

HOUSE BILL NO. 391

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/14/24
Referred: Education

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to charter schools; and providing for an effective date."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 14.03.254. Board-authorized charter schools.** (a) The board may
5 authorize a charter school in a school district under regulations adopted by the board.
6 The regulations must include an application procedure and provisions for
7 establishment of an academic policy committee consisting of parents of students
8 attending the school, teachers, and school employees.

9 (b) The board shall contract with a local school board to operate a charter
10 school authorized by the board under (a) of this section. A local school board that
11 contracts with the board to operate a charter school under this subsection shall operate
12 the charter school as provided in AS 14.03.255 - 14.03.290.

13 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.165(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) The board shall adopt

15 (1) statewide goals and require each governing body to adopt written

goals that are consistent with local needs;

(2) regulations regarding the application for and award of grants under AS 14.03.125;

(3) regulations implementing provisions of AS 14.11.014(b);

(4) regulations requiring approval by the board before a charter school, state boarding school, or a public school may provide domiciliary services;

(5) regulations establishing standards for an early education program provided by a school district for children who are four and five years of age; the regulations must include

(A) standards for a locally designed, evidence-based program that meets Head Start Program Performance Standards and other federal standards required for early education programs to receive federal funding;

(B) a requirement that a teacher in charge of a program hold a valid teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20 and

(i) have satisfactorily completed a minimum of six credit hours in early childhood education or complete the minimum credit hours within two years of the date the teacher's employment with the early education program begins; or

(ii) have two or more years of experience teaching kindergarten or another early education program and have completed additional coursework related to reading instruction, as required by the department;

(C) developmentally appropriate objectives for children four and five years of age rather than academic standards appropriate for older children; the objectives must allow school districts to adapt the content of an early education program to be culturally responsive to local communities;

(D) accommodations for the needs of all early education children and their families regardless of socioeconomic circumstances; and

(E) standards for day in session requirements appropriate for children four and five years of age;

(6) regulations establishing standards for day in session requirements

1 appropriate for kindergarten students;

2 **(7) regulations regarding the authorization of charter schools**
3 **under AS 14.03.254.**

4 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The state Board of Education and Early
7 Development may adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act.
8 The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the
9 effective date of the law implemented by the regulation.

10 * **Sec. 4.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

11 * **Sec. 5.** Except as provided in sec. 4 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2024.