SCOMM

130:8

Alyeska Central School Providing Choice for Students, Parents, Schools, and Districts throughout Alaska

Alyeska Central School provides a valued school choice

This past year, over 4500 students used our services through full-time, part-time, tuition, and summer school enrollment. Although originally designed for rural students with no local school, Alyeska has become a choice for many urban students. Over 750 of our regular students reside in the state's five largest school districts, which all have district correspondence or home support programs. Over 400 students are enrolled in tuition courses to supplement their education at their local school. While at least a dozen urban and rural school districts offer correspondence programs, students and parents are still choosing to enroll with Alyeska. *Closing Alyeska Central School will only limit school choice.*

A unique year-round service is provided by Alyeska Central School

Teaching, counseling, and library services are provided on a year-round basis, meeting unique Alaskan families' needs. Alyeska students work at an individual pace that allows easier accommodations for students with special learning needs. Alyeska has a faculty of teachers in the core content areas who are already "highly qualified" under No Child Left Behind. This quality program appeals to parents who want accountability and an educator's assessment of their students' learning. Alyeska develops the core curriculum to be used for Alaskan students to meet and reach the Alaskan standards. *No other correspondence program offers the Alaskan developed curriculum and teacher guidance like Alyeska.*

Closure is not a cost savings and could cause potential additional cost

Any student who returns to a "brick and mortar" school will cost the state a 25% increase of funding. Our experience shows that over half of our students will return to their local school and not to another correspondence school. Students who return to local schools in some remote cities will generate supplementary state funding due to the cost differential, such as in Barrow where students receive an additional 50% funding. Students who return to schools in urban areas may require an accompanying local tax contribution. *The state foundation funds received by Alyeska will just follow the student; there will be no cost savings for the state, but additional state and local funding may be required.*

Tuition courses provide flexibility for meeting a variety of needs

Alyeska is the only state correspondence program to offer a year-round tuition program. This program serves districts by extending limited school offerings for both advanced and remedial students. School counselors often use these courses as tools to help students who have unique circumstances or who need more flexibility in their schedules. Through Alyeska, parents can purchase a full range of courses to extend student learning. Adults including paraprofessional who need to qualify under "No Child Left Behind" have the chance to complete their high school diplomas at a nominal fee. *Closure of Alyeska Central School will eliminate this vital option for students, parents, schools, and districts.*

Summer Program provides a lifeline for Alaskan students

Last summer, over 3,400 students took courses in the summer program offered by Alyeska Central School. The program's focus is to help students prepare for the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam, which must be passed to receive a diploma in 2004. The summer program is useful for full-time students from all districts who need to catch up on credits in order to graduate before the next school year. Alyeska's flexible format supplements well-established summer school programs in larger urban districts that can't accommodate students' summer activities. Smaller school districts, unable to have summer schools of their own also depend upon and benefit from this program. *The $1.2 million funding that has maintained by past Legislatures can only be saved at the cost of leaving kids behind.*

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 174
(H) Publish Date: 3/5/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
Title: An Act relating to the state centralized correspondence study program and the duties of schools...
BRU: Alyeska Central School
Component: Alyeska Central School
Sponsor:
Requester:
Component No.: 2106

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services	(2,928.8)					
Travel	(55.0)					
Contractual	(1,089.1)					
Supplies	(1,418.4)					
Equipment	(18.0)					
Land & Structures	0.0					
Grants & Claims	0.0					
Miscellaneous	0.0					
TOTAL OPERATING	(5,509.3)	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						
1007 Inter Agency/Program Receipts	(5,009.3)					
1156 Reciept services	(500.0)					
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	(5,509.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	-21					
Part-time	-26					
Temporary	-1					

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill will eliminate Alyeska Cenral School the statewide correspondence program operated by the state.

Students will be able to access correspondence programs from other school districts around the state. This reduction is already reflected in the Governor's proposed FY 04 budget.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager
Phone
Division: Education and Early Development
Date/Time: 3/5/03 8:56 AM
Approved by:
Date: 3/5/2003
Agency: Education and Early Development

(Revised 9/2002 OMB)

HB 117

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 5, 2003

The Honorable Pete Kott
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Kott:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill eliminating the Alyeska Central School program (ACS), the state's correspondence program.

Alyeska was once the state's only correspondence program offering education services to students statewide. The school began operations in 1939 offering programs to students living in remote areas with no local schools. However, there are 12 school districts currently offering statewide correspondence services to Alaska's school age residents.

The district-operated statewide correspondence programs offer a variety of education delivery methods. Educational delivery models include US postal, Internet and family developed programs supported by district staff.

Eliminating the ACS program will eliminate the duplicative services currently being provided by school districts enrolling and serving correspondence students statewide. The Department of Education and Early Development will help ACS students and families identify the appropriate educational services and assist them in moving to other programs to ensure no child is left behind.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor