | District Contact Gary Baldwin, Superintendent Lower Kuskokwim School District P.O. Box 305 Bethel, AK 99559-0305 Phone: 543-4912 Fax: 543-4904 | Charter School Contact Panigkaq Agatha John- Shields P.O. Box 1468 Bethel, AK 99559 Phone: 543-1645 Fax: 543-1647 |
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Website:

<http://www.lksd.org/ayaprun/>

Chinook Montessori Charter School

Students Enrolled: 155

Grade Levels: K-8

Type: Montessori

State Board of Education Approval: April 16, 1996

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2011

Mission: Chinook Montessori Charter School, a school of choice, will strive to create a dynamic educational environment, which fosters educational excellence and cultivates personal, intellectual, and emotional growth and responsibility. We will provide this through an alliance formed through a seamless web of educators, parents, businesses and community members.

Purpose: The philosophy of Chinook Montessori Charter is grounded in the belief that learning is interwoven with life. The community serves as our campus with Chinook Montessori School acting as our headquarters. The school offers a nurturing multi-age environment, which supports a highly rigorous academic program. Integrated teaching encourages students to make connections between ideas and concepts in different content areas. Chinook Montessori School values time. The flexibility of time allows for small group seminars, grand conversations and investigations with teachers and students. Chinook Montessori is a professional development site, which values innovation, teacher research and excellence in teaching.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|---|---|--|
| Nancy Wagner, Superintendent Fairbanks School District 520 Fifth Ave Fairbanks, AK 99701-4756 Phone: 452-2000, ext. 401 Fax: 451-0541 | Nancy Wagner, Superintendent Fairbanks School District 520 Fifth Ave Fairbanks, AK 99701-4756 Phone: 452-2000, ext. 401 Fax: 451-0541 | Michele Halbrook 3002 International Street Fairbanks, AK 99701 Phone: 452-5020 Fax: 452-5048 |

Website:

<http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us/schools/chn/Home.htm>

Eagle Academy Charter School

Students Enrolled: 165

Grade Levels: K – 6

Type: Spalding

State Board of Education Approval: December 7, 2004

Date Charter Expires: December 6, 2009

Mission: Eagle Academy offers an academically challenging educational program requiring students to master Eagle Academy's performance standards before progressing to the next level of curriculum.

Purpose: The Spalding method of teaching is the basis for instruction across curriculum in all grade levels, employing a multi-sensory approach to learning. Teaching of core subjects is given priority in scheduling and other areas of school operation. Students are placed at their appropriate instructional level for Language Arts and Math based on results of standardized tests, along with classroom grades and assessments. For all other subjects (Social Studies, Science, Art, Music, PE and Technology) students are grouped by grade level.

Rewards, incentives, effort grades, and discipline are individual, based on each student's own behavior, participation and performance. Each family is required to fulfill a 16 hour service commitment per year

Curriculum: Language Arts instruction is based on Spalding's The Writing Road to Reading. Saxon Math is structured in incremental learning steps, which is effective for retaining and applying mathematical concepts. The Core Knowledge History and Geography textbook series is utilized for Social Studies. Scott Foresman Science offers a combination of content and hands-on learning. Students receive one hour each of PE, Technology, Art and Music instruction weekly.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|--|---|
| Carol Comeau, Superintendent Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4000 Fax: 742-4318 | Connie Bensler, Liaison Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4322 Fax: 742-4318 | Mary Meade 10901 Mausel Street Suite 101 Eagle River, AK 99577 Phone: 742-3025 Fax: 742-3035 |

Website:

<http://www.eagleacademycharterschool.com/>

Effie Kokrine Charter School

Students Enrolled: 102

Grade Levels: 7-12

Type: Conversion/At-Risk/Native

State Board of Education Approval: June 10, 2005

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2015

Mission: The mission of Effie Kokrine is "to provide educational opportunities for students to succeed in the world by developing a strong sense of purpose, identity, place and community through cultural and academic empowerment."

Purpose: The school's vision "is a place of support, development and learning for the whole child. It uses their cultural background as the foundation of who they are."

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|--|--|
| Nancy Wagner, Superintendent Fairbanks School District 520 Fifth Ave Fairbanks, AK 99701 Phone: 452-2000, ext. 401 Fax: 451-0541 | Nancy Wagner, Superintendent Fairbanks School District 520 Fifth Ave Fairbanks, AK 99701 Phone: 452-2000, ext. 401 Fax: 451-0541 | Linda Evans Principal 601 Loftus Road Fairbanks, AK 99709 Phone: 474-0958 Fax: 479-2104 |

Website:

http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us/index.php?i_page=250

Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School

Students Enrolled: 189

Grade Levels: K-8

Type: Spanish Immersion

State Board of Education Approval: June 10, 2005

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2015

Mission: Fronteras Charter School is a Spanish Immersion K-8 academic center that promotes high academic success in a nurturing, creative multiage environment; and foster increased cultural understanding, communication and citizenship in our community, nation and world.

Purpose: Expanding the spectrum of thought and the ability to communicate in today's evolving world makes the goal of acquiring a second language profoundly important. Being immersed part of each day in Spanish, each child will be nurtured; gaining well rounded personal development through meaningful and creative academic and social exploration. Fronteras Charter School utilizes the partnership of parents, community resources, technology, skilled instructors' service, and stimulating curriculum to realize high academic success, language acquisition, critical thinking, good citizenship, and the development of healthy, global minded individuals.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|---|--|--|
| George Troxel, Superintendent Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools 501 N Gulkana Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 907-746-9255 Fax: 907-761-4076 | John Weetman Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools 501 N. Gulkana Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 746-9200 Fax: 761-4076 | Casey Bowen 70101 E. Bogard Rd Wasilla, AK 99654 Phone: 745-2223 Fax: 745-6132 |

Website:

<http://www.fronteras-k8.us>

Family Partnership Charter School

Students Enrolled: 494

Grade Levels: K-12

Type: Home School

State Board of Education Approval: April 28, 1997

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2012

Mission: The charter school is committed to a framework in which mankind's first and most basic school, the home, is supported by the community as a viable education alternative. The charter school is a non-sectarian partnership school between students, parents, professional educators and community members where as many families as desire will customize an education for their children. It utilizes a school without walls wherein parents are to bear the primary responsibility for the management of their children's education.

Purpose: We live in an ever-changing world. Every day we discover new opportunities for learning. New tools, technology, methods and ways of thinking demand a more flexible and open model for educational program development. The Family Partnership Charter School provides a framework for the responsible use of public resources in which students, parents and educators can make the most of these opportunities.

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| School District Carol Comeau, Superintendent Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4000 Fax: 742-4318 | District Contact Connie Bensler, Liaison Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4322 Fax: 742-4318 | Charter School Contact Reed Whitmore 401 E. Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503 Phone: 742-3700 Fax: 742-3710 |
|--|---|---|

Website:

<https://www.fpcs.net/fpcsweb2/>

Fireweed Academy

Students Enrolled: 72

Grade Levels: 3-6

Type: Theme Immersion

State Board of Education Approval: April 28, 1997

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2012

Mission: To provide a compassionate learning environment that gives students, parents, teachers and community members opportunities to develop self-reliance, cooperation, creativity, reasoning ability, personal growth and academic achievement.

Purpose: The Fireweed Academy Charter School recognizes many different styles of learning. Many students do well in a traditional classroom, yet some students learn best when they have more choices and when lessons are individualized and tied to real-world applications. To accommodate such students, the Fireweed Academy Charter School implements the following teaching methods: Theme Immersion Studies, Socratic Practice, Experiential Learning, Project-based Curricula, and Interdisciplinary Education. The establishment of Fireweed Academy not only benefits individual students, but also provides the Homer area community with more options for tested activities, methods, and curricula.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|---|---|---|
| Donna Peterson, Superintendent Kenai Peninsula Schools 148 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 714-8888 Fax: 262-9645 | Dave Jones, Asst. Superintendent Kenai Peninsula Schools 148 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 714-8888 Fax: 262-5867 | Kiki Abrahamson P.O. Box 474 995 Soundview Ave Homer, AK 99603 Phone: 235-9728 Fax: 235-8561 |

Website:

<https://www.edline.net/GroupHome.page>

Frontier Charter School

Students Enrolled: 364

Grade Levels: K-12

Type: Home School

State Board of Education Approval: March 20, 2003

Date Charter Expires: June 30, 2013

Mission: Frontier Charter School is a resource for curriculum, technology and community. Frontier serves full-time home schooling families in the Anchorage School District who are pursuing academic excellence.

Purpose: Frontier's program philosophy states: One of the primary reasons parents choose to home-school their children is their belief that they can help each of their children achieve academic excellence. This belief stems from the fact that they are willing and able to give education top priority and that they can build an individualized education program that meets the needs of each child. Frontier Charter School provides qualified instructors and community resources including guidance to parents, books and supplies, online courses, one-on-one tutoring, distance learning courses, classes offered by local vendors, and access to facilities as necessary.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|--|--|
| Carol Comeau, Superintendent Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4000 Fax: 742-4318 | Connie Bensler, Liaison Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4322 Fax: 742-4318 | Tim Scott 400 W. Northern Lights Blvd. Suite # 9 Anchorage, AK 99503 Phone: 742-1180 Fax: 742-1188 |

Website:

<http://www.frontierk12.org/>

Highland Tech High

Students Enrolled: 272

Grade Levels: 7-12

Type: Technical

State Board of Education Approval: March 20, 2003

Date Charter Expires: August 31, 2013

Mission: To equip our students with the academic, social, and technical skills to excel in today's world and contribute positively to our society and the future.

Purpose: Highland Tech High was developed for students in grades 7 through 12 interested in an alternative educational environment that combines interdisciplinary, real world, project-based learning with rigorous academic expectations. The program focuses on four key principles: individualization, project-based studies, comprehensive assessments, and community immersion. Students will meet district and state standards, as well as those incorporated in the HTH curriculum.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|--|--|
| Carol Comeau, Superintendent Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4000 Fax: 742-4318 | Connie Bensler, Liaison Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4322 Fax: 742-4318 | Mark Standley 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, AK 99504 Phone: 742-1700 Fax: 742-1711 |

Website:

<http://www.highlandtech.org/>

Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Sciences

Students Enrolled: 159

Grade Levels: K-4

Type: Arts/Science

State Board of Education Approval: March 16, 2004

Date Charter Expires: December 4, 2018

Mission: "Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Sciences is a public elementary charter school that develops student academic and life skills through the integrated study of arts and sciences. Like all Alaskan charter schools, the KSAS offers a free, public, and unique choice within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District system for innovative instruction focusing on student achievement, creative problem solving, life-long learning, and parent involvement. We have chosen the name Kaleidoscope as the image reflects what we want to accomplish: to use multiple 'lenses' to create new patterns of understanding."

Purpose: KSAS combines current magnum classroom concepts from Sears Elementary by centering all lessons on science and the arts, using the philosophy that students learn best through hands-on practice.

| <i>School District</i> | <i>District Contact</i> | <i>Charter School Contact</i> |
|---|---|--|
| Donna Peterson, Superintendent Kenai Peninsula Schools 148 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 714-8888 Fax: 262-9645 | Dave Jones, Asst. Superintendent Kenai Peninsula Schools 148 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 714-8888 Fax: 262-5867 | Mick Wykis 549 N. Forest Dr. Kenai, AK 99611 Phone: 283-0804 Fax: 283-3786 |

Website:

<https://www.edline.net/pages/Kaleidoscope>

Juneau Community Charter School

Students Enrolled: 68

Grade Levels: K-6

Type: Arts/Music

State Board of Education Approval: April 28, 1997

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2016

Mission: The Juneau Community Charter School provides a balanced education using developmentally appropriate techniques, which tap into the child's need to explore and create in all fields of learning. Our strong connection with parent and community resources gives students diverse perspectives and unique learning opportunities.

Purpose: The Juneau Community Charter School's core identity includes a structure consisting of multi-age classrooms and an overall small school size; teaching methods which address the whole child, are arts-integrated and use constructivist methods and curricula; a cooperative school model in which parental involvement and engagement is paramount; frequent interaction with individuals and institutions in the larger Juneau community; long-term relationships of students, staff and families; and a high degree of teacher autonomy.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contacts |
|--|--|--|
| Peggy Cowan, Superintendent Juneau City Schools 10014 Crazy Horse Drive Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 523-1701 Fax: 523-1708 | Laury Scandling, Asst. Superintendent Juneau City Schools 10014 Crazy Horse Drive Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 523-1703 Fax: 523-1709 | Marjorie Hamburger, Site Manager 430 Fourth Street Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 586-2526 Fax: 586-3543 |

Website

<http://www.jsd.k12.ak.us/jccs/>

Ketchikan Charter School

Students Enrolled: 175

Grade Levels: K-8

Type: Core Knowledge

State Board of Education Approval: April 28, 1997

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2012

Mission: Through the cooperation of parents, teachers, and students, Ketchikan Charter School creates a learning environment that fosters growth of character, high academic achievement, and the love of learning, resulting in responsible, productive citizens.

Purpose: The Ketchikan Charter School Committee sees a need to offer parents another choice in educating their children in this District. A structured and more challenging curriculum that includes specific and sequential content, skills, and knowledge is wanted and needed. Regular assessment and early remediation must be available. The Charter School Law enables students, parents, teachers and administrators to accept responsibility for the education of children.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|--|---|
| Robert Boyle, Superintendent Ketchikan Gateway Schools 2417 Tongass Ave #223 Ketchikan, AK 99901 Phone: 247-2109 Fax: 247-3820 | Robert Boyle, Superintendent Ketchikan Gateway Schools 2417 Tongass Ave #223 Ketchikan, AK 99901 Phone: 247-2109 Fax: 247-3820 | Harry Martin 410 Schoenbar Road Ketchikan, AK 99901 Phone: 225-8568 Fax: 247-8568 |

Website:

<http://kcs.kgsd.org>

Midnight Sun Family Learning Center

Students Enrolled: 162

Grade Levels: K-8

Type: Technology/Citizenship

State Board of Education Approval: April 28, 1997

Date Charter Expires: July 1, 2015

Mission: Through a cooperative network of parents, teachers, and community members, Midnight Sun Family Learning Center will provide a safe, nurturing, family-oriented, multi-age learning environment supporting a highly rigorous academic program for higher education preparation with high standards of responsible citizenship. Current technology is incorporated in all aspects of the students' education. Midnight Sun Family Learning Center promotes academic excellence, character development, and educational enthusiasm resulting in responsible, productive citizens.

Purpose: Midnight Sun Family Learning Center was created and shaped by a small nucleus of like-minded parents, teachers, and community members interested in a family-oriented, character-developing, highly rigorous academic education as well as concern for the future of their own and community children. It is an expectation that all students will have high achievement, for each has great potential. Technology is an integral part of the curriculum as it will be an integral part of every child's future.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|---|--|
| George Troxel, Superintendent Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools 501 N. Gulkana Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 746-9255 Fax: 761-4076 | John Weetman, Liaison Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools 501 N. Gulkana Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 746-9212 Fax: 746-9292 | Jeanne Troshynski 7362 W. Parks Hwy. Box 714 Wasilla, AK 99654-9132 Phone: 357-3733 Fax: 373-6786 |

Website:

<http://www.midnightsunschool.com>

Rilke Schule German School of Arts and Sciences

Students Enrolled: 220

Grade Levels: k-8

Type: German Immersion, Arts/Science

State Board of Education Approval: March 28, 2007

Date Charter Expires: August 31, 2010

Mission: The mission of the of the Rilke Schule- German School of Arts and Sciences is to provide an outstanding education focused on high academic achievement by engaging each child through enriched language curriculum taught primary in German.

Purpose: Our teaching focus is on language, arts, music, math and sciences, fostering creative expression though drama, arts, music and sports. With the support of parents and the extended family, our school creates a community which is immersed in the German culture and promotes international awareness. Our school nurtures a child's natural curiosity, cultivating life long learning.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
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| Carol Comeau, Superintendent Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4000 Fax: 742-4318 | Connie Bensler, Liaison Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4322 Fax: 742-4318 | Chrystal Wrabetz 650 W. International Airport Rd. Anchorage, AK 99518 Phone: 742-7455 Fax: 742-7456 |

Website:

<http://rilkeschule.org/>

Soldotna Montessori Charter School

Students Enrolled: 161

Grade Levels: K-6

Type: Montessori

State Board of Education Approval: November 30, 2006

Date Charter Expires: June 30, 2012

Mission: Soldotna Montessori will treat each child with respect in a nurturing, supportive, academic environment. The school is setting a high level of expectation for the quality of work and will give each child the opportunity to explore and discover on their own. They expect each child to become a self-confident life long learner.

Purpose: The focal points of the Soldotna Montessori School are to: create a prepared environment in which each child is able to develop self discipline and individual strengths; to develop the child's ability to work individually or with a group to solve problems; to accept the unique nature of each child; to encourage the child to learn to live and work responsibly within the classroom, school, and community; to promote and support parental involvement; and to help each child develop responsible attitudes toward self, others and the environment and to become a socially conscious individual.

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| School District Donna Peterson, Superintendent Kenai Peninsula Schools 148 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 714-8888 Fax: 262-9645 | District Contact Dave Jones, Asst. Superintendent Kenai Peninsula Schools 148 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 714-8888 Fax: 262-9645 | Charter School Contact Mo Sanders Soldotna Elementary School 162 E. Park Avenue Soldotna, AK 99669 Phone: 260-9221 Fax: 260-9032 |
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Website:

https://www.edline.net/pages/Soldotna_Montessori

Star of the North Secondary School

Students Enrolled: 207

Grade Levels: 7-12

Type: Conversion/At-Risk

State Board of Education Approval: March 16, 2004

Date Charter Expires: March 16, 2014

Mission: To positively intervene on the behalf of young people at risk for not earning a high school diploma.... and provide a wider base for alternative education in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

Purpose: "The Career Education Center (CEC) and the North Pole Leadership Academy (NPLA) are currently successfully serving the needs of 150 FNSBSD students for whom the traditional high school model has failed. Star of the North Secondary School views creating a Charter and gaining the fiscal autonomy allowable under such a contract as a sensible way to guarantee that the needs of our students at most risk for school failure will be addressed. We will continue to work closely with the school district in order to help disengaged students recover their dreams of earning a high school diploma."

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|--|--|
| Nancy Wagner, Superintendent Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools 520 5th Avenue Fairbanks, AK 99701-4756 Phone: 452-2000 Fax: 451-0541 | Nancy Wagner, Superintendent Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools 520 5th Avenue Fairbanks, AK 99701-4756 Phone: 452-2000 Fax: 451-0541 | Annemarie Keep-Barnes 2945 Monk Court North Pole, AK 99705 Phone: 490-9025 Fax: 490-9021 |

Website:

<http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us/schools/son/snss.html#>

Tongass School of Arts & Sciences

Students Enrolled: 152

Grade Levels: K-6

Type: Arts/Science

State Board of Education Approval: March 20, 2003

Date Charter Expires: August 31, 2011

Mission: To provide an educational experience for students that includes real-life and real-world experiences and builds on themes related to the arts and sciences; creates an educational environment that provides positive relationships within the classroom; and develops respect and appreciation for the diversity of people, cultures, ideas and perspectives.

Purpose: A meaningful education includes an instructional program that develops a foundation of skills and knowledge and provides students, according to their developmental levels, the freedom to ask important questions and to seek answers; to analyze, investigate, and synthesize information and to develop independent opinions and conclusions through inquiry, dialogue, and reflection.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|---|---|---|
| Robert Boyle, Superintendent Ketchikan Gateway Schools 333 Schoenbar Road Ketchikan, AK 99901 Phone: 225-2118 Fax: 225-2356 | Robert Boyle, Superintendent Ketchikan Gateway Schools 333 Schoenbar Road Ketchikan, AK 99901 Phone: 225-2118 Fax: 225-2356 | Janet Johnson 410 Schoenbar Road, Suite 202 Ketchikan, AK 99901-3309 Phone: 225-5720 Fax: 225-8822 |

Website:

<http://www.tongassschool.org/>

Twindly-Bridge Charter School

Students Enrolled: 214

Grade Levels: K-12

Type: Home School

State Board of Education Approval: March 11, 2005

Date Charter Expires: August 31, 2010

Mission: "...will provide a meaningful education and encourage a strong bond to develop between students, families, teachers, staff, our district, and our community. Students will develop a solid core of skills using creativity as they develop critical thinking skills." Our mission is to provide an instructional program that builds on students' interests. We believe that this approach promotes creativity and critical thinking.

Purpose: The school will stress the Multi-Intelligences Theory and Problem-Based Learning in a home school format. The educational approach of TBCS is to focus on the individual student and his/her own interests, weaknesses and strengths, completing independent study at home and in supplementary classes held in the school's classrooms and labs.

| School District | District Contact | Charter School Contact |
|--|---|---|
| George Troxel, Superintendent Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools 501 N. Gulkana Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 746-9255 Fax: 761-4076 | John Weetman, Liaison Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools 501 N. Gulkana Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 746-9212 Fax: 746-9292 | Greg Miller 141 E. Seldon Rd. Wasilla, AK 99654 Phone: 376-6680 Fax: 376-6683 |

Website:

<http://www.twindlybridge.us/>

Winterberry Public School

Students Enrolled: 185

Grade Levels: K-8

Type: Waldorf

Mission: "Our mission is to nurture and promote the development of healthy, responsible, and creative human beings. We aim to enliven and support families in our local community. Specially trained teachers use developmentally attuned approaches and the arts to encourage academic achievement and creativity, social intelligence and ecological awareness."

Purpose: Winterberry School provides an innovative, standards-based education, enhancing the growth of student creativity and imagination through the arts. Our aim is to provide a holistic learning environment and demonstrate that all children are natural and inspired learners who can achieve. To do this, we will use the Whole Child Curriculum, based on the Waldorf educational philosophy.

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| School District Carol Comeau, Superintendent Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4000 Fax: 742-4318 | District Contact Connie Bensler, Liaison Anchorage Schools Box 196614 Anchorage, AK 99519- 6614 Phone: 742-4322 Fax: 742-4318 | Charter School Contact Shanna Mall 508 W, 2 nd Ave. Anchorage AK 99501 Phone: 742-4980 Fax: 742-4985 |
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Website:

<http://www.winterberryschool.org/>