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HOUSE BILL 69

Increases Base Student Allocation

“An Act relating to education funding; and providing for an effective date”

Version G

SPONSOR STATEMENT

The State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to provide a free public education to every child and young adult. Unfortunately, years of flat funding and rising inflation have degraded Alaska’s public education system, resulting in larger class sizes, closed schools, and fewer educational opportunities for children and families. This is unacceptable and must be addressed by the Alaska State Legislature.

House Bill 69 addresses Alaska's education funding crisis by instituting inflation proofing for the future and increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1,808 per student to account for rising costs since 2011. During that timeframe, costs rose by around 39 percent while the BSA increased by only 10 percent. The \$1,808 BSA increase in HB 69 will be spread out over three years:

- \$1,000 BSA increase in FY 2026.
- \$404 BSA increase in FY 2027.
- \$404 BSA increase in FY 2028.

The BSA is the best way to increase education funding because it supports all forms of public education in Alaska, including neighborhood schools, charter schools, and correspondence programs that serve homeschooled students. Increasing the BSA helps every child and young adult who receives a public education in Alaska.

In addition to the \$1,808 BSA increase, this bill includes an annual inflation adjustment to the BSA beginning in FY 2026. This will ensure state funding for public education keeps up with rising costs and allow school districts to plan for the future.

Increasing Alaska’s Base Student Allocation and indexing it to inflation will ensure Alaska’s public schools have the resources needed to educate children, so they have the knowledge and skills to succeed in life.