

Nenana Wins School Suit

The order stems from a charge by the city of Nenana that the state sharply reduced its school enrollment by creating schools for students who should attend in Nenana.

Superior Court Judge Warren W. Taylor ruled the state acted illegally when it established the schools south of Fairbanks this fall because the plans were not approved by the State Board of Education.

Suit...

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Acting on a suit filed by the city of Nenana, Taylor ordered the new state school system established by the last legislature to stop spending money and furnishing transportation for the 20 students involved from the Clear-Anderson area.

The order will require that the students in question enroll in school at Nenana if they wish to attend a state high school.

The city of Nenana filed the suit against the SOS System September 15.

The city contended that it had been designated as the secondary attendance center for pupils in the area between the southern boundary of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Rex Bridge, 30 miles south of Nenana, and that it had received \$850,000 from the 1971 legislature to educate the students.

However, the city said the state carried out a plan prior to September 8 to establish a ninth grade at Anderson, discontinue seventh and eight grade at Brown's Court and combine the seventh and eight grade at Brown's Court with a high school at Healy.

When school opened September 9 in Nenana, the city charged, the result of the state action was an 18 per cent drop in enrollment.

In his ruling last week, Taylor said that the SOS System's action required prior approval by the State Board of Education and that the board had not endorsed the plans.

In a letter introduced with the complaint, a state legislator from Fairbanks said the problem in the Nenana-Clear-Anderson area parents for their youngsters to attend Nenana schools which are approximately 50 per cent native students.

The contention was made by Rep. Mike Bradner, (D-Fairbanks,) chairman of the legislative budget and audit committee, in a letter to Darryl Peterson of Sand Point, the chairman of the State-Operated School Board.