

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 52(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/15/23

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to education; requiring the Department of Education and Early**
2 **Development to provide information relating to public schools on an Internet website;**
3 **relating to information on the post-secondary education, career path, and residency of**
4 **graduates from high schools in the state; increasing the base student allocation; and**
5 **providing for an effective date."**

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

7 *** Section 1.** AS 14.03.120 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

8 (k) The department shall establish and maintain a user-friendly Internet
9 website that allows a member of the public to view and download information
10 described in this subsection and to make recommendations relating to improving
11 public education in the state. The information on the Internet website must be
12 presented in a fashion that is easily understood. To the extent practicable, and without
13 disclosing information that is confidential under state or federal law, the department

1 shall make the following information available on the Internet website:

- 2 (1) reports required under this section and AS 14.03.078;
 3 (2) copies of audits made under AS 14.14.050; and
 4 (3) a description of how each district is addressing the needs of
 5 students who receive special education services.

6 (l) A district may provide on the district's Internet website a link to the
 7 Internet website described in (k) of this section.

8 (m) The department shall collaborate with the Department of Labor and
 9 Workforce Development under AS 44.31.020 to gather data on the progress of each
 10 high school graduating class in a district by collecting career, postsecondary
 11 education, and residency data on each student in the graduating class. The departments
 12 shall gather the data every five years for 20 years after the high school graduation date
 13 of the class.

14 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.020(a), as amended by sec. 15, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

15 (a) The department shall

16 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
 17 except the University of Alaska;

18 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
 19 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
 20 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement
 21 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
 22 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
 23 preparatory courses;

24 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
 25 governing bodies and personnel;

26 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public
 27 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is
 28 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

29 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Family and
 30 Community Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held
 31 in juvenile detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are

1 defined in AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

2 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards
3 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
4 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
5 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
6 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
7 the members of each house;

8 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
9 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe
10 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of
11 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for
12 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

13 (8) exercise general supervision over early education programs that
14 receive direct state or federal funding, including early education programs provided by
15 a school district for students four and five years of age, approve an early education
16 program provided by a school district that complies with the standards adopted by the
17 board under AS 14.07.165(a)(5), and revoke approval of an early education program if
18 the program does not comply with the standards adopted by the board under
19 AS 14.07.165(a)(5);

20 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary
21 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional
22 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any
23 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

24 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
25 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
26 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
27 licensed;

28 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
29 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
30 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
31 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school

1 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
2 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
3 and costs, and final contract documents;

4 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
5 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
6 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor
7 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that
8 will lead to employment opportunities;

9 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

10 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a
11 school bus driver training course;

12 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
13 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
14 behavior;

15 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,
16 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional
17 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

18 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies
19 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

20 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in
21 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three
22 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent
23 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language
24 arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

25 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for
26 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

27 (17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over
28 education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or
29 redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

30 (18) establish a reading program to provide direct support for and
31 intervention in the reading intervention programs of participating schools as described

1 in AS 14.30.765 and 14.30.770;

2 (19) annually convene, either in person or electronically, a panel to
3 review and comment on the effectiveness of the programs created by the department
4 and the regulations adopted by the board to implement AS 14.03.410, 14.03.420,
5 AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.770, and 14.30.800; the panel

6 (A) shall provide recommendations and guidance to the board,
7 the department, and the legislature on how to integrate early education and
8 reading programs created under this title with tribal compacting or programs
9 focused on cultural education within the department;

10 (B) shall discuss support for reading in Alaska Native
11 languages and other non-English languages;

12 (C) must collectively represent the regions of the state and
13 include teachers of grades kindergarten through three, school administrators,
14 parents of students in grades kindergarten through three, stakeholders from
15 indigenous language immersion programs, representatives from early
16 education stakeholder groups, and researchers of best practices for improving
17 literacy performance, including best practices for instruction of indigenous
18 students and students whose first language is not English;

19 **(20) collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce**
20 **Development to gather data on the progress of each high school graduating class**
21 **as required under AS 14.03.120(m).**

22 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.07.020(a), as amended by sec. 16, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

23 (a) The department shall

24 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
25 except the University of Alaska;

26 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
27 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
28 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement
29 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
30 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
31 preparatory courses;

1 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
2 governing bodies and personnel;

3 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public
4 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is
5 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

6 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Family and
7 Community Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held
8 in juvenile detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are
9 defined in AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

10 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards
11 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
12 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
13 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
14 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
15 the members of each house;

16 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
17 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe
18 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of
19 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for
20 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

21 (8) exercise general supervision over early education programs that
22 receive direct state or federal funding, including early education programs provided by
23 a school district for students four and five years of age;

24 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary
25 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional
26 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any
27 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

28 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
29 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
30 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
31 licensed;

1 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
2 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
3 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
4 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
5 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
6 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
7 and costs, and final contract documents;

8 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
9 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
10 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor
11 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that
12 will lead to employment opportunities;

13 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

14 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a
15 school bus driver training course;

16 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
17 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
18 behavior;

19 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,
20 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional
21 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

22 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies
23 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

24 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in
25 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three
26 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent
27 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language
28 arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

29 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for
30 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

31 (17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over

1 education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or
 2 redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

3 **(18) collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce**
 4 **Development to gather data on the progress of each high school graduating class**
 5 **as required under AS 14.03.120(m).**

6 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.17.470, as amended by sec. 26, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is **\$6,960**
 8 **[\$5,960]**.

9 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.17.470, as amended by sec. 4 of this Act, is amended to read:

10 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is **\$7,308**
 11 **[\$6,960]**.

12 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.17.470 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 (b) On July 1, 2025, the department shall increase the base student allocation
 14 by a percentage equal to the average percentage of increase over the preceding four
 15 calendar years in all items of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for
 16 urban Alaska prepared by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
 17 Statistics.

18 * **Sec. 7.** AS 44.31.020 is amended to read:

19 **Sec. 44.31.020. Duties of department.** The Department of Labor and
 20 Workforce Development shall

21 (1) enforce the laws and adopt regulations under them concerning
 22 employer-employee relationships, including the safety, hours of work, wages, and
 23 conditions of workers, including children;

24 (2) accumulate, analyze, and report labor statistics;

25 (3) operate systems of workers' compensation and unemployment
 26 insurance;

27 (4) gather data reflecting the cost of living in various locations of the
 28 state upon request of the director of personnel under AS 39.27.030;

29 (5) operate the federally funded employment and training programs
 30 under 29 U.S.C. 2801 - 2945 (Workforce Investment Act of 1998);

31 (6) administer the state's program of adult basic education and adopt

1 regulations to administer the program; and

2 (7) administer the programs of the Alaska Vocational Technical Center
3 and adopt regulations to administer the programs, including regulations that set rates
4 for student tuition and room and board and fees for the programs and services
5 provided by the department regarding the Alaska Vocational Technical Center;

6 **(8) gather data on the progress of each high school graduating**
7 **class in a district by collecting career, postsecondary education, and residency**
8 **data on each student in the graduating class; the department shall gather the**
9 **data required under this paragraph every five years for 20 years after the high**
10 **school graduation date of each high school graduating class; the department shall**
11 **publish a biennial report on the data gathered under this paragraph; in this**
12 **paragraph, "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990.**

13 * **Sec. 8.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect on the effective date of sec. 16, ch. 40, SLA
14 2022.

15 * **Sec. 9.** Sections 2 and 4 of this Act take effect on the effective date of secs. 15 and 26, ch.
16 40, SLA 2022.

17 * **Sec. 10.** AS 14.03.120(k) and (l), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, and sec. 5 of this Act take
18 effect July 1, 2024.

19 * **Sec. 11.** AS 14.03.120(m), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, and secs. 6 and 7 of this Act take
20 effect July 1, 2025.