

SCOMM

137:32



HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 106

MEMORANDUM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rep. Mark Neuman,
Chairman
Room 432
465-3820

Rep. Carl Gatto
Vice-Chair
Room 411
465-3743

Rep. Bob Lynn
Room 415
465-4931

Rep. Bill Thomas
Room 428
465-3732

Rep. Peggy Wilson
Room 108
465-3824

Rep. Les Gara
Room 418
465-2647

Rep. Woodie Salmon
Room 114
465-4527

Date: February 2, 2006

To: Members of House Special Committee on Education

From: Representative Mark Neuman, Chairman 
House Special Committee on Education

Re: Scheduled bills in Education Committee

Thursday, February 9, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 106

HB 140 TUITION WAIVERS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN
Representative McGuire

HB 345 RAISE COMP SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE TO 17
Representative Weyhrauch

** Committee will be taking public testimony **

** Meetings will be teleconferenced **

Committee hearings may be postponed to 5:30 p.m.
depending on length of floor session.

ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Mark Neuman, Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2679
Fax: (907) 465-4822
Rep_Mark_Neuman@legis.state.ak.us



Committee Members:
Representative Carl Gatto
Representative Bob Lynn
Representative Bill Thomas
Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative Les Gara
Representative Woodie Salmon

House Special Committee on Education

Date: April 3, 2006

To: Suzi Lowell, Chief Clerk

From: Representative Mark Neuman, Chairman
Special Committee on Education

RE: House Special Committee on Education Schedule

Tuesday, April 4, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 106

+ = **HB 345 RAISE COMP SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE TO 17**
Representative Weyhrauch



Has been canceled per sponsor's request

Thursday, April 6, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 106

No meeting scheduled

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

HOUSE DISTRICT 4

ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA
99801-1182

(907) 465-3744
FAX (907) 465-2273

MEMO

TO: Representative Mark Neuman
House Education Committee
Attn: Rex Shattuck

FROM: Representative Bruce Weyhrauch
Jacqueline F. Tupou

DATE: December 12th, 2006

RE: Request for Hearing on House Bill 345

I am requesting a hearing in the House Education Committee for House Bill 345. I am attaching a copy of the bill, sponsor statement, sectional analysis, and background information. If you need any additional information please call Jacqueline F. Tupou in my office. Thank you in advance for your time and attention in this matter.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 345

1 Page 1, line 1:

2 Delete "raising"

3 Insert "changing"

4

5 Page 2, lines 20 - 21:

6 Delete "[BETWEEN] seven years of age or older and under 17 [16]"

7 Insert "six years of age or older on or before September 1 following the beginning
8 of the school year and who is under 17 [BETWEEN SEVEN AND 16]"

9

10 Page 2, lines 23 - 24:

11 Delete "[BETWEEN] seven years of age or older and under 17 [16]"

12 Insert "six years of age or older on or before September 1 following the beginning
13 of the school year and who is under 17 [BETWEEN SEVEN AND 16]"

14

15 Page 3, following line 1:

16 Insert a new bill section to read:

17 "* Sec. 4. AS 14.30.010(c) is repealed."

18

19 Renumber the following bill section accordingly.

24-LS1240\G
Mischel
2/15/06

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 345()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES WEYHRAUCH, Kerttula

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act changing the compulsory school attendance age; relating to the crime of
2 contributing to the delinquency of a minor; relating to truancy; and relating to
3 employment of a minor."

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 11.51.130(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) A person commits the crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor
7 if, being 19 years of age or older or being under 19 years of age and having the
8 disabilities of minority removed for general purposes under AS 09.55.590, the person
9 aids, induces, causes, or encourages a child

10 (1) under 18 years of age to do any act prohibited by state law unless
11 the child's disabilities of minority have been removed for general purposes under
12 AS 09.55.590;

13 (2) under 18 years of age or allows a child under 18 years of age to
14 enter or remain in the immediate physical presence of the unlawful manufacture, use,

display, or delivery of a controlled substance knowing that the manufacture, use, display, or delivery is occurring, unless the child's disabilities of minority have been removed for general purposes under AS 09.55.590;

(3) under 17 [16] years of age to be repeatedly absent from school, without just cause; or

(4) under 18 years of age to be absent from the custody of a parent, guardian, or custodian without the permission of the parent, guardian, or custodian or without the knowledge of the parent, guardian, or custodian, unless the child's disabilities of minority have been removed for general purposes under AS 09.55.590 or the person has immunity under AS 47.10.350 or 47.10.398(a); it is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this paragraph that, at the time of the alleged offense, the defendant

(A) reasonably believed that the child was in danger of physical injury or in need of temporary shelter; and

(B) within 12 hours after taking the actions comprising the alleged offense, notified a peace officer, a law enforcement agency, or the Department of Health and Social Services of the name of the child and the child's location.

* Sec. 2. AS 14.30.010(a) is amended to read:

(a) Every child who is six years of age or older on or before September 1 following the beginning of the school year and who is under 17 [BETWEEN SEVEN AND 16] years of age shall attend school at the public school in the district in which the child resides during each school term. Every parent, guardian, or other person having the responsibility for or control of a child who is six years of age or older on or before September 1 following the beginning of the school year and who is under 17 [BETWEEN SEVEN AND 16] years of age shall maintain the child in attendance at a public school in the district in which the child resides during the entire school term, except as provided in (b) of this section.

* Sec. 3. AS 23.10.340(a) is amended to read:

(a) A minor under 17 [16] years of age may not be employed for more than a combined total of nine hours school attendance and employment in one day. If

1 employed, the minor's work may be performed only between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m.
2 Employment outside school hours may not exceed 23 hours in one week, domestic
3 work and baby-sitting excepted.

4 * Sec. 4. AS 14.30.010(c) is repealed.

5 * Sec. 5. The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
6 read:

7 REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION. The revisor of statutes is instructed to change the catch
8 line of AS 23.10.340 from "Children under 16" to "Children under 17."

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

HOUSE DISTRICT 4

ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA
99801-1182

(907) 465-3744
FAX (907) 465-2273

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 345 changes the compulsory school attendance age so a student may not drop out until after they turn 17. Current law requires compulsory school attendance from age seven through age sixteen. As it is, when a student turns 16 they may drop out of school.

Increasing the drop out age from 16 to 17 is important for several reasons. Sixteen year olds are not ready to make the enormous decision to give up a high school education. Increasing the mandatory age to seventeen ensures students will remain in school and have continued opportunities during their high school career, into their adulthood, and out into the workforce. Currently, less than six out of every ten students in the Alaska school system graduate from high school. Only two states have worse annual dropout rates than Alaska. Additionally, dropouts make up nearly half the heads of households on welfare and nearly half of the prison population. Research has shown that the more education a person obtains, they more income they will earn. The direct and indirect costs to the State of Alaska continue to add up.

Alaska can do a better job preparing our students to have a brighter future. House Bill 345 helps gives school districts another tool to help our students attain more education and in so doing, better equipping our students for that future.

I ask for your support for House Bill 345.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

January 5, 2006

SUBJECT: Compulsory School Age (HB 345)
TO: Representative Bruce Weyhrauch
FROM: Jean M. Mischel
Legislative Counsel 

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Amends an element of the crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor relating to school age to be consistent with the compulsory school age change in section 2 of the bill.

Section 2. Changes the compulsory school age from 16 to 17 years of age.

Section 3. Changes the age for employment limits for a minor who is in school to 17 years of age.

Section 4. Instructs the revisor to change the catch line for the change made in section 3 of the bill.

JMM:med
06-009.med

AASB SUPPORT

1.9 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW

Current state law requires compulsory school attendance from age 7-16. AASB supports changing the mandatory age for school attendance to run from 6 to the earlier of 17 years old or high school graduation. AASB urges the Department of Education and Early Development and enforcement agencies to work with districts to support compulsory school attendance laws and provide adequate funding for mandatory enforcement efforts as a matter of child welfare and public safety. Enforcement of any compulsory attendance law is a challenge, but parents and students can and should be held accountable.

Rationale. State and local performance standards set high expectations in mathematics, reading and writing for children age 5 through 7. Furthermore, research indicates that earlier education is beneficial. In fact, most children in Alaska are enrolled by the age of 6. Most 7-year-old kids are in first or second grade. With the renewed emphasis on reading, writing, and mathematics skills in the first few years, skills on which the child will be assessed, children starting school late are at a big disadvantage. With the enactment of federal No Child Left Behind legislation and state designators, the legislature will be accountable for paying the cost of remediation to overcome that disadvantage [NOTE: STATE IS RESPONSIBLE; SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HELD ACCOUNTABLE]. Importantly, reduction of the compulsory school age to 6 would not eliminate active home schooling as a viable alternative for parents. Sixteen-year-olds are not ready to make the enormous decision to give up a high school education. Increasing the mandatory age to 17 helps ensure students who have not yet graduated from high school stay in school and have more opportunities to meet performance standards and pass the HSGQE. Mandatory attendance laws must be enforced, but not all school districts are able to afford a truancy officer and not all communities in Alaska have law enforcement or judicial agencies to address the issue.

Adopted 2001, Amended 2002, 03, 04, 05

February 28, 2006

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for your service to Alaska and for providing the public an opportunity recently to comment on HB 345 (raising the drop-out age to 17). Please take a moment to consider my comments, as I am the individual who asked sponsor, Rep. Weyhrauch, to introduce this bill. (I apologize for being unable to attend the committee hearing on this bill; I had to take a student to the hospital. I then was out of town several days.)

I was born in Alaska (raised in Anchorage and Fairbanks), attended and graduated from public schools here (including our university system) and have raised my own children here. I have been a principal and a teacher in the Juneau School District for 14 years.

I understand that the primary objection to increasing the drop out age to 17 has come from parents who wish to retain parental authority on such matters. As a parent and as principal of our district's home school program, I support this position -- it is the BASIS FOR such legislation.

For years, I have worked with anguished parents who have no authority to stop their children from leaving school in the middle of their sophomore year (on their 16th birthday).

If you're a parent or are familiar with current research on the teen brain, you know that 15 and 16 are particularly volatile times -- drivers license, romance, social opportunities, experimentation with all kinds of sensations. Not surprisingly, school might not be a priority for a young person at that time of life -- even when parents are wholly supportive. (I often say that teen judgment is an oxymoron!)

I probably don't have to tell you the life-long negative correlations of dropping out of high school (which I've witnessed first-hand with my brother, who, at age 50, now says, "Why didn't someone make me stay?"): reduced lifelong earnings, reduced contributions to the economy, higher incidence of incarceration. Under-educated individuals end up sapping more government resources and requiring costly programs (public health, corrections). The long-term effects are deleterious to the individual and to economy.

Twenty-three other states already have raised the drop-out age to 17 or 18. Alaska has the third worst graduation rate in the nation. I urge you to give this bill a chance -- BECAUSE parents deserve more say than a 16-year-old when it comes to deciding whether or not to stay in school.

I realize that such a change is not a silver bullet, but it does provide parents one more lever to cause their children to continue with their education. Perhaps the committee could consider an amendment which acknowledges that if a youngster has passed all three parts of the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying exam (which first is taken in April of the sophomore year), then WITH parental permission, the young person may

leave high school.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. I look forward to hearing from you.

Laury Scandling
Principal
Yaakoosge Daakahidi (House of Knowledge) High School
Juneau

Dropouts say their schools expected too little of them

By Greg Toppo
USA TODAY

A survey of high school dropouts offers a surprising view of why they don't finish school. It finds that more than six in 10 were earning C's or above when they dropped out, and nearly two-thirds say they would have worked harder if expectations had been higher.

Education

The survey, commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is being released today by Civic Enterprises, a Washington-based research firm headed by two former Bush administration officials from his first term, John Bridgeland and John Dilulio. Dilulio served briefly as the first head of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

The survey, by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, polled 467 geographically, racially and economically diverse people ages 16 to 24 last summer and fall, using focus groups and face-to-face interviews.

In many ways, the findings aren't unexpected. For example, about three-fourths say they would have stayed in school if they had to do it over again. But in other ways, the survey offers small, surprising glimpses into students' worlds:

- 38% say they had "too much freedom" and not enough rules in school, which made it easy to skip class.

- 68% say their parents became more involved in their education only when they were on the verge of dropping out.

- 70% are confident they could have graduated if they had tried.

- 81% now believe that graduating from

Why students quit

Top 5 reasons dropouts say they left school:

47%	Classes were not interesting
43%	Missed too many days and could not catch up
42%	Spent time with people who were not interested in school
38%	Had too much freedom and not enough rules
35%	Failing in school

Source: "The Silent Epidemic" by Civic Enterprises

high school is important to succeed.

"It does give us a perspective that we didn't have, which is the perspective of the

student who drops out," says education researcher Jay Greene, who chairs the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas.

But Greene, whose research has included studies on dropout rates, cautions that students' points of view represent only "a partial and possibly distorted picture."

For instance, 69% of dropouts say they weren't motivated, and another 47% say classes weren't interesting. That is simply another way for students to say that their basic skills weren't up to the task of high school-level work, Greene says. "Being in school seems like a big waste of your time because you don't understand what's going on. You can't understand the material that's being assigned to you."

The study suggests communities support "different schools for different stu-

dents," a nod to efforts already begun by the Gates Foundation, which has poured more than \$1 billion into school reform, primarily through financing the breakup of large high schools and the creation of smaller "learning communities."

The study says states should consider "early-warning systems" to identify kids at risk of dropping out and to look into raising the age at which students can legally leave school to 17 or 18 from 16 in most states.

Schools also "need to do more to invite parents in," the researchers say, such as getting parents involved earlier when students miss school.

"When kids start getting truant, we know that they're in the process of dropping out," Greene says.

► Education needs of Hispanics, 3A



HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 1289

Haines, Alaska 99827-1289

February 27, 2006

FEB 28 2006

The Honorable Bruce Weyrauch
State Capital
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Weyrauch:

I am writing in support of HB 345 that would raise the compulsory school attendance age to 17. We all know that dropping out is not the answer. One item of concern is how to enforce attendance. We currently have students who drop out illegally and nothing happens to them. Reporting educational neglect to social services does nothing and the courts have not been supportive. I would encourage consideration for withholding a student's permanent fund if they either drop out or have poor attendance.

Poor attendance is one of the most problematic issues for students in Alaska who perform below standard. Many students who perform poorly miss twenty days or more of school per school year. Even when students do their make-up work it is not the same as being there.

I would also support lowering the compulsory school age. Early intervention is proven to reduce problems in school and would likely reduce drop outs.

Thank you for your interest in children, our states most important resource.

Sincerely yours,

Woody Wilson
Superintendent

C: Rep. Newman, Chair of Special Committee on Education
Rep. Wilson, Chair of HESS

Written by Xian Zhang.
Senior at JPHS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

I think to change the law high school students can drop out high school only they turn 17 is a really good idea.

Because, most students got into high school, they don't really know what they are going to do in high school, they don't even know what's their dream is. So, everything they do seem wrong, nothing seem right for them, so they want to drop out high school, because they are 16, and the state law says high school students can drop out high school when they turn 16. So, they think they have the power to drop out high school all on their own, and they can't do nothing right in high school, they feel like there's hopeless in high school. So, they just drop out.

But, if we change the state law, high students only can drop out high school when their turn 17, and the law can make them stay in school for one more year. Then maybe it will help them to learn the way how high school works and maybe they will feel they fix in and they feel comfortable in high school and high school is not as bad as they thought. So, maybe they will change their mines because they feel like there's hope. Because in the really world nothing seem easy and nothing is easy, you need really thing to help you stay in the really world. And if you have good application you don't have to find the jobs, because the jobs will come to find you.

So, I think even only one year between 16 and 17, but, it can make a hug difference in a person's life. Don't care how old are you, don't care what do you do. People can learn new things everyday, everywhere and every minutes.



Orca: Sua Warrior
By Treham Gregg

JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Yaakoosgé Daakahídi Alternative High School

1208 Glacier Ave. - Mailing: 10014 Crazy Horse Drive Juneau AK 99801 - (907) 523-1800 - Fax: (907) 523-1819

January 19, 2006

Dear Alaskans,

It is with great hope that I urge your favorable consideration of HB 345. Let me tell you why. I have been a teacher and principal of programs for at-risk high school students for 11 years in the Juneau School District. I have witnessed first-hand - in my own original family and amongst the hundreds of students I've served over the years - the negative effects of dropping out: underemployment which often leads to poverty and a host of associated ills: domestic violence, poor health, and, too often, incarceration.

Alaska has one of the worst graduation rates and one of the most deplorable drop-out rates in the nation. Only three states have a graduation percentage lower than Alaska's (Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama) and only two states report an annual drop-out percentage worse than ours (Louisiana and Arizona). It's estimated that about one in every three freshmen in our major cities do not graduate four years later.

Unfortunately, Alaska Native students are disproportionately represented amongst drop-outs. For example, in Juneau, Alaska Native students comprise about 20 percent of the high school population, but their percentage amongst drop-outs is double that.

Dropping out results in tremendous economic disparity. According to the U.S. census (2000), a high school grad - *even without further training* - earns an average of \$250,000 more over a lifetime than a drop-out. As a state and nation, our personal income will continue to erode if the drop out loss is not staunched.

Currently, young Alaskans are permitted to leave school the day they turn 16-years-old. Cutting-edge research tells us that a young person's brain is not fully formed until the early twenties. The judgment center of the teen brain simply isn't "hard-wired." Why are teens permitted to make such a critical decision - without anyone's permission -- when they are minute older than 15?

This must be stopped! Please raise mandatory attendance from 16 to 17. Already, 23 states require attendance until 17 or 18. Alaska must join those ranks. Thank you for your public service and for your consideration of this far-reaching legislation.

Sincerely,

Laury Scandling
Principal

Yaakoosgé Daakahídi



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Education
committee name

Committee on HB 345, dated 4-4-06
bill # / subject public hearing date

I support HB 345 and urge you to move it from committee. Keeping young people focused on education and in class throughout their high school years gives them the necessary tools to make intelligent decisions that will positively affect both their future and that of our state.

Signed: Anita Byers
Testifier

Representing (optional)

PO Box 865 Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

(907) 262-0474
Phone number

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:

Bill Version:

HB 345

() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):

Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development

Title An act raising the compulsory school attendance

RDU K-12 Support

age; relating to the crime of contributing to the delinquency ...

Component Foundation Program

Sponsor Representative Weyhrauch

Requester House Special Committee on Education

Component No. 141

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	*	*	*	*	*	*
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	*	*	*	*	*	*

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	*	*	*	*	*	*
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	*	*	*	*	*	*

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 345 will amend the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 17. This fiscal note is indeterminate because the department does not know how many more children will remain in attendance because of this increase in the compulsory attendance age.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, Director

Division: School Finance

Approved by: Roger Sampson, Commissioner

Agency: Department of Education and Early Development

Phone 465-8679

Date/Time 2/1/06 2:45 PM

Date 02/01/2006

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB345-DPS-AST-1-13-06
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title Raise the compulsory school attendance age; RDU Alaska State Troopers
relating to crime of contributing to delinquency of Component AST Detachments
 Sponsor Representative Weyhrauch
 Requester House Special Committee on Education Component No. 2325

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	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						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this legislation will have no fiscal impact as it would be absorbed by the current assets of the Department of Public Safety.

Prepared by: Lieutenant James Helgoe Phone 907-269-4532
 Division Alaska State Troopers Date/Time 1/13/06 10:58 AM
 Approved by: Commissioner William Tandeske Date 1/13/2006
 Agency Department of Public Safety

Lynne Collins

From: V Pate [tilt_windmills@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2006 11:34 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Vote no on HB345

It's a bad idea to change the compulsory school ages. Parents should make the final decision on what is best for their children. Forcing a disruptive teenager to be in school is unfair to those who wish to learn, and the disruptive child isn't learning anything useful anyway. Flipping burgers or digging ditches will teach him the value of an education much faster than coercion.

Vicki Pate, PO Box 7447, Niskiski 99635