

# Alaska's Correspondence School Allotment Program – **Just the Facts**

## Background

Under Alaska law, parents can enroll their children in the first-in-the-nation Correspondence School Allotment Program (CSAP), which expands opportunities and access to quality education by providing reimbursement for classes from vetted partners, including private schools.

Students can attend private school full-time, take classes a la carte, or use allotment funds at many other approved vendors. Families must use the funds to solely pay for the student's general education.

## Why Enroll in CSAP?

01

Families can dual-enroll full time in a private school and a free public school correspondence program, and be reimbursed for non-religious classes at the private school.

02

The allotment program aids families who may be struggling financially. CSAP helps to level the playing field when it comes to educational opportunities for families across Alaska.

03

Students can partake in a combination of public school, home school, and private school classes, and have the ability to customize their curriculum to meet their needs and interests.

04

Allotment funds can be used for many activities such as swimming lessons, or at-home materials such as books or internet access.

05

Access is no longer an issue. If families in rural parts of Alaska find that the education options in their area are insufficient, they now have the ability to enroll full time in virtual and online classes.

# Myth vs. Fact

## MYTH

It is illegal to use state funds to pay for religious private schooling.



## FACT

In CSAP, state funds go directly to parents who decide how to use that money, including paying for non-religious classes at religious institutions. Parents cannot use allotment funds to pay for religious classes or material. Correspondence schools will communicate which vendors and classes are available for reimbursement using allotment funds, and families can submit others for consideration.

Low-income families cannot afford private school, even with allotments.



Allotments may cover a significant portion of the cost of many private schools in Alaska. Additionally, some private schools offer separate scholarships to students for a variety of reasons; those could be layered on top of the allotment reimbursement to cover the full costs of attending a private school.

Since we live in a school district that does not have any correspondence schools, our family cannot participate in CSAP.



There are several statewide correspondence programs that can accept students from anywhere in Alaska. If you enroll your students full time in a nearby private school, you can also enroll them in a statewide correspondence school and apply to receive the allotment.

Allotments amounts are the same for every correspondence school and every child within the same grade.



Allotment amounts can vary by correspondence school, grade, or other criteria. Correspondence schools decide how much of their state funding to provide as student allotments. For more information on specific correspondence schools, click the [link!](#)

Supporting correspondence schools hurts public schools.



Correspondence schools ARE public schools! [Alaska's correspondence schools](#) exist within the state's public school system. This funding does not reduce overall funding received by school districts. Allotment amounts are assigned yearly by child – one family with six school-aged children can be eligible for six separate allotments per school year.

There aren't many private schools participating in this program.



Private schools in at least three main regions of Alaska are already participating. But families don't have to wait for a private school to use CSAP. Parents can access the private school curriculum (often provided online) and submit that to the correspondence school for review. Many correspondence schools already have systems in place to make it easy for private school classes to be approved.