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The recent ruling by a Superior Court judge in regard to statewide correspondence programs has led some to have concerns regarding how this may impact a student's ASAA eligibility. **As before, students enrolled in alternative education programs will continue to be able to participate in ASAA activities.**

To be eligible to compete for an ASAA member school the athlete must be a "student" as defined by ASAA's bylaw which state (emphasis added):

As used in these bylaws, the following definitions apply: 1. "Student," whether in the singular or plural, means:

a. Students enrolled in grades 9-12 attending a public-school district's brick and mortar member schools and those enrolled in a public-school district's non-member charter schools, alternative schools or programs (including district correspondence programs);

*b. **Students in grades 9-12 attending an alternative education program**, as defined in this section;*

c. Students enrolled in grades 9-12 in a member private or religious school and those enrolled in a correspondence program administered by such private or religious school, and

d. Students enrolled in a junior high school or middle school which becomes a member of the Junior High /Middle School Division of the Association, pursuant to Article 17, Section 1, provided, however, that the only eligibility and participation rules of these bylaws applicable to such students are those contained in Articles 16 and 17.

ASAA's bylaws also define both "Alternative Education Program" and "Accredited".

*2. "Alternative Education Program": The Association adopts the statutory definition, in AS 14.30.365 (c) (1), of "alternative education program" as **a public secondary school that provides a nontraditional education program**, including the Alaska Military Youth Academy; a public vocational, remedial or theme-based program; **a home school program that is accredited**, as defined in this section; a charter school authorized under AS 14.03.250-14.03.290; **and a statewide correspondence school** that enrolls students that reside outside of the district in which the student resides and provides less than 3 hours a week of scheduled face-to-face student interactions in the same location with a teacher who is certified under AS14.20.020.*

3. "Accredited": For purposes of determining whether a home school program is "accredited" such as to qualify as an alternative education program herein, the State Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has identified Cognia as the

sole recognized body to accredit home school programs that have standards similar to Alaska's standards; the Association shall regard as "accredited" those home school programs that have been accredited by Cognia.

Programs such as Family Partnership (Anchorage School District) Mat-Su Central (Mat-Su Borough School District) or Connections (Kenai Peninsula Borough School District) meet the definition of an "alternative school" because it is **"a public secondary school that provides a nontraditional education program."** For a student attending a "homeschool" to be eligible, **the "homeschool" must be accredited by Cognia.** Students in statewide **correspondence schools** such as IDEA, Denali Peak or Raven Correspondence also will continue to be able to participate in ASAA Activities.

Those wishing more information, should email contactus@asaa.org