



Association of Alaska School Boards  
Advocates for Alaska's Youth

Association of Alaska School Boards

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# Legislative Bulletin

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF ACTIVITY BY THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE AND U.S. CONGRESS FOR ALASKA'S SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

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## Senate Committee Unveils "Alaska Education Transformation Act"

A new bill from Alaska Senate leaders would create a virtual education hub for the state, among other provisions aimed at reducing the state's \$1.3 billion in annual schools spending. Sponsored by the Senate Education Committee, chaired by Shelley Hughes, R-Palmer, SB 96 would establish a "virtual education consortium," which would create a database of online courses and help train teachers in virtual instruction. The bill has several other measures aimed at cutting costs, including one that would increase the size of one-time grants that can be given to school districts joining a state-sponsored plan for health insurance – a major cost driver for schools. Districts would have to show that the new arrangement would save money. See full story [here](#)

## House Votes to Create Reading Task Force

The House of Representatives voted Friday to create a task force of educators and legislators to explore solutions to reading deficiencies in Alaska K-12 students. The 15-member group, including three members from each of the House and Senate, is to report to the Legislature next year on its findings. [HB 64](#) passed the House on a vote of 33-3 and now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

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## CTE Presentation Added to Spring Academy

After all the positive comments we received from Commissioner Drygas' CTE presentation at the February Fly-In, we're adding a special NO COST ½ day event to the Fly-In Spring Academy.

On Friday, March 31—the day before our Fly-In officially begins—we've teamed with the Dept. of Labor and DEED to roll out an entire afternoon focused on Career Technical Education (CTE) for discussions around:

- School to Apprentice Program
- Regional Education Centers focused on CTE
- Alaska Construction Program
- How to work with limited Resources
- Students highlighting their experiences
- District success stories

We're looking to assemble a group that wants to learn more about these and other CTE issues, and who are committed to keeping the CTE discussion alive. Interested? PLEASE encourage folks to [register](#).

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## Upcoming Legislative Hearings

### Monday, March 27

8:00 a.m. House Education Committee

[HB 102](#) Limited Teacher Certificates; Languages

[HB 52](#) Pre-elementary School Programs/Plans

[HB 146](#) School Tax; PFD Payment for School Tax

--Public Testimony--

Bills previously heard or scheduled

8:00 a.m. Senate Education Committee

[SB 87](#) School Construction Energy Efficiency Standards

[SB 96](#) Education: Schools/Teachers/Funding

--Testimony by invitation only

Bills previously heard or scheduled

1:30 p.m. Senate Finance Committee

Confirmation Hearings:

Alaska Gasline Development Corp.

[SB 34](#) Driver's License & ID Cards & Real ID Act

(Pending referral)

[HB 57](#) Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds

(Pending introduction and referral)

Bills previously heard or scheduled

### Tuesday, March 28

9:00 a.m. House Finance Committee

[SB 26](#) Appropriation Limit & Permanent Fund; Dividends;

Earnings

[HB 115](#) Income Tax; PFD Credit; Permanent Fund Income  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

9:00 a.m. Senate Finance Committee

[SB 54](#) Crime and Sentencing

[SB 55](#) Omnibus Crime/Corrections

[HB 57](#) Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds  
(Pending introduction & referral)

Bills previously heard or scheduled

1:30 p.m. House Finance Committee

[HB 115](#) Income Tax; PFD Credit; Permanent Fund Income  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

1:30 p.m. Senate Finance Committee

[SB 54](#) Crime and Sentencing

[SB 55](#) Omnibus Crime/Corrections

[HB 57](#) Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds  
(Pending introduction & referral)

Bills previously heard or scheduled

5:30 p.m. Senate Education Committee

[SB 96](#) Education: Schools/Teachers/Funding

--Public testimony (Time limit may be set)--

Bills previously heard or scheduled

### **Wednesday, March 29**

8:00 a.m. House & Senate Education Committees

Presentation: State Board of Education

Testimony by invitation only

9:00 a.m. Senate Finance Committee

[SB 31](#) No State Employee Pay Increase for Two Years

[SB 32](#) Prescriptions for Biological Products

[HB 57](#) Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds  
(Pending introduction & referral)

Bills previously heard or scheduled

1:00 p.m. House Finance Committee (note time change)

[HB 115](#) Income Tax; PFD Credit; Permanent Fund Income  
Public testimony (time limit two minutes)

Teleconference 1-4:30 p.m. Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Off  
Nets

5:30 p.m. House Finance Committee

[HB 115](#) Income Tax; PFD Credit; Permanent Fund Income  
Public testimony (Time limit two minutes)

Teleconference 5:30-8:00 p.m. All other LIOs, Off Nets

### **Thursday, March 30**

8:00 a.m. Senate Education Committee

[SB 78](#) Permanent Fund Dividend Contributions/Lottery  
[SB 96](#) Education: Schools/Teachers/Funding  
--Testimony by invitation only  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

9:00 a.m. Senate Finance Committee  
[SB 97](#) Pension Obligation Bonds  
[SB 57](#) Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds  
(Pending introduction & referral)  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

1:30 p.m. Senate Finance Committee  
[SB 57](#) Appropriations; Operating Budget/Loans/Funds  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

**Friday, March 31**

8:00 a.m. House Education Committee  
Presentation: Early Education  
-Testimony by invitation only  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

8:00 a.m. Senate Education Committee  
[SB 96](#) Education: Schools/Teachers/Funding  
-Testimony by invitation only  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

9:00 a.m. Senate Finance Committee  
[HB 57](#) Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

1:30 p.m. Senate Finance Committee  
[SB 32](#) Prescriptions for Biological Products  
[SB 54](#) Crime and Sentencing  
[SB 55](#) Omnibus Crime/Corrections  
[HB 57](#) Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

**Saturday, April 1**

10:30 a.m. Senate Finance Committee  
[HB 57](#) Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds  
Bills previously heard or scheduled

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## Our Mission

The mission of AASB is to advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

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