

2021 Bills – 32nd Alaska State Legislature
Summary of K-12 Education Related Legislation:

Bill Number	Short Title	Prime Sponsor	Summary Title	Status	Impact to DEED/School Districts <i>*based on an initial review by DEED</i>
HB 9	INCOME TAX; PFD PAYMENT/CREDIT	HANNAN	An Act relating to the taxation of income of individuals, partners, shareholders in S corporations, trusts, and estates; relating to a payment against the individual income tax from the permanent fund dividend disbursement; repealing tax credits applied against the tax on individuals under the Alaska Net Income Tax Act; and providing for an effective date.	(H) STA Then L&C, FIN 02/18/2021	This bill is primarily dealing with tax laws and only has two references to public education. The first reference is in the short title, under section 1, stating, "This Act may be known as the Education Funding Act." And the other reference is on page 22, section 4, (e) stating the legislature may appropriate funds under this subsection into the public education fund; however, nothing in this subsection creates a dedicated fund.
HB 15	TEMP PERMITS & LICENSES; MILITARY LICENSE	THOMPSON	An Act relating to occupational licensing; relating to temporary licenses and permits; relating to certification of teachers; and providing for an effective date.	(H) L&C Then EDC 02/18/2021	Requires DEED to issue a preliminary teacher's certificate to an activity duty member or a spouse who meets the requirements under AS 14.20.015.
HB 18	TEACHERS: NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION	KREISS-TOMKINS	An Act relating to national board certification for public school teachers.	(H) EDC 03/10/2021	Requires public schools to display the name of each teacher at that school who has achieved national board certification and sets a goal of the Legislature that by the year 2025 at least four percent of public school teachers in the state will have achieved national board certification.
HB 19	LIMITED TEACHER CERTIFICATES; LANGUAGES	KREISS-TOMKINS	An Act relating to instruction in a language other than English; and	(H) EDC Then L&C 02/18/2021	Allows DEED to issue limited language immersion teacher certificates, valid only in the area of expertise for which

			establishing limited language immersion teacher certificates.		it is issued, to teach students enrolled in a language immersion program.
HB 24	SCHOOL EMPLOYEE BREAKS: NURSING MOTHERS	HOPKINS	An Act requiring certain school districts to give teachers who are nursing mothers reasonable breaks and a location to express breast milk.	(H) EDC Then L&C 02/18/2021	Requires school districts to give nursing mothers reasonable break times and a location to express milk for one year after giving birth.
HB 25	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING	HOPKINS	An Act relating to the duties of the state Board of Education and Early Development; relating to statewide standards for instruction in social-emotional learning; and providing for an effective date.	(H) EDC Then STA 02/18/2021	Requires DEED to adopt statewide standards for instruction in social-emotional learning.
HB 43	EXTEND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY	STORY	An Act extending the termination date of the special education service agency; and providing for an effective date.	(H) EDC Then FIN 02/19/2021	Extends the sunset date of the Special Education Service Agency to June 30, 2029. Companion bill to SB 19.
HB 48	AK PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP; ELIGIBILITY	STORY	An Act relating to eligibility for the Alaska performance scholarship program.	(H) EDC Then FIN 02/18/2021	Allows APS scholarships to be awarded to applicants who have completed a core academic curriculum that includes career and technical education.
HB 49	APPROP: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS	STORY	An Act making special appropriations from the general fund for early literacy programs in public schools; and providing for an effective date.	(H) EDC Then FIN 02/18/2021	Appropriates \$20,225,000 from the general fund for early literacy programs, to be distributed to school districts based on adjusted average daily membership. The money would be distributed over two fiscal years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million in FY22 • \$10,225,000 in FY23 Requires school districts to report how they used the money to DEED by

					January 15, 2022. DEED would then be required to report that information to the Legislature by January 31, 2022.
HB 53	MILITARY CHILDREN SCHOOL RESIDENCY WAIVER	MCCARTY	An Act relating to residency requirements for public school enrollment for certain children of active duty military and National Guard members.	(H) EDC 03/10/2021	Requires school districts to consider students to be a resident of the district and admit the student to a public school in the district if a parent or guardian of the student is serving as an active duty member of the armed forces or a member of the National Guard and is transferred or pending transfer to a military installation in the state.
HB 57	FUNDS SUBJECT TO CBR SWEEP PROVISION	JOSEPHSON	An Act relating to the budget reserve fund established under art. IX, sec. 17(d), Constitution of the State of Alaska; relating to money available for appropriation for purposes of applying art. IX, sec. 17, Constitution of the State of Alaska; and providing for an effective date.	(H) JUD Then FIN 02/18/2021	Defines 'sweepable' and 'general' funds. Clarifies that school improvement performance, curriculum improvement, school construction, major maintenance, public education, memorial education, dividend raffle, and school trust land sale funds are not subject to the sweep.
HB 60	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	CLAMAN	An Act relating to mental health education.	(H) EDC Then FIN 02/18/2021	Directs DEED to develop statewide standards for mental health and encourages school districts to include mental health in their health education program. Companion bill to SB 80.
HB 67	APPROP: K-12 ACAD. RECOVERY FROM COVID-19	STORY	An Act making a special appropriation from the general fund for K-12 public schools to support student recovery from academic losses as a result of	(H) EDC Then FIN 02/18/2021	Appropriates \$20,000,000 from the general fund for COVID-19 relief, to be distributed to school districts based on adjusted average daily membership by June 30, 2022. Requires school districts to report how they used the

			COVID-19; and providing for an effective date.		money to DEED and the Legislature by January 31, 2022.
HB 78	FUNDING FOR CORRESPONDENCE PROGRAMS	GOVERNOR	An Act relating to funding for correspondence programs; and providing for an effective date.	(H) EDC Then FIN 02/18/2021	Addresses funding for correspondence programs operated by school districts (both district and statewide programs) by 1) moving the correspondence student average daily membership (ADM) from the end of the Foundation Formula, when determining basic need, so correspondence students are eligible for the special education and career and technical education multipliers; and (2) changing the weight of a correspondence student ADM from 90 percent to the actual ADM, as submitted. Companion bill to SB 58.
HB 93	G.O. BONDS: STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS	GOVERNOR	An Act providing for and relating to the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose of paying the cost of state infrastructure projects, including construction, communications, major maintenance, public safety, and transportation projects; and providing for an effective date.	(H) FIN 02/18/2021	Relates to voter approval of general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding capital improvement projects. Includes \$9M for Houston Middle School Replacement, \$25M for Major Maintenance Grant Fund for School Major Maintenance, and \$7.8M for Mt. Edgecumbe High School Repairs. Companion bill to SB 74.
HB 100	EXTEND WORKFORCE INVEST BOARD ALLOCATIONS	WOOL	An Act relating to allocations of funding for the Alaska Workforce Investment Board; and providing for an effective date.	(H) L&C Then FIN 02/18/2021	Extends the length of time to disperse Technical and Vocational Education Program funds appropriated for distribution to various institutions for adult and higher education from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2024. DEED distributes grant funding to the Galena City School District for the

HB 108	CONCURRENT SECONDARY & TRADE SCHOOL	MCCARTY	An Act relating to concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs for students enrolled in public secondary schools; relating to child labor; and providing for an effective date.	(H) EDC Then L&C, FIN 02/22/2021	Amends AS 14.35 by adding new Concurrent Vocational Education, Training, and On-the-Job Trade Experience Programs to provide public secondary school students over 14 years of age the opportunity to participate in concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience.
HB 114	EDUCATION & SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN PROGRAMS	GOVERNOR	An Act relating to the education loan program and Alaska supplemental education loan program; and providing for an effective date.	(H) EDC 02/24/2021	Provides ACPE with a number of authorities that will allow ACPE to better meet Alaskans' student loan needs, and thus is expected to increase the origination of loans funded by the ASLC. Companion bill to SB 94.
HB 120	STATE LAND SALES AND LEASES; RIVERS	GOVERNOR	An Act relating to state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Education and Early Development to dispose of state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to dispose of state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources over certain state land; relating to the state land disposal income fund; relating to the leasing and sale of state land for commercial development; repealing establishment of recreation rivers	(H) RES Then FIN 03/01/2021	Authorizes DEED to transfer real property to a broader group of entities. Currently, DEED is limited to transfer interests in land to federal agencies, state agencies, or to political subdivisions. Companion bill to SB 97.

			and recreation river corridors; and providing for an effective date.		
HB 129	ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT	FIELDS	An Act relating to the maximum annual awards for Alaska performance scholarships.	(H) EDC Then FIN 03/08/2021	Removes the set amounts for each level of the scholarship and changes the amount to a percentage of the average annual cost of resident tuition and fees at the University of Alaska: 100% for level one, 75% for level two, and 50% for level three.
HB 132	SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGS; TAX CREDITS	H L&C	An Act relating to technical education and apprenticeships; relating to concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the- job trade experience programs for students enrolled in public secondary schools; relating to child labor; and providing for an effective date.	(H) L&C Then EDC, FIN 03/10/2021	Amends AS 14.35 by adding new Concurrent Vocational Education, Training, and On-the-Job Trade Experience Programs to provide public secondary school students over 14 years of age the opportunity to participate in concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience.
SB 8	PRE-K/ELEM ED PROGRAMS/FUNDING; READING	BEGICH	An Act relating to early education programs provided by school districts; relating to school age eligibility; relating to funding for early education programs; establishing early education programs and a voluntary parent program; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to certification of teachers; establishing a reading intervention program for public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three;	(S) EDC Then FIN 01/22/2021	This year's iteration of the Alaska Reads Act (SB 6 in 2020). This bill creates three new programs: an early education program, a comprehensive reading intervention program, and a school improvement reading program.

			establishing a reading program in the Department of Education and Early Development; establishing a teacher retention working group; and providing for an effective date.		
SB 10	FREE/REDUCED TUITION FOR ESSENTIAL WORKER	BEGICH	An Act establishing a grant program to provide to essential workers the tuition and fees to attend a state-supported postsecondary educational institution.	(S) EDC Then FIN 02/10/2021	Requires ACPE to establish an essential worker grant program to cover the undergraduate tuition and fees of essential workers to attend a state-supported postsecondary institution. Total grant awards may not exceed \$10 million in a fiscal year and are subject to appropriation. ACPE must provide an annual report to the Legislature on the grant program.
SB 15	OPEN MEETINGS ACT; PENALTY	COSTELLO	An Act relating to the Open Meetings Act; and establishing a civil penalty for violations of the open meeting requirements by members of governmental bodies.	(S) JUD 03/10/2021	Establishes a civil penalty, not to exceed \$1,000, for a member of a governmental body who is an elected or appointed public official who knowingly attends a meeting of the governmental body on which they serve that violates existing statute outlining the requirements of a public governmental meeting under AS 44.62.310. State Board of Education meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act and would be impacted by this bill.
SB 16	EQUAL PAY/ LIVING WAGE ACT; SEX DISCRIM.	BEGICH	An Act relating to the authority and procedures of the State Commission for Human Rights; requiring an annual report concerning the payment of equal	(S) L&C Then JUD, FIN 01/22/2021	Increases minimum wage to \$15/hour. Impacts the Pupil Transportation program as AS 23.10.065(b) states that a school bus driver is to receive double the minimum wage.

			pay for comparable work; increasing the minimum wage; relating to and prohibiting wage discrimination based on the sex of an employee; and providing for an effective date.		
SB 18	CLASS SIZE REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM	BEGICH	An Act directing school districts to set maximum class sizes; and establishing a grant program to support class size reduction in public elementary schools.	(S) EDC Then FIN 01/22/2021	Directs school districts to adopt policies setting the maximum class size for each grade. Establishes a class size reduction grant program in DEED.
SB 19	EXTEND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY	STEVENS	An Act extending the special education service agency; and providing for an effective date.	(S) FIN 02/17/2021	Extends the sunset date of the Special Education Service Agency to June 30, 2029. Companion bill to HB 43.
SB 20	OUT OF STATE TEACHER RECIPROCITY	STEVENS	An Act relating to recognition of certificates of out-of-state teachers.	(S) EDC Then FIN 01/22/2021	Requires DEED to issue teacher certificates to people who hold a valid teacher certificate issued by another state, who have had a background check, and who have paid the required fee.
SB 32	COLLEGE CREDIT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS	STEVENS	An Act establishing the Alaska middle college program for public school students; and relating to the powers of the University of Alaska.	(S) EDC Then FIN 01/25/2021	Establishes the Alaska middle college program, allowing students to enroll in University of Alaska courses and earn dual credit. The bill requires the University to enter into agreements with school districts that have eligible students interested in participating in the program. Agreements must allow any eligible student to participate. Requires DEED submit an annual report to the Legislature to include information on the Alaska middle college program.

SB 34	STATE-TRIBAL EDUCATION COMPACT SCHOOLS	STEVENS	An Act providing for the establishment of public schools through state-tribal compacts.	(S) EDC Then JUD 01/25/2021	Allows the commissioner of DEED to enter into compacts with federally recognized tribes in the state for the establishment of state tribal education compact schools.
SB 42	VIRTUAL AND EARLY EDUCATION, READING	HUGHES	An Act relating to early education programs provided by school districts; relating to course credit for students; relating to annual reports regarding school district performance and school district employees; relating to school age eligibility; relating to funding for early education programs; establishing early education programs and a voluntary parent program; relating to the duties and powers of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to school operating fund reserves; relating to certification of teachers; relating to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission; relating to a virtual education consortium; establishing a reading intervention program for public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; establishing a reading program in the Department of Education and Early Development; establishing a teacher retention working group;	(S) EDC Then FIN 01/25/2021	Bill short title is the 'Alaska Reading and Virtual Education Act.' Establishes an early education program, a comprehensive reading intervention program, a school improvement reading program, and a virtual education consortium.

			and providing for an effective date.		
SB 58	FUNDING FOR CORRESPONDENCE PROGRAMS	GOVERNOR	An Act relating to funding for correspondence programs; and providing for an effective date.	(S) EDC Then FIN 01/29/2021	Addresses funding for correspondence programs operated by school districts (both district and statewide programs) by 1) moving the correspondence student average daily membership (ADM) from the end of the Foundation Formula, when determining basic need, so correspondence students are eligible for the special education and career and technical education multipliers; and (2) changing the weight of a correspondence student ADM from 90 percent to the actual ADM, as submitted. Companion bill to HB 78.
SB 71	COUNCIL ON ARTS: PLATES & MANAGE ART	STEVENS	An Act relating to special request registration plates celebrating the arts; relating to artwork in public buildings and facilities; relating to the management of artwork under the art in public places fund; relating to the powers and duties of the Alaska State Council on the Arts; and providing for an effective date.	(S) STA Then FIN 02/05/2021	Allows the Division of Motor Vehicles to collect a registration fee not to exceed \$50 for a vehicle registration plate celebrating the arts. Establishes the attorney general as the legal counsel for ASCA, while allowing ASCA to retain temporary legal counsel for good cause with the approval of the attorney general. Exempts funds in the ASCA operating budget that are received from private philanthropic and non-profit organizations from the Executive Budget Act. Provides ASCA the opportunity to hold a license plate design competition celebrating the arts every four years.

SB 72	SEC. SCHOOL CIVICS EDUCATION	STEVENS	An Act relating to civics education, civics examinations, and secondary school graduation requirements; and providing for an effective date.	(S) EDC Then CRA 02/05/2021	Adds the passage of a civics examination to the list of graduation requirements. Includes an annual reporting requirement by the State Board to the Legislature that describes the civics education curriculum in the state public education system and the passing rate of students taking the civics assessment.
SB 74	G.O. BONDS: STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS	GOVERNOR	An Act providing for and relating to the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose of paying the cost of state infrastructure projects, including construction, communications, major maintenance, public safety, and transportation projects; and providing for an effective date.	(S) TRA Then FIN 02/05/2021	Relates to voter approval of general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding capital improvement projects. Includes \$9M for Houston Middle School Replacement, \$25M for Major Maintenance Grant Fund for School Major Maintenance, and \$7.8M for Mt. Edgecumbe High School Repairs. Companion bill to HB 93.
SB 80	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	GRAY-JACKSON	An Act relating to mental health education.	(S) EDC Then HSS, FIN 02/12/2021	Directs DEED to develop statewide standards for mental health and encourages school districts to include mental health in their health education program. Companion bill to HB 60.
SB 94	EDUCATION & SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN PROGRAMS	GOVERNOR	An Act relating to the education loan program and Alaska supplemental education loan program; and providing for an effective date.	(S) EDC Then FIN 02/24/2021	Provides ACPE with a number of authorities that will allow ACPE to better meet Alaskans' student loan needs, and thus is expected to increase the origination of loans funded by the ASLC. Companion bill to HB 114.
SB 97	STATE LAND SALES AND LEASES; RIVERS	GOVERNOR	An Act relating to state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Education and	(S) RES Then FIN 03/03/2021	Authorizes DEED to transfer real property to a broader group of entities. Currently, DEED is limited to

			Early Development to dispose of state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to dispose of state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources over certain state land; relating to the state land disposal income fund; relating to the leasing and sale of state land for commercial development; repealing establishment of recreation rivers and recreation river corridors; and providing for an effective date.		transfer interests in land to federal agencies, state agencies, or to political subdivisions. Companion bill to HB 120.
SJR 10	CONST. AM: IN-PERSON PUBLIC EDUCATION	COSTELLO	Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to in-person public education.	(S) EDC Then JUD 03/10/2021	Adds language to the Constitution that states “public schools shall provide the opportunity for in-person education unless a disaster declaration is in effect.”