

HB

142

<TARGET><BILL>HB 142</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
142</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDC28</COMM></TARGET>

28-LS0570\C
Mischel
3/11/13

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 142()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE GATTIS

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to boarding schools operated by school districts; relating to housing**
2 **expenses for charter schools; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1. AS 14.16.200(a) is amended to read:**

5 (a) A district that operates [, BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2005, BEGAN
6 OPERATING] a statewide or district-wide residential school [EDUCATIONAL
7 PROGRAM] for students in grades nine through 12 that has been approved by the
8 department under regulations adopted by the board is eligible to receive a boarding
9 stipend as reimbursement for the costs incurred by the district in operating that school
10 [PROGRAM]. To be eligible for reimbursement for costs, a statewide or district-
11 wide [THE DISTRICT-OPERATED STATEWIDE] residential school operated by a
12 district [EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM] must provide a suitable student dormitory,
13 food service, and daily access to a public school offering the appropriate grade level
14 for a variable-length or 180-day school term as provided under AS 14.03.030 for

1 the full school year.

2 * Sec. 2. AS 14.16.200(b) is amended to read:

3 (b) Costs that may be claimed by a district for reimbursement under (a) of this
4 section are

5 (1) one round trip on the least expensive means of transportation
6 between the student's community of residence and the school during the school year if
7 the district expends money for the trip; and

8 (2) a per-pupil monthly stipend to cover room and board expenses as
9 determined by the department on a regional basis and not to exceed the following
10 amounts:

- 11 — (A) for the Southeast Region (Region I), \$1,230 [\$410];
12 (B) for the Southcentral Region (Region II), \$1,200 [\$400];
13 (C) for the Interior Region (Region III), \$1,452 [\$484];
14 (D) for the Southwest Region (Region IV), \$1,509 [\$503];
15 (E) for the Northern Remote Region (Region V), \$1,776
16 [\$592].

17 * Sec. 3. AS 14.16.200 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18 (e) A district may cooperate with an Alaska Native organization, as defined in
19 20 U.S.C. 7546(2), or a nonprofit organization for the provision of room and board
20 services to students enrolled in a statewide or district-wide residential school operated
21 by a district under terms and conditions required for licensing in the state and as
22 specified by the department in regulation.

23 * Sec. 4. AS 14.03.260(d), AS 14.16.200(c), and 14.16.200(d)(2) are repealed.

24 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
STATE LEGISLATURE

Lynn Gattis - State Representative

RepresentativeLynn.Gattis@akleg.gov

House Education Committee

Chair

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 142 - Monthly Stipend for Boarding Schools

Currently Alaska Statute authorizes reimbursement to three statewide public boarding schools for the cost of room and board expense incurred by students. This provision is set to sunset on July 1, 2013 unless the 28th Legislature takes action.

Since 2006, the state's reimbursement for the cost of room, board and supervision of students at public boarding schools has been handled like a pilot program. Today we've got enough data to know that this model is highly successful and has earned its place in the arsenal of educational options for Alaska's children. So successful are these regional residential alternatives that the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is seeking proposals to expand on the model.

To further school choice and quality education, HB 142 removes the sunset provision for stipends to boarding schools and it removes the prohibition for new statewide and district-wide residential schools. Language is added to include residential public school programs with terms of variable lengths. Examples of these types of residential programs offer kids intensive STEM or leadership intensives in regional centers for an abbreviated term. In Alaska, boarding schools offer students an alternative to homeschooling or give students in smaller high schools the opportunity to attend a school that offers extracurricular activities unavailable in their hometown high schools like sports, avionics, engineering, diesel mechanics and cosmetology.

This legislation by statute reimburses approved boarding schools costs incurred by the district operating the program. A per-pupil stipend helps pay for the students' monthly residential care, which includes meals and supervision twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In addition one round-trip between the student's community of residence and the school during the school year will be reimbursed if the district expends money for the trip.

Today, three districts operate residential boarding schools that qualify for the reimbursement: Nenana, Galena, and Lower Yukon SD, however; as stated previously, DEED is currently soliciting applications for three additional boarding schools statewide.

Version C - Updated March 11, 2013

HOUSE DISTRICT 9
GREATER WASILLA

Interim
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654
Phone: (907) 373-6285
Fax: (907) 373-6286

Session
Alaska State Capitol Rm #20
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4833
Fax (907) 465-4586



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
STATE LEGISLATURE

Lynn Gattis - State Representative

RepresentativeLynn.Gattis@akleg.gov

House Education Committee

Chair

HB 142 version C (March 11, 2013)

Sectional Analysis

HB 142 establishes a program for reimbursement of room and board expenses to districts operating a statewide or district-wide residential school.

Section 1 Section 1 eliminates the time restriction of when a statewide boarding school began operations for it to apply with the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) to participate in the stipend program. Existing law authorizes reimbursement to boarding schools that were in existence prior to January 1, 2005.

To qualify for the stipend, the district that operates a statewide or districtwide residential boarding school for grades 9 through 12 must apply to the department, be approved AND then the legislature must subsequently approve funding for the school.

As well, to be eligible for reimbursement, the residential school operated by a district must provide:

- a suitable dormitory,
- food service; and
- daily access to a public school offering the appropriate grade level for variable length terms or 180-day school term as provided under AS 14.03.030 for the full school year.

This section clarifies that an "educational program" is actually a "school" and Alaska Law makes no distinction between the two. By adding the term "variable length term" this endorses a district residential school operation of a magnet school or semester long Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focused enrichment program.

Currently three districts operate boarding schools that are eligible to receive scholarship stipends: Nenana, Lower Kuskokwim, and Galena. The Department of
Section 2. Section 2 stipulates what costs districts may seek reimbursement:

Education & Early Development is currently soliciting applications for three additional boarding schools statewide.

- One round trip on the least expensive means of transportation between the student's community of residence and the public boarding school;
- A per pupil stipend to reimburse room and board established on a regional basis:
 - a. Southeast Region: \$1,230
 - b. Southcentral Region: \$1,200.
 - c. Interior Region: \$1,452
 - d. Southwest Region: \$1,509
 - e. Northern Remote Region: \$1,776

HCS CSSB 84(FIN) am H on April 11, 2011 amended the uncodified law of the State of Alaska. Though actionable, the language was not incorporated into the text of AS14.16.200(b)(2), it is law nonetheless. The uncodified law included in SB84 doubled the funding amounts for boarding school stipends for fiscal years ending June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013 over the 2005 law. Therefore, rates set by this bill represent a one-third increase over what is currently established in law.

Section 3. This section enables the a district to contract with an Alaska Native organization under 20 U.S.C. 7546(2) or a nonprofit for the provision of room and board services to students enrolled in a statewide or district-wide residential school operated by a district.

Section 4 Repealers. This section repeals AS 14.03.260(d), AS 14.17.200(c) and AS 14.16.200(d)(2).

AS 14.03.260(d) is repealed to allow a statewide or districtwide residential charter school to apply for reimbursement through the stipend program.

AS 14.17.200(c) is repealed so boarding schools that were in existence after January 1, 2005 are now eligible.

The definition of "statewide residential educational program", currently in AS 14.16.200(d)(2) is repealed and more appropriately placed the body of the statute, in AS 14.16.200(a).

Section 5 This Act has an immediate effective date

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 142
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB142-EED-K12-3-4-13
Title: STIPEND FOR STATEWIDE BOARDING SCHOOL
Sponsor: GATTIS
Requester: House Education Committee

Department: Department of Education and Early Development
Appropriation: K-12 Support
Allocation: Boarding Home Grants
OMB Component Number: 148

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2014	FY 2014					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits	3,510.3	2,088.8	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	3,510.3	2,088.8	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund	3,510.3	2,088.8	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3
Total	3,510.3	2,088.8	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3	3,510.3

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial version.

Prepared By: Elizabeth Nudelman, Director
Division: School Finance & Facilities
Approved By: Mike Hanley
Commissioner

Phone: (907)465-8697
Date: 03/08/2013 06:00 PM
Date: 03/08/13

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB142

Analysis

This legislation increases the monthly per pupil statewide residential educational program stipends from the current rate in law to three times the current rate. The statewide residential program per pupil monthly stipend, paid for nine months based on actual count, supports the dormitory costs for Alaska's three approved residential educational programs.

Region	Program	Capacity	Current		HB142	New HB142	Increase in State Cost
			Rate	Total	Rate	Total	
Region I	None	0	\$410	\$0	\$1,230	\$0	\$0
Region II	None	0	\$400	\$0	\$1,200	\$0	\$0
Region III	Nenana	88	\$484	\$383,328	\$1,452	\$1,149,984	\$766,656
Region IV	Lower Kuskokwim	35	\$503	\$158,445	\$1,509	\$475,335	\$316,890
Region V	Galena	210	\$592	\$1,118,880	\$1,876	\$3,545,640	\$2,426,760

The program also provides for one round trip ticket per student, by the least expensive means, between the student's community of residence and the school if the district expends money for the trip.

This legislation would support the three approved programs at three times the per pupil monthly stipend rate. The monthly stipend rate is per month for a nine month year, based on an actual per student count. Each program has a maximum capacity for reimbursement based on the district's approved application. The three times rate would provide up to:

Galena	(Region V)	210 capacity * \$1,876 * 9 months =	\$3,545,640
Nenana	(Region III)	88 capacity * \$1,452 * 9 months =	\$1,149,984
Lower Kuskokwim	(Region IV)	35 capacity * \$1,509 * 9 months =	\$ 475,335
Additional cost of round trip tickets for all three programs based on FY2012			\$ 242,247
Add Boarding Home Program (AS 14.07.030)			<u>\$ 185,900</u>
Total program if legislation passes and residential is funded at 3x the boarding stipend:			\$5,599,106

Calculation of additional funds for fiscal note:

The appropriation in budget at one times the boarding stipend	\$1,902,900
The appropriation in budget for Boarding Home Program (AS 14.07.030)	<u>\$ 185,900</u>
Total appropriation in budget	\$2,088,800
Total funding necessary to fund 3x & Boarding Home if this legislation is passed:	<u>\$5,599,106</u>
Additional funding necessary to fund residential at 3x (fiscal note)	\$3,510,306

Galena Interior Learning Academy



Two Seasons Dining Hall



Ptarmigan Hall

Residence Life Revenues and Expenditures

	Actual FY 11 based on 175 Students	Actual FY 12 based on 175 Students	Estimated FY 13 based on 210 Students
Revenue			
Statewide Residential Educational Program	1,027,543.00	1,963,010.00	2,431,760.00
Pension System on Behalf Res Hall	87,644.00	144,079.00	149,897.00
Pension System on Behalf Dining Hall	15,687.00	15,687.00	15,687.00
Total Revenue	1,130,874.00	2,122,776.00	2,597,344.00
Total Revenue Per Student	6,462.14	12,130.15	12,368.30
Expenditures			
Salary Wages Benefits for Residence Hall	793,534.02	1,172,700.00	1,136,065.00
Salary Wages Benefits for Dining Hall	526,487.00	519,259.23	526,177.00
Maintenance and Utilities for Residence Hall	520,214.00	531,978.00	540,000.00
Maintenance and Utilities for Dining Hall	224,603.30	347,486.67	400,000.00
Food Services above Federal Food Service Sources	415,126.00	448,184.00	680,000.00
Supplies for Residence Hall	2,075.00	1,454.00	2,000.00
Supplies for Dining Hall	8,865.00	6,130.00	8,000.00
Student Travel	330,859.61	382,636.10	400,000.00
Staff Travel	9,619.46	704.50	500.00
Communications	14,375.97	19,440.63	20,000.00
Residence Stipend-Students	32,460.00	39,800.00	44,400.00
Total Expenditures	2,878,219.36	3,469,773.13	3,757,142.00
Total Expenditures Per Student	16,446.97	19,827.28	17,891.15
Shortage Funding Per Student	9,984.83	7,697.13	5,522.85
Percent Shortage of Funding Per Student	60.71%	38.82%	30.87%

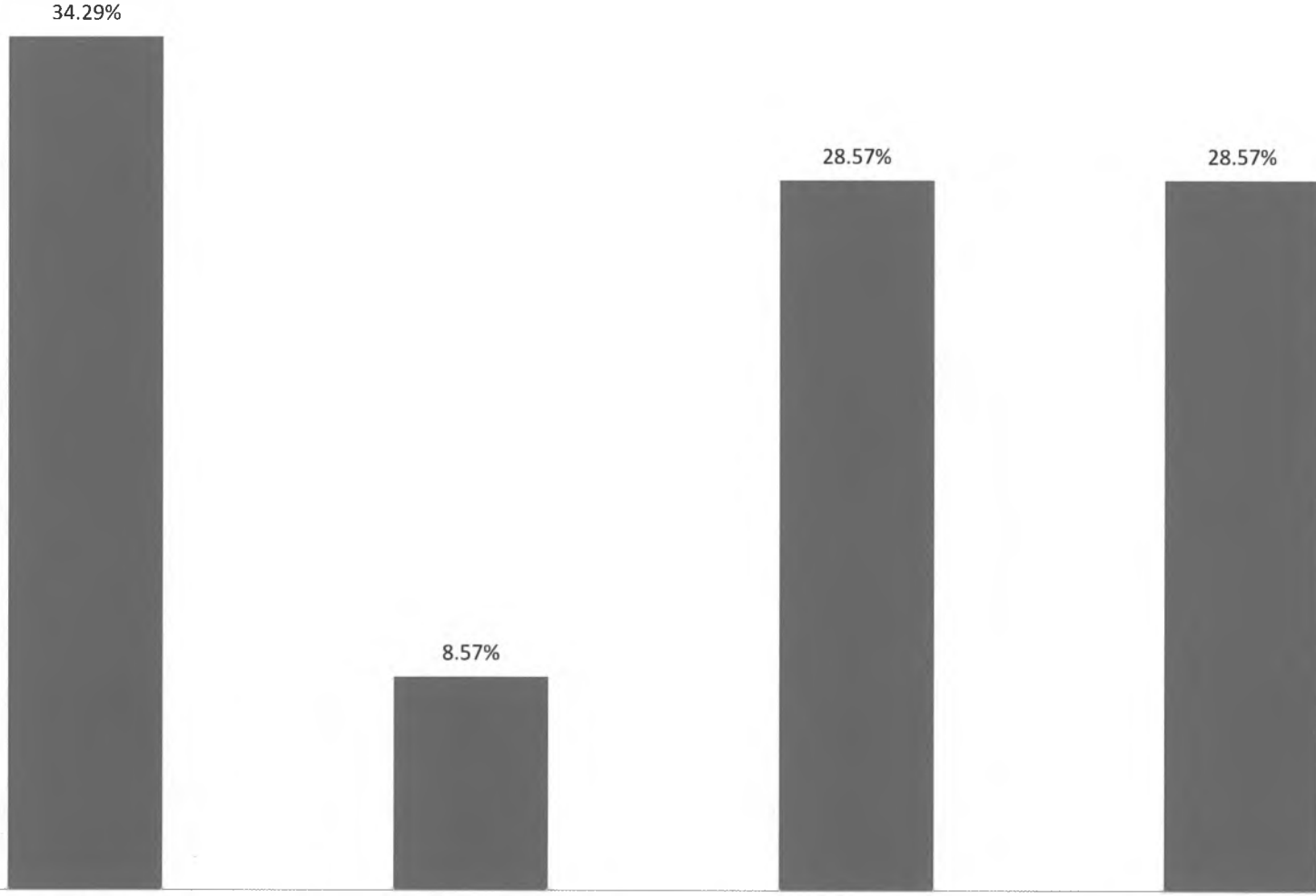
Number of Students	Community	District of Residence	181 Students 26 School Districts 67 Communities 90% Alaskan Native
2	Northway	Alaska Gateway School District	
2	Tanacross	Alaska Gateway School District	
2	Tok	Alaska Gateway School District	
1	Nikolski	Aleutian Region School District	
14	Anchorage	Anchorage School District	
1	Elim	Bering Strait School District	
3	Koyuk	Bering Strait School District	
3	Stebbins	Bering Strait School District	
1	Unalakleet	Bering Strait School District	
1	White Mountain	Bering Strait School District	
1	Copper Center	Copper River School District	
1	Delta Junction	Delta-Greely School District	
12	Fairbanks	Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District	
4	North Pole	Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District	
6	Anvik	Iditarod Area School District	
4	Grayling	Iditarod Area School District	
1	Juneau	Juneau Borough School District	
1	Kenai	Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	
1	Tyonek	Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	
1	Kodiak	Kodiak Island Borough School District	
4	Aniak	Kuspuk School District	
1	Chuathbaluk	Kuspuk School District	
2	Newhalen	Lake and Peninsular School District	
1	Pedro Bay	Lake and Peninsular School District	
12	Bethel	Lower Kuskokwim School District	
4	Kwethluk	Lower Kuskokwim School District	
6	Napakiak	Lower Kuskokwim School District	
4	Nunapitchuk	Lower Kuskokwim School District	
1	Tuntutuliak	Lower Kuskokwim School District	
4	Tununak	Lower Kuskokwim School District	
3	Alakanuk	Lower Yukon School District	
4	Emmonak	Lower Yukon School District	
7	Hooper Bay	Lower Yukon School District	
1	Kotlik	Lower Yukon School District	
3	Marshall	Lower Yukon School District	
3	Pilot Station	Lower Yukon School District	
1	Palmer	Mat-Su Borough School District	
2	Wasilla	Mat-Su Borough School District	
4	Nome	Nome City School District	
2	Point Hope	North Slope Borough School District	
2	Ambler	Northwest Arctic Borough School District	
1	Anchorage	Northwest Arctic Borough School District	
3	Buckland	Northwest Arctic Borough School District	

1	Deering	Northwest Arctic Borough School District
1	Fairbanks	Northwest Arctic Borough School District
1	Kiana	Northwest Arctic Borough School District
1	Kivalina	Northwest Arctic Borough School District
1	Kobuk	Northwest Arctic Borough School District
5	Kotzebue	Northwest Arctic Borough School District
1	Selawik	Northwest Arctic Borough School District
1	Shungnak	Northwest Arctic Borough School District
1	St. George Island	Pribilof Islands School District
2	St. Paul Island	Pribilof Islands School District
2	Koliganek	Southwest Region School District
2	Manokotak	Southwest Region School District
1	Newtok	Southwest Region School District
1	Twin Hills	Southwest Region School District
1	Anchorage	St. Mary's School District
6	Saint Mary's	St. Mary's School District
1	Unalaska	Unalaska City School District
1	Wrangell	Wrangell City School District
2	Beaver	Yukon Flats School District
2	Fort Yukon	Yukon Flats School District
1	Stevens Village	Yukon Flats School District
1	Venetie	Yukon Flats School District
1	Allakaket	Yukon Koyukuk School District
2	Kaltag	Yukon Koyukuk School District
1	Koyukuk	Yukon Koyukuk School District
1	Minto	Yukon Koyukuk School District
1	Ruby	Yukon Koyukuk School District

**Galena City School District CTE Offerings
Spring Semester 2013**

CTE Areas	Student Numbers
Welding	
Intro to Welding	
Welding I	25
Welding II	5
Aluminum Welding and Fabrication	16
Total	46
Percent of High School Students	21.40%
Electricity	
Intro to Electricity	20
Total	20
Percent of High School Students	9.30%
Computer Technology	
Video Production	9
Beginning Computers	29
Advanced Video and Web Productions	8
Autocad	11
Total	57
Percent of High School Students	26.51%
Aviation	
Private Pilot Ground School	42
Advanced Flying -Private Pilot	11
Total	53
Percent of High School Students	24.65%
Automotive and Small Engines	
Intro to Auto Tech	35
Automotive I	11
Advanced Auto III and IV	3
Driver's Ed	16
Total	65
Percent of High School Students	30.23%
Culinary Arts	
Intro to Culinary Arts	46
Culinary Arts I	12
Culinary Arts II	1
Total	59
Percent of High School Students	27.44%
Cosmetology	
Intro to Cosmetology	31
Cosmetology 9 & 10	23
Cosmetology 11 and 12	4
Advanced Cosmetology Studies	1
Total	59
Percent of High School Students	27.44%
Carpentry	
Woodworking	28
Carpentry	13
Total	41
Percent of High School Students	19.07%
Certified Nursing Assistant	
Professional Skills for the Work Place	10
Total	10
Percent of High School Students	4.65%

GILA/SHS Graduating Class of 2012



College/University

Vocational Post-Secondary Training

Workforce

Subsistence Lifestyle

GALENA INTERIOR LEARNING ACADEMY'S POSITION TO IMPROVE RURAL ALASKA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



GILA Composite Building



GILA Two Seasons Dining Hall



GILA Aviation Tech Lab

I. White Paper Objective

The objective of this white paper is to outline background information regarding Galena Interior Learning Academy's position to improve rural Alaskan education opportunities.

II. Galena Interior Learning Academy Background Information

A. Galena Interior Learning Academy

Galena City School District has operated the Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA) on the vacated Galena Air Force Base for the past 15 years. GILA is a statewide boarding facility for students seeking choice. It is Alaska's longest operating secondary career and technical (CTE) education boarding school and offers industry-standard certification in aviation, automotive technology, cosmetology, and culinary arts. GILA also offers a strong academic program with dual credit opportunities unprecedented in rural Alaska. During the 2012-13 school year, GILA has served over 224 students from 79 communities, most of them rural and remote. 91% of the students are Alaska Native. GILA began operations in 1997 using vacated Air Force Base facilities; its core mission is providing academic and career and technical education for rural, Alaskan Native students.

B. Galena Interior Learning Academy's Course Offerings

GILA offers rural Alaskan students a balanced array of course offerings that blend high school core academic courses with a CTE foundation. It has been the mission of GILA since its inception to provide rural Alaskan students access to CTE courses that are not found in most rural Alaskan settings. Students can choose to explore aviation, cosmetology, automotive, culinary arts, welding, carpentry, electricity, small engines, and computer technology. Students also have the opportunity to work towards industry standard certifications in aviation, cosmetology, culinary arts, and automotive technology. 38% of the course offerings at GILA are CTE course offerings, 44% are core academic course offerings, and 18% are electives. Many GILA students take two or more CTE courses during a typical semester of study. GILA provides access for rural Alaskan students to CTE and academic course offerings that are unaffordable to smaller schools. GILA provides an opportunity for students to develop the skills necessary for transition to college, to post-secondary vocational training, or directly to the work force upon graduation.

II. Defining Galena Interior Learning Academy's Role in Alaska's Statewide Educational Plan

Galena City School District (GCSD) has benefitted from a stable forward-thinking school board searching for better than the status quo. Galena Interior Learning Academy, with existing infrastructure and well-established programs is positioned to serve a larger role in a statewide educational plan, especially addressing the educational needs of rural Alaskan students and students impacted in their home communities by declining student numbers. GILA is located in a rural setting appealing to the lifestyle of rural students. GILA also allows students from more urban communities to pursue an education that is focused on the individual student. The GILA campus is located on a previous U.S. Air Force base and offers modern residential and educational facilities. Currently GILA occupies ten buildings for student use:

- The Composite Building is the main school facility and houses six classrooms, a 200 seat auditorium, and the school's administration.
- The GM Automotive Technology Lab is home to GCSD's automotive technology program. The building has one classroom, automotive shop, and offices for the GCSD post-secondary program.
- The Vocational Education Building is a brand new 3,600 square foot facility with state of the art welding and carpentry shops.
- Headquarters Building houses four classrooms with plans for expansion.

- Two Seasons Dining Hall can provide food service for 400 people and is home for all culinary art courses.
- Health and Physical Education Facility houses one classroom, a full weight room, full length basketball court, and female and male locker room space. It was fully remodeled during the summer of 2010 and provides health and PE courses as well as evening and weekend recreation opportunities for students.
- The Cosmetology Center provides industry standard cosmetology instruction for high school and post-secondary students.
- The Aviation Technology Lab is a 6080 square foot facility that has two classrooms and large hanger space. The Aviation Technology Lab building houses GCSD's two instructional airplanes and also houses the Civil Air Patrol's Yukon Squadron airplane. This building provides instruction in private pilot's ground school, and flight training through a Frasca flight simulator and the three planes noted above.
- Student Union Building provides evening and weekend recreational opportunities for students.
- Ptarmigan Hall provides housing for GILA students and residence advisors. It contains 116 double rooms and 18 suites/offices

GILA is Alaska's longest operating residential secondary CTE school. It is an accredited school for 9-12 and post secondary adult vocational programs and provides an alternative educational option for many rural Alaska Native students at risk of dropping out, and provides an "alternative education" for students with limited educational choices in their community schools. It is positioned to improve the quality of academic/CTE education for rural Alaskan students and play a greater role in Alaska's plan to improve public education statewide. As GCSD prepares for the future our intent is to provide greater opportunities for more students statewide to benefit from our strong academic and CTE course offerings.



March 13, 2013

The Honorable Lynn Gattis
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 420
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Gattis:

Attached please find a copy of AFN's Resolution referenced in our letter in support of the principles contained in HB 142, mailed to you Monday 3/11/2013. I have also enclosed a copy of the letter so that they are together for your convenience.

Please feel free to contact Lisa Rieger at (907) 793-3403 with any questions.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gloria O'Neill'.

Gloria O'Neill
President/CEO

ph.
907 793.3600

fx.
907 793.3602

web.
CITCI.org



March 11, 2013

The Honorable Lynn Gattis
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 420
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

pb.
907 793.3600
fx.
907 793.3602
web.
CITCI.org

Dear Representative Gattis:

School districts have developed a diverse array of partnerships and programs to meet the needs of Alaskan students across the state, whose academic achievement gaps place Alaska at the bottom of the graduation rates nationwide. Some districts have developed successful traditional residential programs that welcome students from across Alaska. Other districts have developed innovative district-wide programs that utilize a variable length school year to keep students connected and involved in their home communities, families and schools. Meeting the needs of all Alaskans is a complex challenge. Meeting the challenge requires diverse and creative solutions.

Unfortunately, AS 14.16.200, the statute authorizing residential educational programs, as currently written is too specific to support creative solutions. Like the delegates of the Alaska Federation of Natives, CITC supports changes to AS 14.16.200 to provide a more flexible framework for residential education in Alaska. In addition, all districts have found the stipend levels currently authorized, to be woefully insufficient. Specifically, CITC supports HB 142, amending AS 14.16.200 to:

- Allow school districts delivering district-wide residential programs to be eligible for student stipend funding.
- Allow eligible programs to utilize a variable length school year to enable students to split the school year between in a residential program in an urban area or a district hub and their village school. This change will allow students to access an exemplary education and maintain their connections to their families, homes and communities.
- Support local partnerships between school districts and Alaska Native and non-profit organizations to provide supportive residential experiences for students.
- Increase the amount of the boarding stipend.

AFN's resolution in support of these principals is attached to this letter. We appreciate your introduction of HB 142, and these needed changes to AS 14.16.200.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council's residential project:

Through the current stipends, the State is already supporting innovative education models, youth housing, boarding schools and various foster care models. CITC has launched the Dena'ina Academy, which a residential educational program that provides a public/private partnership model that may also be replicated throughout the state.

Dena'ina Academy is a partnership between CITC and the Anchorage School district. In this partnership, CITC will provide the room, board and residential program components, while Anchorage School District will continue to provide the academic and other extracurricular programs to the students. The infrastructure offered by the ASD and the partnership with CITC provide a strong foundation for the success of the residential program in support of the academic success of the students.

Dena'ina Academy is designed as culture-based leadership program to provide room and board, social and academic supports for the students. The students will live, study and play in a cohort. Live-in advisors, elders, tutors and mentors will ensure an environment that promotes and supports holistic student development, including positive identity development, academic competence, confidence, cultural and community connection and expectations for community service, and Alaska Native cultural activities, sport and music.

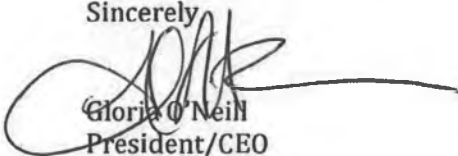
Fundamental Benefits of Funding Dena'ina Academy Operations

- The high school drop-out rate leads to disproportionate consumption of State resources. Dena'ina Academy graduates will become contributors to the state economy.
- Dena'ina Academy operational funding need not be added to the State's overall funding. By creatively combining and realigning various funding sources, such as those from boarding home and boarding school, foster care, low-income housing, Chafee, transitional housing and homeless, it would make sustainability for the project a reality.
- Tribal and non-profit funding sources leverage state funds to create effective public/private partnerships.
- Given the statewide education issues that Anchorage faces in responding to rural education gaps, Dena'ina Academy offers an effective and cost-efficient solution.

The proposed changes to AS 14.16.200 contained in HB 142 will allow existing programs to expand and increase the number of programs offering creative solutions to Alaska's educational challenges, such as Dena'ina Academy and those currently under design in Kotzebue and Barrow. HB 142 will enable communities to offer more opportunity to students and contribute to closing the achievement gap. We strongly support HB142.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important educational component that will provide real outcomes for our youth.

Sincerely



Gloria O'Neil
President/CEO



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

12-44

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** EXPANDING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL EDUCATION AND LOCAL PROGRAMS
- WHEREAS:** The statewide 2011 Alaska Native high school 4 year graduation rate is 50.07;
and
- WHEREAS:** Of the 131 small high schools, 93 have 30 or fewer students; and
- WHEREAS:** Of the 2,662 students in small high schools, 95.38% are Alaska Native students;
and
- WHEREAS:** Almost 1,000 students participate in residential programs of different types throughout the state, and different regions are developing regional programs that fit their needs and circumstance; and
- WHEREAS:** State policies have had a negative impact on small high schools and urban schools have very poor performance with regard to Alaska Native students; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native students learn in a variety of places, from small rural schools in the villages, to large urban schools in the cities, and distant boarding academies; and
- WHEREAS:** Each type of school has its own strengths and weaknesses. Though rural schools often are not provided the same resources as urban schools, they teach things that urban ones do not and they permit our youth to remain with their families and help ensure the continued vitality of our people, our homes, and our cultures; and
- WHEREAS:** Regardless of where one attends school, education is the foundation of opportunities for Alaska Natives and for all peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** Quality education should therefore be available to all who want it; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives have suffered discrimination and disparities in education, which, as recognized by the courts, has persisted to today; and
- WHEREAS:** Several programs throughout the state have had excellent results with short term, medium term and long term programs that connect rural and urban Alaska Native students with opportunities to advance their education; and

- WHEREAS The current Alaska law only authorizes statewide residential programs through school districts to be eligible for state residential stipends; and
- WHEREAS: It is essential that Alaska Native organizations operate educational programs for Alaska Native students to advance their opportunities; and
- WHEREAS: The current stipend does not meet the operational cost needs of programs currently under operation; and
- WHEREAS: Residential Learning Centers provide one option and offer the following benefits:
- Student access to short- and long-term courses and programs that small high schools are unable to deliver;
 - State education funding would remain in a student's home district or region.
 - Collaboration on course delivery and cost sharing;
 - Student access to technical centers, university campuses, job shadowing, and apprenticeships;
 - Year-round course delivery;
 - Increased opportunities for Performance Scholarship Program, CTE programs, social and service learning; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. (AFN), that AFN works with the Governor, his Administration, and the Alaska Legislature to rename 4 AAC 33.090 as follows: District-operated or non-profit operated residential programs that deliver in-district, regional, or statewide residential educational programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate to amend language in 4 AAC 33.090 to include in-district and regional residential educational programs as well as statewide residential educational programs, and that Alaska Native organizations are required to lead or partner with such programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate to amend language in 4 AAC 33.090 to provide student stipend funding to approved in-district and regional residential educational programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska establish in regulation an annual application period for districts wishing to establish a district, regional, or statewide residential school in compliance with 4 AAC 33.090; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current stipend be increased by at least 50% to adequately reflect the costs associated with operating residential programs; and

BE IT FINALLY FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN partner with individuals, groups, and other organizations that also believe in educational equality to ensure that Alaska Native Organizations are driving the residential programs for the benefit of Alaska Native students.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GALENA, ALASKA 99741
PHONE (907) 656-1205
FAX (907) 656-2238

SUPERINTENDENT
Chris Reitan

Re: HB 142 – Monthly Stipend for Boarding Schools

Dear House Education Committee;

I'm writing this letter in support of HB 142 – Monthly Stipend for Boarding Schools. Galena City School District has operated the Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA) on the vacated Galena Air Force Base for the past 16 years. GILA is a statewide boarding facility for students seeking choice. It is Alaska's longest operating secondary career and technical (CTE) education boarding school and offers industry-standard certification in aviation, automotive technology, cosmetology, and culinary arts. GILA also offers a strong academic program with dual credit opportunities unprecedented in rural Alaska. During the 2012-13 school year, GILA has served over 224 students from 79 communities, most of them rural and remote. 91% of the students are Alaska Native.

Galena City School District appreciates the support the Alaska legislature has provided district operated boarding schools. Beginning in 2006 the legislature provided three district-operated boarding schools additional funding through **Alaska Statute Sec. 14.16.200 State funding for districts operating statewide residential educational programs** to offset our room and board costs and to provide students state-wide more educational choices. At the end of the spring 2011 legislative session the monthly per pupil room and board stipend that a school district can receive for each student housed in a statewide residential educational program was doubled for a two year period. For Galena City School District this legislative action doubled the amount that the district receives per month for each student from \$484 to \$968 for FY 12 and FY 13. Unless additional legislative action is taken to address the per pupil monthly room and board stipend, the stipend will return to the previous funding level of \$484 critically impacting GCSD's boarding school program operations as well as the other district operated boarding schools currently operating in the state. GCSD respectfully requests your support for HB 142 – Monthly Stipend for Boarding Schools. HB 142 adjusts Sec. 14.16.200 to a dollar amount that a district can receive for room and board costs that more accurately reflects the true costs of housing and feeding 210 boarding school students.

In closing, GCSD thanks the Alaska legislature for your previous generous support of high school boarding school programs that provide many rural Alaskan students an alternative education that is unavailable in their home communities. We also thank you in advance for your consideration of HB 142

Yours in Education,

Chris Reitan, GCSD Superintendent
Email: chris.reitan@galenanet.com

To: Honorable Representative Lynn Gattis
From: Superintendent Bob Crumley, Chugach School District
Re: HB 142 – Residential School Stipend

As an operator of a Variable-Term Residential Learning Center for over 16 years, I am submitting testimony in support of HB 142. I applaud this forward thinking proposed legislation.

Over 16 years ago, the Chugach School District embarked upon an effort to overcome the many barriers to our youth acquiring a quality education. We engaged our communities and acted upon their input. That input led to the development of our performance-based education system where learning is the constant, and time is the variable. This community input also led us to develop a residential program we call the Voyage To Excellence program, or VTE. Funded primarily through competitive grants, we've spent years developing a significant network of business partners who are key to helping our students succeed. From construction and health care to oil and hospitality, and everything in-between, business have constantly informed us that employability skills and life skills are equally important with academics when it comes to hiring today's youth. We listened to them. We embedded their input into our educational system.

The result is a very successful, holistic educational program that helps students understand the value of learning. Now, rather than trying to avoid school, or fight being taught, students voluntarily seek out learning. Not only on school days, but during summer vacations and weekends, students choose to participate in VTE because it is relevant. Partnering with other school districts, VTE now serves students from around the state.

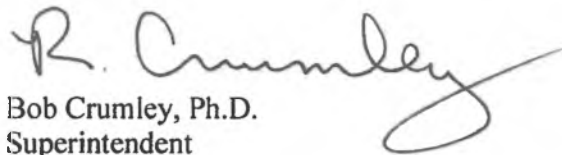
Student need was the driving force for the development of our variable-term residential program. The VTE program has been successfully meeting student needs for over 16 years. As the operator of this program, we know the following:

- We know the overwhelming need for this type of program across Alaska
- We know the how to successfully build such a program
- We know how to successfully operate such a program
- We know what it takes to sustain such a program
- We know the value and benefits VTE provides for the students
- We know the positive impact VTE has upon schools in Alaska
- We know the value VTE provides for Alaska (from financial & economical to social & health benefits)

Building such a program outside of state support has been a challenge to say the least. Sustaining VTE for the long term is proving to be an even greater challenge. To meet that challenge, the Chugach School District is currently developing an application to become designated as a statewide residential school. The proposed increase to the residential school stipend is essential to sustain the state's residential school programs that are meeting the needs of Alaskan students like no other school is able to do. This increase can in no way be considered a hand out, but should be considered a leg up for the kids of Alaska.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input, and for your support of HB 142

Sincerely,



Bob Crumley, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Chugach School District

Nenana City Public School
PO Box 10 Nenana, AK 99760

Phone: (907) 832-5464/Fax: (907) 832-5625

"A Community of Opportunity - Preparing Students for Life"

March 11, 2013

Representative Lynn Gattis
State Capitol Room 420
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Support Letter for HB 142

Dear Representative Gattis,

The school board of the Nenana City School District fully supports HB 142, "An Act increasing the monthly stipend available for students attending a statewide boarding school operated by a school district; and providing for an effective date." Furthermore, the Board fully supports proposed changes to allow for the inclusion of district operated, regional residential education programs serving students the full school year or those programs of variable length.

In our twelve year history, the Nenana Student Living Center has provided nearly 500 students, from all parts of the State, the opportunity to live in a safe, educationally supportive environment. Through the end of the 2011-2012 school year, 134 students have graduated from Nenana High School while living in our residence facility, with an additional 11 students set to graduate in May 2013.

We believe the positive results we have achieved for students can and should be expanded and duplicated on a larger scale through the passage of HB 142. The existing availability of residential programming in the State does not yet meet the needs of the students and the choice of their parents. The passage of HB 142 will assist in that expansion effort and help to ensure that each residential program has the minimum funding necessary to provide required services and supervision of students.

Thank you for sponsoring this legislation. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Eric Gebhart
Superintendent

"providing all students with the tools and learning environment necessary to commit to achieving success"



March, 11, 2013

Representative Lynn Gattis
State Capitol Room 420
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Gattis:

I'm writing on behalf of the North Slope Leadership Team to express strong support for HB 142.

Our Mayor, Charlotte Brower, and the executive leaders of the North Slope Borough School District, Ilisagvik College, Arctic Slope Native Association, and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation are working together to find ways to better prepare our students and adults for successful post-high school education and workforce preparation.

We are currently meeting with residents of all North Slope villages to present the idea of a residential learning center located in Barrow and to gain their feedback and support for such a program. A residential learning center, as proposed in HB 142, could deliver advanced academics and career and technical education courses to students in our small village high schools that they cannot presently access.

Sincerely yours,

Jacob Adams,
Chief Administrative Officer
North Slope Borough