

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1992

Source
CSHCR 23(2d HES) am

Legislative
Resolve No.
81



Relating to amending the formula for providing state aid for education.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the state Board of Education under the Alaska 2000 program has appointed a school finance committee that includes representatives of the legislature, school districts, and the public for the purpose of reviewing the public school foundation formula; and

WHEREAS the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires that a system of public schools be maintained; and

WHEREAS the average length of the school year in the state and in the United States is shorter than the school year established in all of the other industrialized nations of the world; and

WHEREAS the existing formula for providing state aid for public education does not provide incentives to encourage school districts to lengthen the school year or to hold summer school sessions; and

WHEREAS the foundation formula must be reviewed periodically to ensure the fairness of the formula; and

WHEREAS alteration of the public school foundation formula to provide additional state aid to those school districts that want to provide a longer school year or hold a summer session is a complex matter that requires careful study; and

WHEREAS a combined effort of the Department of Education, school districts, and the legislature is required in order to develop the necessary amendment to the public school foundation formula;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the efforts of the Alaska 2000 program to examine the existing formula for distributing state aid for education and to recommend revisions to the existing formula regarding its fairness and equity; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the commissioner of education to consider revisions to the public school foundation formula during the Alaska 2000 committee meetings that would provide additional state aid to a district that wants to provide a longer school year or hold a summer session; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that additional state aid should be based on an application to the Department of Education itemizing specific results to be achieved through the longer school year or a summer session; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the preliminary findings and recommendations of the Alaska 2000 Finance Committee be forwarded to each member of the legislature by October 15, 1992, for review and comment and that final recommendations be forwarded to each member of the legislature by January 9, 1993, for review and comment before adoption by the state Board of Education.