

Legislative Priorities & Bill Review

Norm Wooten
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Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth

February Fly-In

Major Priorities

- Keep the Promise on one-time funding appropriated in 2014
- Eliminate Unfunded, Underfunded and Unnecessary Mandates



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Keep the Promise



Gov. Bill Walker

- Governor proposes repeal of one-time K-12 funding in FY 16 & 17
- Repeal contained in supplemental budget bills
- Status: SB 40 & HB 94 in Finance Committees



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Mandates

- AASB & ASA offered 18 examples of mandates on districts
- Several incorporated as amendments to bills (SB 31, Erin's Law)
 - Physical exams for teachers & students
 - Fingerprinting of Pre-K teachers



Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla



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Budget Cuts



Rep. Mark Neuman, R-Wasilla

- Education Programs zeroed out in FY 16 (House version)
 - Parents as Teachers
 - Best Beginnings
 - Pre-K Grants to districts
 - K-3 Literacy Program
 - Statewide Literacy



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Budget Cuts

- Education Programs reduced in FY 16:
- Teacher Mentoring
- STEM grants
- Alaska Learning Network
- Broadband expansion
- **Total EED cuts: \$13.6 million**



Mark Neuman, co-chair
House Finance Committee



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Budget Cuts



Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla

- Education Finance Subcommittee:
 - Broadband expansion: \$5 million cut
 - Mentors for Principals: \$1.1 million cut
 - ANSEP: \$1.3 million cut
 - STEM: \$1 million cut
 - Pre-K grants: \$2 million cut



Budget Cuts



Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla

- Best Beginnings:
\$937,500 cut
- Online with Libraries:
\$761,800 cut
- Live Homework Hotline:
\$138,200 cut
- Various other cuts and add-backs
- **Total reduction** to EED:
\$18 million



HB 30

Constitutional History

- Requires districts to adopt curriculum on America's founding documents.
- Denies diploma to students who do not pass the course.
 - Status: House Finance Committee



Rep. Wes Keller, R-Wasilla



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SCR 1

Civics Education Task Force



Sen. Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak

- Creates 12-member group to improve civics education in K-12
- One seat each for student, teacher & school board (AASB)
 - Status: Senate Finance Committee



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HB 102

Residential Psychiatric Funds



Rep. Wes Keller, R-Wasilla

- Allows foundation funds to follow a student during treatment in residential center
- Amended to specify student must be currently enrolled in a district
 - Status: House Education Committee



HB 157

Language Immersion Charters



Rep. Jonathon Kreiss-Tomkins,
D-Sitka

- Allows establishment of charter schools in which at least half of instruction is in indigenous or foreign language
- Allows “limited” teaching certificates & recognizes certificates issued by tribes
- Also see SB 84 (Olson)



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HCR 2

School Choice Week

- Declares Jan. 24-30, 2016 “Alaska School Choice Week”
- Mentions public schools among the choices available
 - Status: Awaiting signature of Governor



Rep. Lynn Gattis, R-Wasilla



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SB 31

‘Erin’s Law’



Sen. Berta Gardner, D-Anchorage

- Age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention training in K-12 classes
- Amendments requested by districts limit other mandates for duplicate physical exams and fingerprinting
 - Status: Senate Education Committee



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SB 64

School Bond Moratorium

- Suspends school bond debt reimbursement program effective Jan. 1, 2015
- In 2020, reduces state share by 20% to 50% and 40% reimbursement
- 2015 Priority List contains 17 schools @ \$253 million and 117 major maintenance projects @ \$197 million
- Status: Passed Senate 17-2



Sen. Anna McKinnon, R-
Anchorage



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SB 79

Rehire of Retired Personnel



Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla

- Allows districts to rehire employees who retired under TRS
- Must be retired at least three months
- Rehires remain retired during employment; no added service credit
 - Status: Senate Education Committee



SB 80

Education Standards/Federal Funds

- Requires legislative approval of education standards and assessments, after review by parent committee.
- Requires legislative approval of all federal education grants or program receipts.
 - Status: Senate Education Committee



Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla



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SB 88

Defined Benefits Retirement



Sen. Dennis Egan, D-Juneau

- Creates new defined benefit tiers in PERS & TRS
- Allows employees who retired in mid-2006 or after to elect those tiers
 - Status: Senate CRA Committee



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SB 89

Parental Rights

- Requires districts to adopt policies allowing parents to withdraw children from activity, class, performance standard, test or assessment that is harmful to child
- Prohibits questionnaires without written permission
 - Status: Senate Education Committee



Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla



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HB 163

School Fundraisers



Rep. Tammie Wilson, R-North Pole

- Authorizes EED to allow school fundraisers to sell food not approved under federal nutrition policy
 - Status: House Education Committee (first hearing Monday 8 a.m.)



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