

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 392(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/10/24

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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

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

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

12 (b) Before the board authorizes a charter school under this section, a local
13 school board shall review the application for the charter school. Within 60 days after
14 receiving the complete application for review, the local school board shall issue a

1 written decision to the board recommending either approval or denial of the
 2 application. The written decision must include all relevant findings of fact and
 3 conclusions of law.

4 (c) The board shall contract with a local school board to operate a charter
 5 school authorized by the board under (a) of this section. A local school board that
 6 contracts with the board to operate a charter school under this subsection shall operate
 7 the charter school as provided in AS 14.03.255 - 14.03.290.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (2) providing groups assistance preparing charter school applications;

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

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

1 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.07.165(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) The board shall adopt

3 (1) statewide goals and require each governing body to adopt written
4 goals that are consistent with local needs;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (D) accommodations for the needs of all early education
31 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 appropriate for kindergarten students;

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

* **Sec. 5.** 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

1	Galena	310
2	Haines	763
3	Hoonah	364
4	Iditarod	258
5	Juneau	735
6	Kake	331
7	Kashunamiut	6
8	Kenai Peninsula	1,115
9	Ketchikan	886
10	Klawock	712
11	Kodiak Island	974
12	Kuspuk	797
13	Lake and Peninsula	468
14	Lower Kuskokwim	338
15	Lower Yukon	1
16	Matanuska-Susitna	1,109
17	Nenana	716
18	Nome	757
19	North Slope	1,365
20	Northwest Arctic	30
21	Pelican	88
22	Petersburg	457
23	Saint Mary's	235
24	Sitka	522
25	Skagway	44
26	Southeast Island	1,408
27	Southwest Region	728
28	Tanana	581
29	Unalaska	790
30	Valdez	897
31	Wrangell	854

1	Yakutat	907
2	Yukon Flats	322
3	Yukon/Koyukuk	365
4	Yupiit	2.

5 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.17.430 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 14.17.430. State funding for correspondence study.** Except as provided
7 in AS 14.17.400(b), funding for the state centralized correspondence study program or
8 a district correspondence program, including a district that offers a statewide
9 correspondence study program, includes an allocation from the public education fund
10 in an amount calculated by multiplying the ADM of the correspondence program by
11 **the special needs funding factor as provided in AS 14.17.420(a)(1)** [90 PERCENT].

12 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.17.470 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is **\$6,640**
14 [\$5,960].

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

16 **Sec. 14.30.773. Support for reading improvement plans.** Subject to
17 appropriation and in addition to the state aid received under AS 14.17, the state shall
18 provide to a school district, for each student in grades kindergarten through three,
19 \$180 to provide the support, intervention, and services the student needs to reach
20 reading proficiency by the end of grade three. The state shall provide to a school
21 district an additional \$100 for each student in grades kindergarten through three at
22 each school in the school district that receives funds under 20 U.S.C. 6311 - 6339.

23 * **Sec. 9.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2024.