



RESOLUTION 2026-1

**Amending the Alaska Reads Act to Support
Braille Literacy for Visually Impaired Students**

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights is the State of Alaska's civil rights enforcement agency charged with enforcing the Alaska Human Rights Act, AS 18.80 *et seq.*, as mandated by Article I, Section 3, of the Alaska Constitution; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination by the state and its political subdivisions against those with a physical disability; and,

WHEREAS, Alaska Governor Michael Dunleavy championed the Alaska Reads Act, HB 114, during the 32nd Alaska Legislature to create a comprehensive statewide K-3 reading program designed to improve reading outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Reads Act has driven significant improvement in reading scores for Alaska students since its implementation; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Reads Act and implementing regulations discuss disabilities broadly; and,

WHEREAS, blind and visually impaired students do not necessarily require accommodation for reading that learning-impaired students do; and,

WHEREAS, blind and visually impaired students could benefit in improved literacy and associated reading scores with braille education on par with their fellow sighted peers by training teachers on braille instruction, providing early braille literacy for students, monitoring progress for braille students, setting standards for appropriate grade level progression in braille, and other principles that apply to students broadly under the Alaska Reads Act.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights encourages the Alaska Legislature to amend the Alaska Reads Act to require braille education for blind and visually impaired students, and for the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development to implement braille literacy education through its regulatory authority.

This resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Alaska, the Alaska Legislature, and the Alaska Board of Education and Early Development.

ADOPTED in Juneau, Alaska, this 12th day of March, 2026.

Dorene Lorenz
Chairperson
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution
2026-01 is a true and accurate copy of the
language adopted by the Commission on
_____, 2026.

Carisa Nelson
Secretary
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

