



Anchorage School District

Education Center

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TO: Dr. Jessica Parker, Principal, Family Partnership Correspondence
Gerald Finkler, Principal, Frontier Charter School
Lucas Frost, Principal, AKChoice K-12 Learning

DATE: June 29, 2023

FROM: Dr. Jason Hlasny, Director

SUBJECT: Use of Public Charter/Correspondence Student Allotments

The purpose of this memo is to clarify district and administrative procedure consistent with the Alaska Constitution, Alaska Statute, and the July 2022 Deputy Attorney General guidance as it relates to the appropriate implementation and use of student allotments and private school education.

Under Alaska law, correspondence schools receive funding through the local school district in which they reside. In turn, correspondence schools usually allocate an allotment of funds for each student, which the student can spend for certain materials to fulfill a student's individual learning plan.

The Alaska Constitution provides: "No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution." The Alaska Legislature has provided that student allotments for correspondence students may not be used for sectarian services or materials. Alaska law requires each school district to ensure that allotment monies are not used in a manner that violates Alaska law.

The following are uses of allotments **not permitted** by the Anchorage School District:

- Student is enrolled as a full-time student at a private school and the student's allotment is used to pay any portion of the private tuition.
- More than half of a correspondence student's allotment is used to pay for private school tuition, materials, and fees for non-sectarian classes.
- Any portion of the allotment is used to pay for sectarian courses or materials.

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The following are uses of allotments **permitted** by the Anchorage School District:

- Student is enrolled in a public correspondence school and half or less of the student's allotment is used to pay for part-time enrollment to take nonsectarian courses at a private school.
- Student is enrolled in a public correspondence school and the student's allotment is used to pay for extracurricular activities such as swimming lessons, attendance at music or drama performances, or participation in athletic competitions.

Cc: Dr. Jharrett Bryantt, Superintendent
Sven Gustafson, Chief Academic Officer
Andy Ratliff, Chief Financial Officer
Jim Anderson, Chief Operating Officer
Deborah Engles, Senior Director, Risk Management & Safety