

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION ADDRESS
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4925



INTERIM ADDRESS
305 Center Ave, Ste 1
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-4925

Senator Gary Stevens

SENATE BILL 19

Special Education Service Agency – Sunset Extension

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 19 would extend the sunset date for the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) to June 30, 2029. SESA offers services not provided by any other government or private sector agency in the State of Alaska.

SESA is a public agency, created in 1986 under Alaska statute AS 14.30.600. It is governed by the Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education. SESA was created to assist Alaska school districts to serve children with low incidence disabilities. Technical assistance, provided by specialists with advanced training and specialized disability experience, is provided at no cost to school districts. Specifically, SESA is tasked to provide:

- (A) **itinerant outreach services** to students who are deaf, deaf-blind, mentally retarded, hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired, orthopedically disabled, health-impaired in other ways, and severely emotionally disturbed, and to students with multiple disabilities;
- (B) **special education instructional support and training** of local school district special education personnel; and
- (C) **other services** appropriate to special education needs.

SESA must be reauthorized this session to avoid discontinuation of these services beginning July 1, 2021.

SESA performs an effective and efficient service to school districts educating students with low incidence disabilities. SESA employs 11 education specialists who provided services to 45 school districts and more than 200 students during the last school year. During this time, SESA also provided 320 onsite consultations with school districts.

The latest AK Legislative Budget & Audit Committee Report affirms: "SESA meets a valid public need by:

- (1) assisting school districts in providing students affected by low incidence disabilities (LID) an education that meets their unique needs;
- (2) affording opportunities to enhance the capabilities of school district teachers and paraprofessionals; and
- (3) providing LID and special education resources.