

SESSION ADDRESS:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4925
Fax: (907) 465-3517
Toll Free: 1-800-821-4925

Senator Gary Stevens

Alaska State Legislature

INTERIM ADDRESS:
305 Center Ave, Ste. 1
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-4925
Fax: (907) 486-5264



SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE BILL 30

Middle Colleges

Senate Bill 30 establishes a Middle College Program in Alaska. A type of dual credit system, Middle Colleges are partnerships between school districts and colleges. They offer a focused curriculum, increasing the viability of students from all economic backgrounds to earn college credits while still in high school.

The bill requires school districts and the University of Alaska (UA) to participate in the Middle College Program, requires school districts to pay for a student's tuition at UA's resident tuition rate, and affirms that program participants are considered full-time students of the district in which they are enrolled. SB 30 further specifies that costs for other expenses, including course fees, books and transportation are the student's responsibility.

SB 30 also establishes criteria for student enrollment in the Middle College program, including the requirement that a student be enrolled in an Alaskan public school and has completed the 10th grade. Additionally, SB 30 requires a yearly report to the legislature summarizing student participation; course offerings; and the total number of credits earned.

Middle College Programs have been operating nationally for over twenty-five years to much acclaim. In Alaska, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District and the Anchorage School District are already successfully participating in Middle Colleges, and the Kodiak Island Borough School District is currently developing its program. Your support of SB 30 will ensure this important concept goes beyond those three boroughs, reaching and positively impacting students throughout our state.

Thank you for your consideration of this important piece of legislation.