

234 Gold Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801



January 23, 2018

Chairman Paul Seaton
House Finance Committee
State Capitol Rm 505
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Chairman Seaton:

The Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) supports HB287, "An Act making appropriations for public education and transportation of students; making appropriations under art. IX, sec. 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska, from the constitutional budget reserve fund; and providing for an effective date."

Stable, timely funding for education is our highest priority for this session, as noted in our Joint Position Statements - Priority Funding for Education, which reads as follows:

The State of Alaska must provide timely, reliable, and predictable revenue for schools, funding the true cost of an adequate education in all districts and providing full funding for all initiatives, laws and mandates that require additional services. Early notification of funding is crucial to sound financial management, as well as recruitment and retention of quality educators.

Education was previously funded on a forward basis, enabling school boards to finalize district budgets in March. This was well before the required date for notice to teachers of layoff or non-retention of May 15 (AS 14.20.140). Without forward funding, school districts must try to finalize their budgets by the end of April, but have substantial uncertainty as to what that funding might eventually be.

The result, as seen last year when the operating budget did not pass the Legislature until July 1, is to force many school districts to issue layoff notices. By recapitalizing the Public Education Fund (i.e. forward funding), HB287 will prevent this from happening. Please let me know how else we might support your efforts, and thanks!

Cordially,



Deanna Beck
ACSA President / AASSP President



Lisa Skiles Parady, JD, EdD
ACSA Executive Director

From: milli
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 8:58 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 287

Good Morning Paul,

I am thrilled to see this bill. It is something that I know was attempted back in the 1980's, not successfully. It seems education funding is held because it makes a great "negotiation tool for the final budget vote. It should be automatically done early in the session and avoid pink slipping our teachers. Thank you for introducing the bill and I am delighted to see so much support.

Thanks so much Paul,

Milli Martin
District 31

From: Marion K. Nelson

To: [Rep. Paul Seaton](#)

Subject: HB 287

Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 10:13:08 PM

Representative Seaton....

I support:

HB 287 - "An Act making appropriations for public education and student transportation". This Bill appropriates funding from the Constitutional Budget Reserve (CBR) and the Statutory Budget Reserve (SBR) to the public education fund for K-12 funding and student transportation. The bill also appropriates funding for Boarding Home Grants, Youth in Detention, Special Schools, and Mt. Edgecumbe Boarding School.

Marion K Nelson
Kenai 99611

Southwest Region School District is in support of early notice of funding as requested in HB 287. Please see attached resolution. Please add this to the record. Thank you.

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David J. Piazza
Superintendent
Southwest Region Schools
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SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOL BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 18-02

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EARLY FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION DURING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

WHEREAS, the Constitution for the State of Alaska directs that "the legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other public educational institutions"; and

WHEREAS, each of the local public school districts are responsible for approving and adopting an annual budget that meets State Department of Education and Early Development financial reporting guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the budgeting process requires adequate time over a several month period to ensure that the public and various stakeholders, including municipalities, borough, and local school district boards of education, provide input and adopt the budget; and

WHEREAS, hiring qualified and excellent staff is a major key to meeting the needs of students and ensuring that the goals of Alaska's Education Challenge are met; and

WHEREAS, there is a state and national shortage of individuals who are pursuing careers in the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, schools and districts must be able to begin the recruiting and hiring process for teachers early in the spring with the guarantee that funding will be available; and

WHEREAS, the legislative financial appropriation for the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development including each of the State's public school districts must be passed before each district can determine the actual number of staff that may be hired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Region School District urges the Legislature to establish adequate, equitable, sustainable, and predictable revenue for schools early in the legislative session.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOL DISTRICT THIS 28th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2017:



President, Southwest Region Schools

11-28-17

Date



Superintendent, Southwest Region Schools

11-28-17

Date