



Suggested by: Council Member Marquis

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 3, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FUNDING FOR SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST."

WHEREAS, Alaska Senate Bill 3 was pre-filed on January 7, 2011 and introduced in the Alaska Senate on January 19, 2011; and,

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan bill proposes amendment to the Alaska Statutes, Chapter 14.03, by adding a new section to provide for improved funding of school lunches and breakfasts for eligible students; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's education policy set forth in AS 14.03.015 states: It is the policy of this state that the purpose of education is to help ensure that all students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them; and,

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3, if enacted, would supplement the cost of lunches and breakfasts provided to each student who is eligible for a free or a reduced-price lunch under 42 U.S.C. 1771 - 1784; and,

WHEREAS, scientific research shows that adequate nourishment and nutrition is imperative for proper cognitive and behavioral development in students, and that eating quality meals, especially breakfast, is directly related to increases in test scores, decreases in the rate of childhood obesity, and a decrease in school violence; and,

WHEREAS, Alaska is one of only a few states that currently does not supplement school lunch and breakfast funding, and ranks 48th in the nation for participation in school breakfast programs; and,

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3 has the support of the Food Bank of Alaska, the Alaska Food Coalition, and other organizations, school districts and education boards throughout Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, the City of Kenai recognizes the importance of the adequate nourishment and nutrition of our children and students and supports enactment of Alaska Senate Bill 3; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Alaska Senate President Gary Stevens, Alaska House Speaker Rep. Chenault and the

other members of the Kenai Peninsula Legislative Delegation, and the Senate Bill 3 sponsors including Senators Wielechowski, Ellis, Davis, Egan, French, Kookesh, McGuire, Menard, Paskvan, and Thomas.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this second day of February, 2011.

PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Carol L. Freas, City Clerk

RYAN MARQUIS

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To: Mayor Porter,

Council Members Bookey, Boyle, Gabriel, Molloy, Moore

From: Council Members Ryan Marquis

Date: 01-25-2011

Subject: Resolution No. 2011-08: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 3, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FUNDING FOR SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST."

I'm respectfully asking for your support on Resolution 2011-08. This resolution would send the legislature our support of Senate Bill 3, which would provide funding to public schools for lunch and breakfast programs. Alaska is one of only a few states that do not supplement the federal funding of such programs. Only about one-third of the Alaskan schools that offer a free or reduced lunch program, also offer breakfast. Approximately 10,000 Alaskan children start their school-day hungry, making learning and development much more difficult than it should be.

I've talked to a number of people that either work in, or spend much time in, our schools. They all have stories about hungry students. Some students are subsisting mainly off of the food they can get at school. Some even try to save some of their lunch to bring home for dinner.

Students should be concerned about whether or not they studied their spelling words enough before a test, not about how they're going to eat that day.

Senate Bill 3 won't end hunger in Alaska, but it will go a long way in reducing it. I understand that this will result in increased spending on the state level, but I believe that in the long-term, this is an investment. Students focused on learning and developing their social skills will constitute the next generation of business owners, teachers, scientists, elected officials, public safety officers, and members of the military. By supporting these students now, we're supporting our city, our state, and our nation's future.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of this resolution.

Ryan Marquis



Making Increased Participation in School Breakfast a Top Priority

During the 2009-2010 school year, 14,164 low-income children in Alaska participated in the national School Breakfast Program, according to a new national report. While the number of children receiving school breakfast increased, many still are missing out. For every 100 low-income children that ate school lunch, only 38 also ate school breakfast in Alaska.

The *School Breakfast Scorecard*, released annually by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), measures the reach of the School Breakfast Program nationally and by state, evaluating state performance by comparing the number of low-income children receiving school breakfast to the number of such children receiving school lunch.

The best performing states reached about 60 per 100, and the national average was 47 low-income children participating in school breakfast for every 100 that received lunch. Alaska, well below average, ranked 43 in student participation out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Low participation means missed meals for children and missed dollars for states. If participation in Alaska rose to 60 low-income children eating federally-funded school breakfast for every 100 low-income children eating lunch, 8,006 more low-income children would start the day with a healthy breakfast and the state would gain an additional \$1.9 million in federal funding. Two states, New Mexico and South Carolina, already exceed this goal and demonstrate that this is eminently achievable.

"Breakfast is proven to boost test scores, improve attendance and participation, and help children start their day ready to learn," says Susannah Morgan, Executive Director of Food Bank of Alaska. "106 schools in Alaska currently do not offer breakfast. Senator Wielechowski's bill SB03 supports state funding to make it more feasible for all Alaskan schools to offer breakfast. This report demonstrates how important Senator Wielechowski's leadership is to our children."

Not only does breakfast reduce hunger and improve education, but it also contributes to better nutrition. Children who participate in school breakfast eat more fruits, drink more milk, and consume a wider variety of foods than those who do not eat school breakfast or who have breakfast at home. "Given the concern for obesity in our children, it is disturbing that Alaska is leaving this money untapped," said Morgan.

Nationally, participation in the School Breakfast Program grew to include 9.4 million low-income children during the 2009-2010 school year, an increase of 663,000 low-income children over the previous school year – and the largest increase since FRAC began tracking participation in 1991. Over the past two school years, participation in breakfast grew by nearly 1.2 million low-income children. The 2009-2010 school year also saw the largest increase in lunch participation recorded by FRAC; the program reached nearly 20 million low-income children on an average school day.

"Clearly, the recession created more childhood hunger and fueled growth in the school meal programs. While officials and advocates at the school, state, and federal level took important steps to boost enrollment, we still see that far too few children are starting the day with a healthy morning meal," said Jim Weill, FRAC President.

About the report:

The full report, *School Breakfast Scorecard*, is available at www.frac.org. To measure the reach of the School Breakfast Program, FRAC compares the number of schools and low-income children that participate in breakfast to those that participate in the National School Lunch Program. FRAC also sets a participation goal of reaching 60 children with breakfast for every 100 receiving lunch as a way to gauge state progress and the costs of underparticipation in the program. Nationally, the School Breakfast Program has grown to include 9.4 million low-income children.