

HOUSE BILL NO. 400

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/26/24

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to correspondence study programs; relating to allotments for**
2 **correspondence study programs; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03.300 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

5 (c) A district that provides a correspondence study plan that enrolls an out-of-
6 district student shall include an assessment plan for each student of the same quality as
7 an assessment plan that the district offers in the district's other programs. The
8 assessment plan must

9 (1) be developed with the assistance and approval of the certificated
10 teacher assigned to the student by the district under (a) of this section;

11 (2) provide for monitoring of the student by the assigned certificated
12 teacher that includes monthly teacher-student or teacher-parent contact and quarterly
13 reviews of the student's work or progress in the individual learning plan; the district
14 shall keep a record of contact made under this paragraph;

(3) include, after review and consideration of any recommendations of the student and parents, the student's grades, or other determination that the course standards are met as determined and assigned by the certificated teacher; and

(4) include a transcript that denotes the origin of the curriculum and curriculum material for any course provided that was not selected by the school board of the district.

(d) Certificated staff of a correspondence study program may not share, offer, or distribute religious, partisan, sectarian, or denominational doctrine as part of the staff member's instructional or other duties.

(e) The department shall monitor correspondence study programs to ensure compliance with AS 14.03.300 and 14.03.310.

(f) The department or a district that provides a correspondence study program shall submit an annual report to the department that includes

(1) the number of students enrolled in the program;

(2) the demographic information of the students enrolled in the program;

(3) an accounting of student allotments disbursed under AS 14.03.310;

(4) assessment and proficiency scores of the students enrolled in the program; and

(5) administrative costs of the program.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.310(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in (e) of this section, the department or a district that provides a correspondence study program may provide an annual student allotment to a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the correspondence study program for the purpose of meeting instructional expenses for the student enrolled in the program as provided in this section. **A parent or guardian may use a student allotment only for the instructional needs of the student enrolled in the correspondence study program as determined in the student's individual learning plan under AS 14.03.300.**

* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.310(e) is amended to read:

(e) A student allotment provided under (a) of this section may not be used to

1 pay for

2 (1) services provided to a student by a family member; in [. IN] this
3 paragraph [SUBSECTION], "family member" means the student's spouse, guardian,

4 parent, stepparent, sibling, stepsibling, grandparent, stepgrandparent, child, uncle, or

5 aunt;

6 (2) services or materials provided by a private or religious
7 educational institution;

8 (3) family travel, including transportation, food, lodging, or
9 expenses during the family travel, or any travel out of state, unless the school
10 board or superintendent of the district approves the expenses incurred in the out-
11 of-state travel associated with direct instructional activities; in this paragraph,
12 "family travel" does not include travel in which a student is accompanied by the
13 student's family for assessments or other required activities initiated by the
14 district;

15 (4) annual passes or family memberships to a sports or
16 recreational facility; however, an annual pass or membership for a student may
17 be purchased for entry into a sports or recreational facility in which the student
18 is provided lessons under the student's individual learning plan if the cost of the
19 pass or membership is prorated to include only the cost of the student's
20 instructional time;

21 (5) fees that allow entrance to a facility in which no instruction
22 directly connected to a student's individual learning plan is given;

23 (6) religious, partisan, sectarian, or denominational textbooks or
24 other curriculum materials;

25 (7) clothing, uniforms, physical education equipment, or personal
26 items;

27 (8) pets and other animals;

28 (9) furniture;

29 (10) taxes, testing other than educational assessments required by
30 the district, or parking fees;

31 (11) entertainment;

1 (12) permanent items that adhere to or enhance the value of a
 2 nonschool facility; or

3 (13) items that exceed the needs of the student's individual
 4 learning plan under AS 14.03.300 as determined by the chief school
 5 administrator.

6 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03.310 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

7 (f) A statewide correspondence study program or a parent or guardian may use
 8 a student allotment provided under (a) of this section to contract with a private
 9 individual to provide tutoring if it is part of the student's individual learning plan under
 10 AS 14.03.300. A certificated teacher who is employed by the correspondence study
 11 program and who is highly qualified to teach the subject or grade level has the primary
 12 responsibility to plan, instruct, and evaluate the student's learning of the subject.
 13 Tutoring paid for under this section may not be provided by a private or religious
 14 educational institution.

15 (g) Textbooks and other curriculum materials purchased with allotment funds
 16 are property of the district. A parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the program
 17 shall return materials that are not consumables to the district when the student exits the
 18 program for any reason.

19 (h) The department or a district that provides a student allotment shall

20 (1) annually return the unexpended balance of a student allotment to
 21 the budget of the department or district of the student;

22 (2) immediately return the unexpended balance of a student allotment
 23 provided to a student to the budget of the department or district when the student is no
 24 longer enrolled in the correspondence study program.

25 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.07.168 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature.** Not later than the 30th legislative
 27 day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present in
 28 person to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual
 29 report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously
 30 improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the
 31 bylaws of the board. The report must include

(1) a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of policy decisions made under AS 14.03.015;

(2) program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or recommended in meetings held under AS 14.07.125;

(3) additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and maintain the public education system;

(4) a summary of implementation and utilization of the consortium established under AS 14.30.800, including a review of consortium effectiveness and the participation rates of districts, teachers, and students;

(5) the information reported to the department under AS 14.03.300(f).

* **Sec. 6.** AS 14.07.168, as amended by sec. 23, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature. Not later than the 30th legislative day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present in person to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the bylaws of the board. The report must include

(1) a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of policy decisions made under AS 14.03.015;

(2) program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or recommended in meetings held under AS 14.07.125;

(3) additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and maintain the public education system;

(4) the information reported to the department under AS 14.03.300(f).

* **Sec. 7.** AS 14.03.300(b) and 14.03.310(b) are repealed.

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

APPLICABILITY: ALLOTMENT FUNDS. AS 14.03.310(h), enacted by sec. 4 of this Act, applies to student allotments disbursed under AS 14.03.310(a) on or after the

1 effective date of sec. 4 of this Act.

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

4 TRANSITION: ALLOTMENT FUNDS. Student allotments disbursed under
5 AS 14.03.310(a) before the effective date of sec. 4 of this Act must be spent not later than
6 June 30, 2030. On or immediately after July 1, 2030, the Department of Education and Early
7 Development or a district that provided a student allotment before the effective date of sec. 4
8 of this Act shall return an outstanding balance to the budget of the department or district of
9 the student.

10 * **Sec. 10.** Section 6 of this Act takes effect on the effective date of sec. 23, ch. 40, SLA
11 2022.