



# Alaska State Legislature

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## Senator Anna MacKinnon – Senate District G

**Dear Alaska Energy Efficiency Partnership Members,**

**RE: Senate Bill 87 School Construction Energy Efficiency Standards**

The State of Alaska has spent on average, over the last ten years, \$196,469,347 on major maintenance (Capital Improvement) for public schools and \$73,581,490 on energy for public schools. Taking this information and our current fiscal situation into consideration, I have introduced Senate Bill 87: School Construction Energy Efficiency Standards.

The goal of this piece of legislation is to appropriately and cost-effectively construct and maintain our schools, increase the life span of our school buildings, improve energy efficiency in our schools, and put those savings back in to the classroom.

Senate Bill 87 currently proposes to do the following:

- Establish energy efficiency standards, and/or statewide building codes that will reduce long-term operating costs and improve the life and operation of the school building.
- Have standardized components for certain systems in a school (HVAC, plumbing, fire, speaker, etc.). Allow each climate region a couple choices of the standardized equipment that they want in their building.
- The standardized components must:
  - o Result in designs and construction of buildings with 50 year life spans for new construction and 20 year life spans for renovations or energy efficiency upgrades.
  - o Achieve economic savings, as measured by a life cycle cost analysis, through the use of standardized options and fuel cost reductions from energy efficiency upgrades.
  - o Focus the state's investment in education facilities by prioritizing functional design and classroom infrastructure.
- Establish the maximum acceptable costs per square foot for construction and major maintenance of schools that is adjustable for each climate region in the state.
- Create a maintenance manual for schools that provides information on maintaining and repairing the common standardized components.
- Consider establishing a statewide maintenance team.
- The State shall acquire ownership of all school designs for which a grant or bond reimbursement is approved in an amount of 50% or more of the cost of construction.
- Co-location of state/federal agencies with public schools.
- Disallowing any school district, contractor, architect, or designer involved with the design and building of a school facility from applying for an architectural or design award if the grant is an amount equal to or greater than 50% of the project. This does not exclude awards for energy efficiency.

- If the costs of a project exceed the grant/bond awarded, the local municipality/REAA must pay the excess costs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this summary. We hope to continue collaborating with several entities statewide, including yours. If you have questions or wish to contribute to our goals to improve energy efficiency in our schools, please feel free to contact Brittany Hartmann in my office at [brittany.hartmann@akleg.gov](mailto:brittany.hartmann@akleg.gov) and share your feedback and ideas.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,  
Senator MacKinnon.