

HOUSE BILL NO. 392

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/18/24

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to education; relating to funding for Internet services for school
2 districts; relating to charter schools; relating to transportation of public school students;
3 relating to correspondence study funding; relating to the base student allocation;
4 relating to funding for reading improvement plans; relating to teacher retention and
5 recruitment incentives; and providing for an effective date."

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

7 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03.127(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) Each fiscal year, a district in which one or more schools qualify for a
9 discounted rate for Internet services under the federal universal services program is
10 eligible to receive an amount for each school that is equal to the amount needed to
11 bring the applicant's share to 100 [25] megabits of download a second of the Internet
12 services.

13 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 14.03.256. Charter school termination appeal. If a local school board terminates a contract with a charter school, the charter school may appeal the decision to the commissioner under regulations established by the commissioner. The commissioner may request written supplementation from the appellant or local school board. The commissioner shall review the decision of the local school board to determine whether the findings of fact are supported by substantial evidence and whether the decision is contrary to law. The commissioner shall issue a written decision within 90 days after the appeal is filed and may

(1) remand the appeal to the local school board for further review;

(2) reapprove the charter school with or without added conditions; or

(3) uphold the decision terminating the charter school contract.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 14.03.277. Charter school coordinator. A position dedicated to charter school support is established in the department. This position is responsible for the development of a repository of charter school resources in the department. The charter school coordinator shall provide support to charter schools, including

(1) providing charter schools with policy and regulation expertise and guidance;

(2) providing groups assistance preparing charter school applications;

(3) coordinating with school districts and the Association of Alaska School Boards to support charter school academic policy committees and local school boards; and

(4) coordinating with and providing expertise to legal services provided by the state.

* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.09.010(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(a) A school district that provides student transportation services for the transportation of students who reside a distance from established schools is eligible to receive funding for operating or subcontracting the operation of the transportation system for students to and from the schools within the student's transportation service area. Subject to appropriation, the amount of funding provided by the state for operating the student transportation system is the amount of a school district's ADM,

less the ADM for the district's correspondence programs during the current fiscal year, multiplied by the per student amount for the school district as follows, for the school years beginning July 1, 2024:

DISTRICT	PER STUDENT AMOUNT
Alaska Gateway	\$2,536
Aleutians East	378
Anchorage	531
Annette Island	222
Bering Strait	60
Bristol Bay	3,257
Chatham	342
Copper River	1,934
Cordova	409
Craig	515
Delta/Greely	2,019
Denali	2,203
Dillingham	1,484
Fairbanks	995
Galena	310
Haines	763
Hoonah	364
Iditarod	258
Juneau	735
Kake	331
Kashunamiut	6
Kenai Peninsula	1,115
Ketchikan	886
Klawock	712
Kodiak Island	974
Kuspuk	797
Lake and Peninsula	468

1	Lower Kuskokwim	338
2	Lower Yukon	1
3	Matanuska-Susitna	1,109
4	Nenana	716
5	Nome	757
6	North Slope	1,365
7	Northwest Arctic	30
8	Pelican	88
9	Petersburg	457
10	Saint Mary's	235
11	Sitka	522
12	Skagway	44
13	Southeast Island	1,408
14	Southwest Region	728
15	Tanana	581
16	Unalaska	790
17	Valdez	897
18	Wrangell	854
19	Yakutat	907
20	Yukon Flats	322
21	Yukon/Koyukuk	365
22	Yupiit	2.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.17.430 is amended to read:

Sec. 14.17.430. State funding for correspondence study. Except as provided in AS 14.17.400(b), funding for the state centralized correspondence study program or a district correspondence program, including a district that offers a statewide correspondence study program, includes an allocation from the public education fund in an amount calculated by using [MULTIPLYING] the ADM of the correspondence program reported under AS 14.17.500(a) and 14.17.600(a) [BY 90 PERCENT].

* **Sec. 6.** AS 14.17.470 is amended to read:

Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation. The base student allocation is \$6,640

1 [\$5,960].

2 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

3 **Sec. 14.30.773. Support for reading improvement plans.** The state shall
4 provide to a school district, for each student in grades kindergarten through three who
5 is determined to have a reading deficiency based on the statewide screening or
6 assessment tool, \$500 to provide the support, intervention, and services the student
7 needs for the student's reading improvement plan, including teacher and
8 paraprofessional career development.

9 * **Sec. 8.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
10 read:

11 **LUMP SUM PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN TEACHERS.** (a) Subject to appropriation
12 for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, a certificated full-
13 time teacher is entitled to receive a lump sum payment as a retention and recruitment
14 incentive if the teacher was employed in a full-time classroom teaching position for the
15 entirety of the school term for the school year immediately preceding the date of payment and
16 the teacher has entered into a contract with a school district to teach for the entirety of the
17 following school term. The department shall pay the retention and recruitment incentive on or
18 within a reasonable period after July 1, 2024, July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026. The department
19 shall reduce the retention and recruitment incentive by the amount necessary to pay
20 mandatory employee and employer deductions, including a deduction required under
21 AS 14.25. Subject to the application and certification requirements in (e) of this section, the
22 department shall pay the retention and recruitment incentives through grants to school
23 districts as described in (b) - (e) of this section.

24 (b) The department shall pay \$5,000 for each eligible certificated full-time teacher
25 teaching in the following districts:

- 26 (1) Anchorage School District;
- 27 (2) Fairbanks North Star Borough School District;
- 28 (3) Juneau Borough School District;
- 29 (4) Kenai Peninsula Borough School District;
- 30 (5) Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District.

31 (c) The department shall pay \$10,000 for each eligible certificated full-time teacher

1 teaching in the following districts:

- 2 (1) Alaska Gateway School District;
- 3 (2) Aleutian Region School District;
- 4 (3) Aleutians East Borough School District;
- 5 (4) Annette Island School District;
- 6 (5) Chugach School District;
- 7 (6) Copper River School District;
- 8 (7) Cordova City School District;
- 9 (8) Delta/Greely School District;
- 10 (9) Denali Borough School District;
- 11 (10) Galena City School District;
- 12 (11) Haines Borough School District;
- 13 (12) Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District;
- 14 (13) Kodiak Island Borough School District;
- 15 (14) Mt. Edgecumbe High School;
- 16 (15) Nenana City School District;
- 17 (16) Nome Public Schools;
- 18 (17) Petersburg Borough School District;
- 19 (18) Saint Mary's School District;
- 20 (19) Sitka School District;
- 21 (20) Skagway School District;
- 22 (21) Unalaska City School District;
- 23 (22) Valdez City School District;
- 24 (23) Wrangell Public School District;
- 25 (24) Yakutat School District.

26 (d) The department shall pay \$15,000 for each eligible certificated full-time teacher
27 teaching in the following districts:

- 28 (1) Bering Strait School District;
- 29 (2) Bristol Bay Borough School District;
- 30 (3) Chatham School District;
- 31 (4) Craig City School District;

- (5) Dillingham City School District;
- (6) Hoonah City School District;
- (7) Hydaburg City School District;
- (8) Iditarod Area School District;
- (9) Kake City School District;
- (10) Kashunamiut School District;
- (11) Klawock City School District;
- (12) Kuspuk School District;
- (13) Lake and Peninsula Borough School District;
- (14) Lower Kuskokwim School District;
- (15) Lower Yukon School District;
- (16) North Slope Borough School District;
- (17) Northwest Arctic Borough School District;
- (18) Pelican City School District;
- (19) Pribilof School District;
- (20) Southeast Island School District;
- (21) Southwest Region School District;
- (22) Tanana City School District;
- (23) Yukon Flats School District;
- (24) Yukon-Koyukuk School District;
- (25) Yupiit School District.

(e) To be eligible for the retention and recruitment incentive described in (a) of this section, a certificated full-time teacher must apply during each eligible calendar year to the department on a date not later than the final day in session for the school term established by the governing body of the teacher's school district or regional educational attendance area. Application for payment shall be made on a form designated by the commissioner of education and early development. For each teacher who applies, the school district or regional educational attendance area shall certify the teacher's eligibility for payment under (a) of this section to the department.

(f) Payment made under this section is considered compensation for the purposes of AS 14.25.

1 (g) The department may adopt regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this
2 section.

3 (h) In this section,

4 (1) "certificated full-time teacher"

5 (A) means an individual occupying a position that requires

6 (i) a teaching certificate as a condition of employment; and

7 (ii) teaching on a regular basis during the normal work period
8 for each day or week at a classroom teaching assignment in a public
9 elementary or secondary school;

10 (B) does not include an individual teaching as an assistant or graduate
11 assistant or teaching on a substitute, temporary, or per diem basis;

12 (2) "department" means the Department of Education and Early Development.

13 * **Sec. 9.** Section 1 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

14 * **Sec. 10.** Except as provided in sec. 9 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2024.