

Anchorage School Board Proposed Resolution

Development of Post Secondary Special Education Programs in Alaska and Educational Opportunities for Alaskans to Complete Special Education Certification Training Outside Alaska

The Anchorage School Board promotes the establishment of post-secondary educational programs to train additional individuals as certified special education teachers and the initiation of programs to train related service providers within our State University system.

The Anchorage School Board also supports Alaskan residents completing certification as a special education related service provider while attending an academic program outside the State of Alaska and who, upon certification, are committed to provide services to Alaska public school systems.

Rationale. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997 (IDEA-97) mandate appropriate educational services be provided to all certified special education students; the Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities (34 C.F.R. Part 300), Section 300.381 identifies the role of "the State (to) undertake (activities) to ensure an adequate supply of qualified personnel including special education and related services personnel... necessary to carry out the purposes of this part;" and, the Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities (34 C.F.R. Part 300), Section 300.382 identifies the role of "Each State plan (to) include a description of the procedures and activities the State will undertake to ensure that all personnel necessary to carry out this part are appropriately and adequately trained ... to include a system for continuing education of regular and special education and related service personnel to meet the needs of children with disabilities."

However, the Anchorage School District, as well as other school districts throughout the State of Alaska, are having difficulty meeting the educational requirements of our special needs students due to a significant shortage of certified special education personnel. Furthermore, the University of Alaska has limited special education and related services professional preparation program opportunities available to individuals aspiring to become certified special education or related service professionals.