

**HB**

**190**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 190</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
190</SUBJECT><COMM>SEDC28</COMM></TARGET>

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/11/13

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 1/31/14

**Education Committee** considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 190(EDC)

HB 190-CREDIT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSES

"An Act providing for course credit in secondary school based on demonstrated mastery of the subject."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_
- adopt previous SCS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
EED			✓	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Gardner	X			
	STEPHEN	X			
	WILLIAMS	X			
	DUNLEAVY	X			
	CHAIR	X			

# Alaska State Legislature

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## **REPRESENTATIVE Paul Seaton**

District 30

### **HB 190**

HB 190 allows students who demonstrate mastery of course material to challenge and test out of high school courses and receive academic credit. Currently there is no requirement that school districts provide an opportunity for students to challenge courses for academic credit. Though districts may have pre-approved tech prep plans for certain college courses, these are primarily focused on vocational coursework and are limited to established agreements between campuses. HB 190 would allow a student to test out of any high school course if they can demonstrate mastery of the subject matter. This bill leaves the criteria for demonstrating mastery to the discretion of the school district, but requires districts to provide an option for students to challenge courses.

With no unified approach to challenging courses across the state, students encounter different barriers in their districts, such as demonstrating mastery of a subject by taking a college course, but not accumulating enough seat time in the classroom to qualify for full high school credit. These students may receive partial or no high school credit for advanced courses they have mastered at the college level. This was a problem identified by the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. This bill does not attempt to establish credit for courses that may be a prerequisite for the challenged course. Furthermore, the credits would apply to fulfilling requirements for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, but not necessarily be factored in to the student's GPA if no letter grade is given.

HB 190 would provide a needed opportunity for course credit and further encouragement for students who are independently completing courses outside of their high school. Keeping students engaged in learning and challenged with rigorous coursework benefits both the individual student and the districts supporting their continued education. HB 190 will remove a barrier to students who wish to receive credit for their coursework and support a learning environment that continues to challenge and reward student initiative.

Staff Contact: Heather Beggs, 465-2028

# Alaska State Legislature

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## REPRESENTATIVE Paul Seaton

District 30

### Explanation of Changes between HB 190 and CSHB 190(EDC)

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CSHB 190 (EDC) adds language offered as a conceptual amendment in the House Education Committee. The amendment adds clarity that districts are not immediately required to develop an assessment tool for every course offered in the district.

CSHB 190(EDC)  
Page 1, Lines 10-13:

Sec. 14.03.072

(b) A school district shall establish, **within a reasonable time period**, an assessment tool and a standard for demonstrating mastery in secondary school courses provided by the district **that are likely to be or have been the subject of a challenge requested under this section.**

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 190  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB190-EED-TLS-3-28-13  
Title: CREDIT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSES  
Sponsor: SEATON  
Requester: House Education Committee

Department: Department of Education and Early Development  
Appropriation: Teaching and Learning Support  
Allocation: Student and School Achievement  
OMB Component Number: 2796

**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 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
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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
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Prepared By:	Les Morse, Deputy Commissioner	Phone:	(907)465-8691
Division	Commissioner's Office	Date:	03/28/2013 04:00 PM
Approved By:	Mike Hanley	Date:	03/28/13
	Commissioner		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB190

**Analysis**

This bill will have no fiscal impact to the department.

**Section 1**

Requires school districts to provide the opportunity for students enrolled in secondary school to challenge courses provided by the district, and earn full credit for the course, if mastery is demonstrated. School districts must establish assessment tool for the student to demonstrate secondary school course mastery.

**Section 2**

Applies the requirements outlined in section 1 to the State Boarding Schools.

## Credit By Choice program (CBC)

The Credit By Choice Program is designed to give students the opportunity to choose enriching learning experiences that are tailored to their personal educational needs and have them recorded on their high school transcript. This program is open to students currently enrolled in ASD high schools.

An overview of each program option is given below. While the curriculum assistant principal and counselors can respond to questions, it is the responsibility of the student to work independently to complete the application and carry out a program according to the prescribed guidelines once it is approved.

1. Students proposing a Credit By Choice (CBC) program must have prior written approval of their parents and the principal.
2. A certificated staff person must sponsor and/or supervise the student's program. In the case of a waiver, this will be the principal.
3. ASD is the accrediting institution and sets standards for issuing credit. ASD is not the sponsoring agency for off-campus programs and is not responsible for the student's personal or financial liability. Program expense is the responsibility of the individual.
4. CBC courses will be titled as such on the student's transcript. Programs 1 (Educational Travel) and 6 (Community Service/Field Study) may be taken for elective credit only. Specific curriculum area credit will be recorded for programs 2 (Correspondence Course), 3 (College Course work), 4 (Early College Admissions Program), and 5 (Credit by Examination). Credit by Examination may not be done for physical education credit.
5. Any CBC course (first course attempt, grade improvement, credit recovery) completed during the fall or spring semester will be recorded on the transcript the semester it is completed. Any CBC course completed during the summer will be recorded on the transcript for the spring semester (as with summer school courses). Once the CBC course is recorded on the transcript, it will be included in calculating eligibility when the next eligibility establishment date occurs. Since CBC registration is recorded only upon program completion, CBC is not a course that can be included for calculating eligibility for full-time student status.
6. The grade received will be incorporated into the student's high school grade point average (GPA) and will be counted to determine class rank and valedictorian. When computing valedictorian status, the ratio of weighted advanced placement to regular graded classes is significant.
7. Credit By Choice is not available to meet the requirement of Alaska Studies or Lifetime Personal Fitness.

### Program No. 1 – Educational travel

Credit may be earned for a planned learning experience gained through participation in a travel/study tour. The curriculum assistant principal must approve both the specific tour and teacher/sponsor before students may apply. Questions concerning specific credit requirements during travel/study tours should be directed to the teacher/sponsor.

A three-week tour program is eligible for 0.5 unit of credit and a six-week program may earn 1.0 unit of credit.

Travel supervisors must submit a completed application with supporting materials to the curriculum assistant principal for approval by April 15. Proposals must outline the type of educational travel, travel supervisor's name, past experience with student travel, name of sponsoring company/affiliation, dates of departure and return, estimated number of student participants, goals and objectives, proposed itinerary, evaluation criteria, information on liability/medical coverage for participants, parent information forms and copies of releases. Forward a copy of the approved "Request for Out-Of-District Travel" (Form J- available from the Activities Office), taking care to specify names of sponsors/chaperones.

A student desiring credit for approved educational travel must complete the Credit By Choice application and submit it to the curriculum assistant principal in advance of the trip. Upon completion of the travel, the supervisor must provide the curriculum assistant principal with grade reports and submit supporting grade book and legend to the registrar.

### Program No. 2 – Correspondence courses

The purpose of correspondence is to meet the special needs of students as approved by the principal. Paramount consideration will be given to the student's record in completing independent studies. To be approved, correspondence programs must be accredited. Courses must be proctored by certificated staff.

As of June 1, 2000, approved correspondence programs include: University of Nebraska, University of North Dakota and Brigham Young University. Others may be approved upon request. Application for approval of other programs may be done through the curriculum assistant principal.

Correspondence courses may be used for both makeup and acceleration.

A copy of the correspondence school application must accompany the Credit By Choice application and must be received by the curriculum assistant principal prior to beginning the course.

Upon completion, the student must arrange for an official transcript to be submitted.

### Program No. 3 – College courses

This program is designed to give eligible students currently enrolled in the Anchorage School District the opportunity to receive credit for certain courses through accredited institutions of higher education. The course should correlate with the career needs of the individual. Students must submit applications within two weeks after the beginning of the class. College courses must be 100 level and above. Students must register for at least three semester hours to receive 0.5 high school credit and six semester hours for 1.0 high school credit.

When the student has completed his/her college coursework, the student must arrange for an official transcript to be submitted.

### Program No. 4 – Early College Admissions Program

This program would allow outstanding students with a grade point average of 3.5 or above to leave high school for college work prior to having the time and credits for graduation. The student

would have the option of receiving his/her high school diploma after successfully completing the first year of college. ASD graduation requirements must be met in order to receive a high school diploma. The program would serve the student who has made definite plans for master and doctoral work.

To be considered, a student must have maintained at least a 3.5 GPA during the first three years of high school and all required grade level courses must have been completed prior to application for this Credit By Choice program.

Tentative acceptance by a college or university must be in evidence. It is the student's responsibility to determine whether college coursework accepted by the Anchorage School District will also be accepted for credit by the college.

Upon completion of 24 undergraduate semester hours of credit at the college level, the student must furnish a transcript to the curriculum assistant principal so that a high school diploma may be granted.

### **Program No. 5 – Credit by examination**

Credit by examination is an opportunity for the advanced student to progress at his/her own learning rate in courses approved in the ASD's Program of Studies. Credit may be awarded on demonstrated proficiency through an examination process. The test will be developed by a teacher selected by the curriculum assistant principal and will be equivalent to a final examination of a given course. A ninety-percent score is required to receive credit. A fee of \$85 is required in advance to compensate the teacher for creating, administering and evaluating the test.

A student cannot be granted credit by examination for a course in which he/she has previously earned credit nor may he/she receive credit for a prerequisite course if they are presently enrolled in or have previously earned credit in an advanced course.

Laboratory courses are excluded from credit by examination procedure.

Upon receipt of an approved application for Credit By Choice, the curriculum assistant principal will appoint an examiner.

The examiner will select or construct an examination which is consistent with the approved course description and objectives. The examiner is expected to proctor the test, score it, notify the curriculum assistant principal of the results and submit the test materials to the registrar.

If credit is denied, a student may not reapply for credit by examination for the same course.

### **Program No. 6 – Community service and field study**

Credit may be earned through a planned community service program that provides learning experiences in the community. Students may also propose field studies in the community, such as a research project using the community or a unique educational opportunity only available in the field. One hundred twenty (120) hours of acceptable service will earn 0.5 unit of credit.

Program approval may be done at individual school sites, but pre-approved district programs include:

- Outdoor Experience, Writing & Leadership (Puqigtut)
- Dr. Park's Academy

- South Central Foundation RAISE Intern Program
- Anchorage Youth Court
- Johns Hopkins Institute for the Academic Advancement of Youth
- LEAP (Learning Enrichment Adventure Program)
- Western Alaska Council/Boy Scouts of America Explorer Program
- Allegro
- Peer Education Teen Trainers
- RARE-T (Reduce AIDS Risk in Teens) Peer Education
- Anchorage Youth Symphony (pass/fail only - therefore does not count in GPA calculation)
- Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute (with additional hours to 120)
- Alaska Native Heritage Center Courses
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Big Brother/Big Sisters High School Big Program
- Alaska Theatre of Youth – Summer Conservatory
- Trio Talent Search Upward Bound Program/Upward Bound Summer Program
- Youth Employment in Parks and Recreation Program

Concordia Language Institute is independently accredited by North Central Association of Schools as an intensive world language experience for high school students. Transcripts from Concordia should be sent to the home school for inclusion of credit on the student's transcript.

### **Program No. 7 – High school credit for middle school coursework**

Students may request middle school course work in math (Algebra I or higher) to be added to their high school transcript any time after their 9th grade year. Upon approval, the credit and grade will be added on to the transcript to the 1st semester of the 9th grade year.

The World Languages Incentive Credit is an opportunity for students who have studied 2 years of a language at the middle school (courses 1A and 1B) to earn a 1.0 "Pass" elective credit. To receive the World Languages Incentive Credit, students must:

- Earn Level II language credit as 9th graders.
- Complete both semesters of Level II in same language as that studied in middle school.
- Successfully complete both semesters of Level II with a "C" or better.
- Request that the Incentive Credit be added to their 9th grade high school transcript using the Anchorage School District "Credit by Choice" process.

### **DOCUMENTATION OF WORLD LANGUAGES INCENTIVE CREDIT:**

The World Languages Incentive Credit is "P" for passing and will be recorded on the student's 9th grade transcript. The "P" will not affect the student's overall GPA or class rank. Transcripts are legal documents and will not be changed once credit is recorded.

### **Program No. 8 – Physical education waiver**

Physical education programs will be approved on a case-by-case basis where the program covers four of the six recognized

components of fitness. The six components of physical fitness are cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, body composition and stress reduction. One hundred fifty (150) hours of acceptable activity/records will earn an equivalent 0.5 credit waiver.

Student proposals must include the following information: student name, coach's name and contact number, description of coach's qualifications, a detailed training outline with goals and objectives from the coach including the description of how four of the six components of fitness are addressed. Attach any available evidence of equivalence to ASD approved high school courses.

Students desiring a physical education waiver must also submit a journal documenting their workouts. At 60 hours, the journal must be reviewed and signed by the curriculum assistant principal or the physical education department chairperson.

### **Independent study**

Senior high school students who have the self-discipline and interest for working independently may design a course of study according to their interests, abilities and plans. The course of study must contain requirements above the expected level of the regular class. Independent study is available at every high school but is not intended to duplicate courses already in the master schedule. Students should contact their counselors for more information and principal approval.

### **Student foreign exchange programs**

The following information is necessary in order for a student to go from the Anchorage School District (ASD) to another country as an exchange student and return with credits that will count toward the student's graduation.

- A. Prior to leaving for the exchange, a meeting between the student, parent/guardian and counselor must be initiated by the parent to prepare and complete the following:
  1. Credit Check
  2. Official transcript reflecting all courses completed
  3. Written plan for completion of graduation requirements upon return to the Anchorage School District that includes any correspondence courses the student may be taking during the exchange.
- B. During the student's participation in the exchange program, the following two options are available for awarding credits:
  1. The student is provided an official transcript by the school they are attending in a foreign country which lists the course title, credit earned and grade. The student will need to provide the Anchorage School District with a course outline for each course listed on the transcript as well as a description of the official grading policies. The course outline will be used by ASD to determine whether the course meets a core academic requirement or will be elective credit.
  2. If a student is not able to receive an official transcript with recorded grades, the following must be provided to the Anchorage School District upon the student's return so decisions can be made regarding the awarding of credit:

- a. A list of courses taken with an official course outline. This needs to be signed by an administrator at the exchange school for verification. The course outline will be used by ASD to determine whether the course meets a core academic requirement or will be elective credit.
  - b. An official accounting of time spent in each class. This must include the length of each class, number of days per week and the number of weeks the class meets. This must be signed by an administrator at the exchange school for verification.
- C. Evaluation of an exchange student's transcript when returning from a foreign country and awarding of credit will be based upon the following:
1. If the student provides an official transcript with recorded grades, the student will be able to select either option "a" or "b" for recording of grades:
    - a. P = Pass
    - b. Letter Grade of A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (below 60). Courses not completed will not be recorded.
  2. If the student is not able to provide an official transcript with recorded grades, an evaluation of the student's work will be completed by the principal or designee and credit awarded based upon the following:
    - a. 1/4 credit = 37 contact hours
    - b. 1/2 credit = 75 contact hours
    - c. 1 credit = 150 contact hoursThe course outlines and accounting of time spent in each class will be used when making decisions about whether the course meets a core academic requirement or will be awarded elective credit. All credits awarded through an evaluation of course outlines and time spent in class will be graded on a pass/fail basis.
  3. Since there is such a wide variation in school calendars in foreign countries, it is possible that the student may receive some grades and credits on an official transcript and some that are still in progress. The student has the option of receiving some of the credits through an official transcript from the exchange school as well as some credits by providing the documentation of time spent in class and course outlines.

If the student does not comply with the above requirements and records are either not provided or are incomplete, the student may risk losing credits needed for graduation. It is also possible that the student may need to take a correspondence course(s) while on the exchange in order to complete all of the graduation requirements.

### **Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) eligibility for sports and activities**

Participation in middle and high school athletics is a privilege. All students are expected to comply with local, state, and federal laws and the rules and regulations of the Anchorage School District. Students will be subject to denial of the ability to participate if they: do not meet eligibility requirements, engage



# UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program/ANSEP  
3211 Providence Drive ANSEP 200D1  
Anchorage, AK 99508



March 28, 2013

Legislature of the State of Alaska  
Twenty-Eighth Legislature- First Session

Re: HB 190  
By Representative Paul Seaton

Dear Members of the Twenty Eighth Legislature;

HB 190 will assure that our high school students receive appropriate credit for courses taken at our University.

The receipt of appropriate credit is currently a problem. For example, an ANSEP high school student has successfully completed all of the university courses required for a degree in mechanical engineering. This is no small accomplishment. It represents five courses and 2.5 years of effort at the University level. Yet, the same student was informed that he did not have enough math credits to graduate from high school. This happens across the state. This also means that advanced students will not qualify for the full Alaska Performance Scholarship.

The problem is, districts have established a policy where students successfully completing a 3 or 4 credit hour course at the university earn 1/2 of a high school credit for the same or similar course at the district level. For example, a student successfully completing the four credit calculus 1 course at the university will earn 1/2 of a credit toward calculus within the districts. This policy seems to be based solely on contact hours in the classroom, not on content of the course.

Passage of HB 190 will provide a mechanism for students to earn the full high school credit they deserve for successfully completing university courses.

Please contact me at 529-4918 or [herb@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:herb@uaa.alaska.edu) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very Truly Yours,

Herb Ilisaurri Schroeder, PhD  
Vice Provost for ANSEP and Founder  
Professor of Engineering



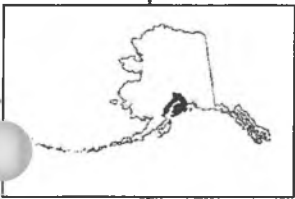
Presidential Award  
for Excellence in Science, Mathematics,  
and Engineering Mentoring



Reginald Jones Founder's Award



Alaska Federation of Natives  
Denali Award



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Office of Superintendent

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools  
148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553  
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

April 1, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton  
State Capitol, Room 102  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton:

The Kenai Borough School District (KPBSD) supports House Bill 190; thank you for introducing it. KPBSD feels that the bill's proposed amendment to AS 14.03 to require a school district to provide high school students the option to challenge a course through a district constructed assessment is sound.

KPBSD has offered the option of a challenge test for credit to our secondary students for many years. I know that it is an established policy that works well for our students. I support this bill because I believe that all districts will benefit from this.

As we look ahead with education, it is imperative that we move away from the past practice of requiring seat time as one of the considered variables for issuing credit and instead, focus on performance as the sole variable for this purpose. In sum, if a student can demonstrate proficiency in meeting the requirements of the course through an assessment, then granting a credit for this performance is the right thing to do. I applaud you for offering this amendment to AS 14.03 that will require all districts to do this.

Please let me know if I can provide more information on why this proposed amendment to AS 14.03 is a positive change for Alaska's secondary students.

Sincerely,

Steve Atwater, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



## OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

*Gene Stone, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction*

***Mission: Mat-Su Borough School District prepares students for success***

April 1, 2013

Legislature of the State of Alaska  
Twenty-Eighth Legislature – First Session

Dear Members of the Twenty Eighth Legislature:

The Mat-Su Borough School District would like to offer support for House Bill 190. Providing other credit options is consistent with what we as a district think meets today's best practices in education.

Current MSBSD Board policy provides students the opportunity to challenge courses using a college-level examination program. Below shows how credit is assigned when a student in the district takes and passes a college level course:

Other Credit Options: Early College Admission AR 6146.2(c)

Upon completion of the program, the student must provide a transcript to the building principal in order for a high school diploma to be granted. It is the student's responsibility to verify that the program meets all senior requirements for graduation.

1. Early College Admission courses may be used for specific curriculum credit and for elective credit.
2. Early College Admission courses must be "100" level and above. Students completing college coursework will receive high school credit as follows:
  - 0.5 high school credit for a one (1) or two (2) semester hour college course
  - 1.0 high school credit for a three (3) or four (4) semester hour college course
  - 1.5 high school credit for a five (5) or six (6) semester hour college course
3. Use: College Coursework or Early College Admission Form

Please do not hesitate to ask for additional clarification on how MSBSD addresses Other Credit Options for our students. We believe HB 190 is good for all kids in Alaska and support a uniformed statute that will provide consistency for all districts.

Sincerely,

Gene Stone