



# LAWS OF ALASKA

1984

**Source**

CSHB 194(Fin)

**Chapter No.**

147

## AN ACT

Relating to the education of exceptional children; and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1, LINE 9

UNDERLINED MATERIAL INDICATES TEXT THAT IS BEING ADDED TO THE LAW AND BRACKETED MATERIAL IN CAPITAL LETTERS INDICATES DELETIONS FROM THE LAW; COMPLETELY NEW TEXT OR MATERIAL REPEALED AND RE-ENACTED IS IDENTIFIED IN THE INTRODUCTORY LINE OF EACH BILL SECTION.

Approved by the Governor: July 4, 1984  
Actual Effective Date: July 5, 1984

AN ACT

Relating to the education of exceptional children;  
and providing for an effective date.

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\* Section 1. AS 14.30.180 is amended to read:

Sec. 14.30.180. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of AS 14.30.180 - 14.30.350 to provide an appropriate public [COMPETENT] education [SERVICES] for [THE] exceptional children in the state who are at least three years of age but less than 22 years of age [AND FOR WHOM THE REGULAR SCHOOL FACILITIES ARE INADEQUATE OR NOT AVAILABLE].

\* Sec. 2. AS 14.30.186(a) is amended to read:

(a) A borough or city school district shall provide [FOR] special education and related services for exceptional children [REPRESENTED BY NOT LESS THAN FIVE CHILDREN] residing in the district.

\* Sec. 3. AS 14.30.186(b) is amended to read:

(b) The board of a regional educational attendance area shall provide [FOR] special education and related services in a school in the area for exceptional children [REPRESENTED BY NOT LESS THAN FIVE CHILDREN] residing in the area served by the school.

\* Sec. 4. AS 14.30.191 is repealed and reenacted to read:

Sec. 14.30.191. EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION AND PLACEMENT. (a) A school district shall obtain the consent of the child's parent or guardian before an initial evaluation or placement in a program of special education and related services.

(b) After initial placement in a program of special education

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1 and related services and not less than once every three years for as  
2 long as the child is assigned to the program, an exceptional child  
3 shall receive an educational evaluation for the identification and  
4 classification of exceptional children.

5 (c) Before a school district initiates or refuses a change in a  
6 child's placement or program, the district shall notify the child's  
7 parent or guardian.

8 (d) Upon completion of the evaluation and before placement, the  
9 school district shall provide to the parent or guardian of each excep-  
10 tional child an opportunity for consultation about the evaluation. .  
11 consultation must be available after each reevaluation of the condi-  
12 tion and placement of the exceptional child.

13 (e) A parent may obtain an independent educational evaluation at  
14 the expense of the school district if the parent disagrees with a  
15 evaluation obtained by the school district. The school district may  
16 initiate a hearing to show that its evaluation is appropriate. If the  
17 hearing officer determines that the evaluation is appropriate, the  
18 school district may not be required to pay for the independent educa-  
19 tional evaluation.

20 (f) If the parent or guardian obtains an independent education  
21 evaluation at private expense, the results of the evaluation

22 (1) must be considered by the school district in a decision  
23 made with respect to the provision of an appropriate public education  
24 to the child;

25 (2) may be presented as evidence at a hearing regarding the  
26 child.

27 (g) If a hearing officer requests an independent educational  
28 evaluation as part of a hearing, the school district shall pay for the  
29 evaluation.

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\* Sec. 5. AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 14.30.195. HEARINGS. (a) The department shall by regulation provide for administrative hearings to be conducted under AS 14.30.180 - 14.30.350.

(b) The agency conducting a hearing under this section may issue subpoenas under AS 44.62.430 and may petition the superior court for adjudications of contempt under AS 44.62.590.

\* Sec. 6. AS 14.30.231 is amended to read:

Sec. 14.30.231. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The Governor's Council for the Handicapped and Gifted established under AS 47.80 shall serve as [THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AND THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SHALL ESTABLISH] an advisory committee, the function of which is to provide information and guidance for the development of appropriate [SPECIAL EDUCATION] programs of special education and related services for exceptional children. [MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, PERSONS REPRESENTING LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES, STATE AGENCIES, PARENT GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.]

\* Sec. 7. AS 14.30.250 is amended to read:

Sec. 14.30.250. TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS. A [NO] person may not [SHALL] be employed as a teacher of [TO TEACH A CLASS FOR] exceptional children unless that person possesses a valid teacher certificate [,] and, in addition, such training as the department may require by regulation.

\* Sec. 8. AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 14.30.255. ADMINISTRATOR QUALIFICATIONS. A person may not be employed as an administrator of a program of special education and related services unless that person possesses a valid administrative certificate and, in addition, such training as the department may

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1           require by regulation.

2       \* Sec. 9. AS 14.30.270 is amended to read:

3           Sec. 14.30.270. SUBSTITUTES. AS 14.30.250 does not prohibit the  
4       employment of a person, otherwise qualified to serve as a substitute  
5       teacher, to serve as a substitute teacher of [A CLASS FOR] exceptional  
6       children.

7       \* Sec. 10. AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

8           Sec. 14.30.272. PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS. A school district shall  
9       inform the parent or guardian of an exceptional child of the right to  
10      review the child's educational record, to review evaluation tests and  
11      procedures, to refuse to permit evaluation or a change in the child's  
12      educational placement, to be informed of the results of evaluation, to  
13      obtain an independent evaluation, to request an impartial hearing, and  
14      to give consent or deny access to others to the child's educational  
15      record.

16          Sec. 14.30.274. IDENTIFICATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN. Each  
17      school district shall establish and implement written procedures to  
18      ensure that all exceptional children under the age of 22 who reside in  
19      the district are identified and located for the purpose of estab-  
20      lishing their need for special education and related services.

21          Sec. 14.30.276. LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT. Each school  
22      district shall ensure that to the maximum extent appropriate, excep-  
23      tional children, including children in public or private institutions  
24      or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not  
25      exceptional and that special classes, separate schooling or other  
26      removal of exceptional children from the regular educational environ-  
27      ment occurs only when the nature or severity of the child's exception-  
28      ality is such that education in regular classes with the use of sup-  
29      plementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Sec. 14.30.278. INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM. (a) The individualized education program for each exceptional child shall include

- (1) a statement of the child's present levels of educational performance;
- (2) a statement of annual goals, including short term instructional objectives;
- (3) a statement of the specific special education and related services to be provided to the child, and the extent to which the child will be able to participate in regular educational programs;
- (4) the projected dates for initiation of services and the anticipated duration of the services;
- (5) appropriate objective criteria and evaluation procedures and schedules for determining, on at least an annual basis, whether the short term instructional objectives are being achieved.

(b) Each meeting concerning an exceptional child shall include

- (1) a representative of the school district, other than the child's teacher, who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of special education;
- (2) the child's teacher;
- (3) at least one of the child's parents or guardians;
- (4) the child, when appropriate;
- (5) other individuals selected by the parent, guardian, or school district.

\* Sec. 11. AS 14.30.285(b) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(b) An identified exceptional child may be sent to an educational program or residential school outside the child's school district if the child resides in a school district where an appropriate educational program cannot reasonably be made available and if the

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1 department determines that provision of special education and related  
2 services in another educational program or residential school is  
3 appropriate. If the school district and the department approve the  
4 enrollment of the exceptional child in another educational program or  
5 residential school outside the child's school district and the child  
6 is enrolled, the child's education expenses shall be paid as follows:

7 (1) the sending school district shall pay the receiving  
8 district, program, or school an amount of money equal to the sending  
9 district's local cost-per-pupil rate;

10 (2) the department shall pay the remainder of the annual  
11 cost of the child's education above that provided for in (1) of this  
12 subsection.

13 \* Sec. 12. AS 14.30.285(d) is amended to read:

14 (d) For the purposes of this section a child's education expenses  
15 are limited to the actual cost of necessary care, transportation,  
16 and special education and related services [INSTRUCTION], including  
17 room and board [ , WHILE ATTENDING THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION].

18 \* Sec. 13. AS 14.30.285 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 (g) The withholding of consent by a parent or guardian or  
20 departmental approval for the transfer of an exceptional child under  
21 this section does not relieve a school district of the obligation to  
22 provide special education and related services to an exceptional child  
23 under AS 14.30.186.

24 \* Sec. 14. AS 14.30.305 is amended to read:

25 Sec. 14.30.305. STATE SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN HOS-  
26 TALIZED OR CONFINED TO THEIR HOMES. [SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES  
27 FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN WHO ARE HOSPITALIZED OR CONFINED TO THEIR  
28 HOMES MAY BE PROVIDED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT.] A child who is hos-  
29 talized or confined to home and who receives at least 10 hours

1 special education and related services [INSTRUCTION] per week may be  
2 counted as a pupil in average daily membership when computing state  
3 support under the public school foundation program.

4 \* Sec. 15. AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 Sec. 14.30.315. STATE SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED CHILDREN.

6 (a) To be eligible for state support under the public school founda-  
7 tion program, special education and related services for gifted chil-  
8 dren must be provided in a program which has been approved in advance  
9 by the department.

10 (b) Nothing in this section prohibits the department from re-  
11 quiring approval of programs of special education and related services  
12 for other categories of exceptional children.

13 Sec. 14.30.325. SURROGATE PARENTS. (a) The department may by  
14 regulation provide for the appointment of surrogate parents to repre-  
15 sent exceptional children in matters relating to the provision of an  
16 appropriate public education.

17 (b) A surrogate parent is not liable for civil damages as a re-  
18 sult of an act or omission committed in the surrogate parent's offi-  
19 cial capacity, except that a surrogate parent may be liable for civil  
20 damages as a result of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

1 \* Sec. 16. AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

2 Sec. 14.30.335. ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDS. Notwithstanding  
3 any other provision of AS 14.30.180 - 14.30.350, the department may do  
4 all things necessary to qualify for federal funds that are available  
5 to the state for the education of exceptional children.

6 \* Sec. 17. AS 14.30.347 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 14.30.347. TRANSPORTATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN. When  
8 transportation is required to be provided as related [PART OF SPECIAL]  
9 services, exceptional children shall be carried with other children,

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1 except when the nature of their physical or mental handicaps is such  
2 that it is in the best interest of the exceptional children, as de-  
3 termined by the school district, that they be transported separately  
4 State reimbursement for transportation of exceptional children shall  
5 be as provided for transportation of all other pupils except that eli-  
6 gibility for reimbursement shall not be subject to restriction base  
7 on the minimum distance between the school and the residence of th  
8 exceptional child.

9 \* Sec. 18. AS 14.30.350 is repealed and reenacted to read:

10 Sec. 14.30.350. DEFINITIONS. In AS 14.30.180 - 14.30.350,

11 (1) "appropriate education" means personalized instructio  
12 with sufficient support services to permit a child to benefit educa  
13 tionally from the instruction;

14 (2) "consent" is only obtained if the parent or guardi  
15 has been fully informed of all information relevant to the object  
16 the consent;

17 (3) "department" means the Department of Education;

18 (4) "exceptional children" means children who differ marke  
19 ly from their peers to the degree that special facilities, equipmen  
20 or methods are required to make their educational program effectiv  
21 these children may be identified in the following categories:

22 (A) "deaf" children exhibit a hearing impairme  
23 that hinders the children's ability to process linguistic info  
24 mation through hearing, with or without amplification, and th  
25 adversely affects educational performance;

26 (B) "deaf-blind" children exhibit concomitant he  
27 ing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes s  
28 severe communication and other developmental and educatio  
29 problems that they cannot be accommodated in a special educat

1 program solely for deaf or blind children;

2 (C) "gifted" children exhibit outstanding intellect,  
3 ability, or creative talent as determined in accordance with reg-  
4 ulations of the department;

5 (D) "hard-of-hearing" children exhibit a hearing im-  
6 pairment, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely af-  
7 fects educational performance but that is not within the meaning  
8 of (A) of this paragraph;

9 (E) "learning disabled" children exhibit a disorder  
10 in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in  
11 understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may  
12 manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak,  
13 read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations; the term in-  
14 cludes such conditions as perceptual handicaps, brain injury,  
15 minimal brain disfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia;  
16 this category does not include children who have learning prob-  
17 lems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor  
18 handicaps, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of  
19 environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage;

20 (F) "mentally retarded" children score two or more  
21 standard deviations below the national norm on an individual  
22 standardized test of intelligence and exhibit deficits in adap-  
23 tive behavior manifested during the developmental period, that  
24 adversely affect the children's educational performance;

25 (G) "multihandicapped" children exhibit two or more  
26 of the conditions described in (A), (B), (D) - (F) and (H) - (L)  
27 of this paragraph, the combination of which causes such severe  
28 educational problems that they cannot be accommodated in a spe-  
29 cial education program for any one of the conditions;

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1 (H) "orthopedically impaired" children exhibit a se-  
2 vere orthopedic impairment, including impairments caused by con-  
3 genital anomaly, disease, or other causes, that adversely affects  
4 educational performance;

5 (I) "other health-impaired" children exhibit an au-  
6 tistic condition that is manifested by severe communication and  
7 other developmental and educational problems or exhibit limited  
8 strength, vitality, or alertness due to chronic or acute health  
9 problems such as heart condition, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever  
10 nephritis, asthma, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, epilepsy, lead  
11 poisoning, leukemia, or diabetes, that adversely affects educa-  
12 tional performance;

13 (J) "seriously emotionally disturbed" children ex-  
14 hibit one or more of the following characteristics over a lon-  
15 ger period of time and to a marked degree, that adversely affect  
16 educational performance: (i) an inability to learn that cannot  
17 be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors; (ii) an  
18 inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal rela-  
19 tionships with peers and teachers; (iii) inappropriate types of  
20 behavior or feelings under normal circumstances; (iv) a general-  
21 ly pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; or (v) a tendency  
22 to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal  
23 or school problems; the term includes children who are schizophrenic  
24 but does not include children who are only socially maladjusted

25 (K) "speech-impaired" children exhibit a communica-  
26 tion disorder, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a lan-  
27 guage impairment, or a voice impairment, that adversely affects  
28 educational performance;

29 (L) "visually handicapped" children exhibit a visu-

impairment that, even with correction, adversely affects educational performance;

(5) "related services" means transportation and developmental, corrective, and other supportive services required to assist a handicapped or gifted child to benefit from special education and includes but is not limited to speech pathology and audiology, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, counseling services, and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes; the term also includes school health services, school social work services, and parent counseling and training;

(6) "special education" means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parent, to meet the unique needs of a handicapped child, including classroom instruction, instruction in physical education, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and institutions; the term includes speech pathology, or any other related service, if the service consists of specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a handicapped child, and is considered special education rather than a related service under state standards; the term also includes vocational education if it consists of specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a handicapped child; in this paragraph

(A) "at no cost" means that all specially designed instruction is provided without charge but does not preclude incidental fees that are normally charged to nonhandicapped students or their parents as a part of the regular education program;

(B) "physical education" means the development of physical and motor fitness, fundamental motor skills and

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1 patterns, skills in aquatics, dance, and individual and group  
2 games, and sports (including intramural and lifetime sports); the  
3 term includes special physical education, adapted physical  
4 education, movement education, and motor development;

5 (C) "vocational education" means organized educational  
6 programs that are directly related to the preparation of indi-  
7 viduals for paid or unpaid employment, or for additional prepara-  
8 tion for a career requiring other than a baccalaureate or ad-  
9 vanced degree;

10 (7) "school district" means a borough school district, a  
11 city school district, or a regional educational attendance area.

12 \* Sec. 19. AS 14.30.186(c) and (d), 14.30.260, 14.30.280, 14.30.285(c),  
13 and 14.30.330 are repealed.

14 \* Sec. 20. This Act takes effect July 1, 1984.