



# Anchorage School District

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## Education Center

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. • Anchorage, AK 99504 • 907-742-4000 • [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)

January 18, 2018

The Honorable Les Gara  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 511  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Proposed Bill Increasing BSA

Dear Representative Gara,

I am writing in support of your proposed bill to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$100. Alaska's BSA has not been adjusted to keep pace with continued rising costs. Your public and sustained support for education in Alaska has brought necessary resources to provide the best possible schools for Alaska's children.

Last February, you shined the light on what reductions in funding education means. You wrote, "Classroom funding for teachers and staff in our public schools is \$25 million less than two years ago." One-time funds were provided in some years without an increase to the BSA. As we are two decades into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, learning has changed dramatically for students. The way we operate and structure learning must continually change and be fluid to meet the needs of students. The future for our students is now.

In Anchorage, the District has experienced shifting demographics and population changes. Over the last three years, the Anchorage School District has experienced a decrease in enrollment of about 1,000 students. That alone has meant decreasing funding for ASD. Expenses, however, do not go down at the same rate. **During the last five years, ASD has made staffing cuts of 394 fulltime equivalent positions, including classroom teachers.** Transparent accountability is one of three primary ideals under which ASD operates. Being accountable and responsible means that ASD operates efficiently and effectively. We do more with less. ASD education programs and innovative methods are scalable and we operate the District on staffing ratios and metrics. Staffing follows students and the needs of student resources.

As you know, the Municipality of Anchorage generously supports our schools, funding locally to the cap. On many levels, we depend on the commitment of our community for the success of our schools. In addition to the local funding, ASD enjoys partnerships with more than 300 local businesses and non-profit organizations, as well as contributions from hundreds of volunteers. Daily, committed community members, parents, and family members come into our schools to work, be engaged, and support our children and classrooms.

*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

Anchorage School Board Tam Agosti-Gisler, President

Starr Marsett, Vice President

Kathleen Plunkett, Clerk

Elisa Snelling, Treasurer

Bettye Davis

Dave Donley

Andy Holleman

Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop

January 18, 2018  
The Honorable Les Gara  
Alaska House of Representatives  
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Fundamentally, public education in Alaska is provided by the State Legislature through the BSA. While other funding formula factors attempt to provide equity throughout the State, the BSA is a beginning dollar amount provided for each student in Alaska's schools. Public education is a people business. Spending in ASD for all staff and benefits represents approximately 87 percent of the District's budget, including all teachers, support staff, administration, and employees on the business side. Through its economy of scale, ASD's administration is the leanest of the state's five largest districts (referred to as the "Big 5"). We are nimble so that we maximize resources for all students. In Anchorage, through planning, we constantly shift resources to provide teachers, support staff, supplies, curriculum materials, and business services for more than 130 programs and schools.

Your continued support for students and public education is greatly appreciated. Timely and accurate examination and evaluation of our schools is necessary. ASD is constantly planning and retooling to spend education dollars wisely, providing the best education we can for every student in every school every day in Anchorage. We cannot do it alone. We need the support of every Alaskan to the mission of student learning and success.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Deena M. Bishop", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Deena M. Bishop, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

	# Decreased 2013 - 2019	% Decreased 2013 - 2019	Remarks
<b>100 - Instruction</b>  <b>2013: 2,662.43 FTE</b> <b>2019: 2,415.78 FTE</b>	-246.65	-9.26%	Instruction includes the educational activities directly involving the interaction between teachers and students. Included here are the certificated classroom teachers or other certificated personnel who are performing as classroom teacher and classroom aides or classroom assistants who directly assist in the instructional process.
<b>200 - Special Education Instruction</b>  <b>2013: 963.78 FTE</b> <b>2018: 956.14 FTE</b>	-7.64	-0.79%	Special education instruction includes the educational activities directly involving the interaction between teachers and special education students in the classroom or other facility. Included here are the certificated special education teachers or other certificated personnel who are performing as the special education teacher and classroom aides or classroom assistants who directly assist in the special education instructional process.
<b>220 - Special Education Support Services</b>  <b>2013: 241.93 FTE</b> <b>2019: 218.39 FTE</b>	-23.54	-9.73%	Special education support services - students includes educational activities designed to assess and improve the well being of special education students. Included here is the special education director/coordinator/manager. Also included are the costs of such activities as special education guidance, health services, social work, psychological services, speech pathology services, audiology services, and physical therapy services provided to students as the result of an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
<b>300 - Support Services - Students</b>  <b>2013: 359.99 FTE</b> <b>2018: 306.51 FTE</b>	-53.48	-14.86%	Support services - students includes the activities designed to assess and improve the well being and health of students and to supplement the instruction process. Included here are guidance services, health services, attendance and social work services and boarding home costs.
<b>350 - Support Services - Instruction:</b>  <b>2013: 207.13 FTE</b> <b>2018: 152.43 FTE</b>	-54.69	-26.41%	Support services - instruction includes those activities that assist instructional staff with the content and process of providing learning experiences for students. Included are improvement of instructional services (curriculum development and techniques of instruction), library services, audiovisual services, and inservice training. Included here are the costs of nonteaching director/coordinator/managers who are specifically trained and directly assigned to instructional programs and librarians and library aides.
<b>400 - School Administration</b>  <b>2013: 149.30 FTE</b> <b>2018: 142.99 FTE</b>	-6.31	-4.23%	School administration includes the activities of overall management, direction and leadership of a school. This includes general supervision of the school, evaluation of school staff members, assignment of duties to staff members, and coordination of school instructional activities. Included here are certificated school administration staff including principals and head teachers while not in the classroom teaching.
<b>450 - School Administration Support Services</b>  <b>2013: 245.85 FTE</b> <b>2018: 243.55 FTE</b>	-2.30	-0.93%	School administration support services includes the activities that support School Administration, function 400 in the overall management of a school. Included here are the noncertificated school administration staff including secretaries and clerks.

	# Decreased 2013 - 2019	% Decreased 2013 - 2019	Remarks
<b>510 - District Administration</b> <b>2013: 32.5 FTE</b> <b>2018: 23.25 FTE</b>	-9.25	-28.46%	District administration includes the activities of broad overall district-wide executive and general administration of the school district. This includes the office of the superintendent; activities of the elected school board and any expenditures for lobbyists; public relations and information services; and any district-wide planning, research, development and evaluation activities.
<b>550 - District Administration Support Services</b> <b>2013: 195.95 FTE</b> <b>2018: 186.69 FTE</b>	-9.26	-4.73%	Activities of managing and conducting general administrative services of the school district including accounting, payroll and budgeting, purchasing, recruiting and placement, statistical manipulation and reporting, and data processing.
<b>600 - Operations and Maintenance of Plant</b> <b>2013: 552.9 FTE</b> <b>2019: 482.18 FTE</b>	-70.72	-12.79%	Activities of keeping buildings open and ready for use, equipment in an effective state of repair and grounds keeping. This includes the director/coordinator/manager of operations, janitors, and custodial staff.
<b>780 - Community Services</b> <b>2013: 4 FTE</b> <b>2018: 4 FTE</b>	0.00	0.00%	Activities provided by a school or school district for purposes of relating to the community as a whole or some segment of the community not directly related to providing education for students.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>-483.84</b>	<b>-8.63%</b>	





## **Southwest Region School District**

P.O. Box 90  
574 Kemy Wren Road  
Dillingham, AK 99576

(907) 842-5287 • Phone  
(907) 842-5428 • Fax

*Aleknagik*

*Clark's Point*

*Ekwok*

*Koliganek*

*Manokotak*

*New Stuyahok*

*Portage Creek*

*Togiak*

*Twin Hills*

### House Education Committee Public Testimony Wednesday, February 21, 2018 8:30AM

Chairs Drummond and Parish, members of the committee, for the record my name is David Piazza, Superintendent of the Southwest Region School District.

The District would again like to thank the legislature for its continued support of the public educational system and the opportunity to speak to you today. Our students and those across Alaska represent the strong future of our great state. They are our greatest natural resource and require the support necessary to grow into the leaders and workforce that will keep our state prosperous for years to come.

The District continues to see **substantial cost increases to health insurance**, supplies, transportation of goods to our schools, and foresees a renewed upward swing in the cost of fuel oil and other utilities this spring. This past year's insurance renewal included a **13% increase** which continued a trend of significant annual increases. These changes directly impact the District finances and reduce funds available to support instructional programs for students.

The District supports measures by the legislature to secure funding early and at adequate levels to help local schools as well as the department of education to plan effectively and efficiently and to meet student educational needs. The District supports HB 339.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

**From:** Lisa L. Pearce [mailto:lisa.pearce@k12northstar.org]

**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2018 4:51 PM

**To:** Tristan Walsh <Tristan.Walsh@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Alaska State Legislature: House Bill to Increase Base Student Allocation rate to \$6,030

Tristan - Attached are a couple of documents that reflect the impact to school funding in Fairbanks over the past few years. The outlook for 2018-19 is not good, in that we anticipate a revenue shortfall of \$8.2million. This will ultimately equate to the reduction of over 50 FTE positions in our district. We have sliced and diced to the point that we are unable to continue to make horizontal cuts. We are looking at program cuts now. The 2018-19 budget reflects a 54% reduction in the overall contribution to student activities. This amount was already quite small in 2017-18 (right at 1% of the operating fund budget). The choices are difficult.

We have made significant improvements in our health plan and are able to reduce our district contribution by \$2million next year due to plan design changes and a restructure of our employee benefit package. This is a win for us. We are concerned about the considerations at the legislative level to mandate a statewide health plan. While we recognize the need in many districts, we are hopeful that participation would be optional. It would ultimately cost us money.

We anticipate a reduction in our local contribution next year as our borough is experiencing the effect of reduced revenue cost share. Our borough is up against a tax cap and even if the local voters would approve an increase, the timing would be beyond the 2108-19 budgeting process.

A change to the BSA as you note below would provide an additional \$2.5million in revenue to our district. We anticipate having to make budget cuts in our operating bund in the amount of \$8.2million. A \$2.5million increase from the state would be welcome, but we will still be looking at a large overall reduction.

I should be available most of Monday if you have any questions. Also, I am happy to take calls over the weekend if you need additional information. My cell number is 907-942-0624.

Thank you and Representative Gara for your efforts on behalf of the education community in the State. Education is the greatest investment that can be made and will provide a huge return of investment for many generations to come.

**Lisa Pearce, CFO-SFO**

*Chief Financial Officer*



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

520 Fifth Avenue

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4718

907-452-2000 ext. 11301

907-942-0624 cell



**FAIRBANKS: PARTIAL LIST OF BUDGET ACTIONS SINCE 2009-10**

(Does not represent all actions or items added into the budget, or special education changes, or staffing changes based all enrollment changes, etc.)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>2009-10</b>		<b>Position Reductions</b>	<b>FTE</b>	
	Technology	Program Secretary	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Research & Accountability	Evaluator	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Mechanic	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Custodian	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Purchasing	Warehouseman	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Instructional Technology	ITT Teacher	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Instr & Supervision	Funding for Sabbatical	(1.0)	Instruction
	Non-Departmental	Reserve Teaching Position	(1.0)	Instruction
	Technology	Materials Development Specialist	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Superintendent's Office	Support for educational summits & groups		Non-instruction
	Human Resources	Support for "Support Staff to Teachers"		Non-instruction
	Districtwide	Community Resource Coordinators		Non-instruction
	Instr & Supervision	Graduation Support Program		Instructional Support
	Elementary Support	Reduce ERll funding		Instructional Support
<b>2010-11</b>		<b>Position Reductions</b>	<b>FTE</b>	
	Public Relations	Website Manager	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Technology	Director of Technology	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Human Resources	HR Assistant	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Technology	Materials Development Specialist	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Library Media	Library Technician	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Instr & Supervision	Principal Interns	(2.0)	Instructional Support
<b>2011-12</b>		<b>Position Reductions</b>	<b>FTE</b>	
	Technology	Executive Director of Information Systems	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Districtwide	Districtwide Activities Coordinator	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Middle Schools	Middle School Counselor	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Instr & Supervision	Graduation Success Coordinator	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Curriculum	Defer Curriculum Material Purchase		Instruction
	Facilities Management	Reduce FMD Supplies & Equipment		Non-instruction
<b>2012-13</b>		<b>Position Reductions</b>	<b>FTE</b>	
	Middle School	Eliminate Middle School Collaboration Time	(11.5)	Instruction
	Accounting	Payroll Clerk	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Purchasing	Purchasing Clerk	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Business Services	Printer	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Manager	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Mechanics	(2.0)	Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Custodians	(12.0)	Non-instruction
	Inst & Supervision	Principal Interns	(2.0)	Instructional Support
	Curriculum	Sabbatical Teacher Allocation	(0.5)	Instructional Support
	Curriculum	Instructional Technology Teachers	(2.0)	Instructional Support
	Senior High Schools	Counselor	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Non-Departmental	Reserve Teaching Position	(1.0)	Instruction
	Business Services	Risk Management Services		Non-instruction
	Districtwide	Legal Counsel		Non-instruction
	Human Resources	HR Recruiting, Travel, advertising		Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Utilities		Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	O&M Svcs., Supplies, & Equip.		Non-instruction

**PARTIAL LIST OF BUDGET ACTIONS SINCE 2009-10**

(Does not represent all actions or items added into the budget, or special education changes, or staffing changes based all enrollment changes, etc.)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Classification</b>
	Inst & Supervision	Secondary Reform Support		Instructional Support
	BEST	Correspondence On-line Courses		Instruction
	Curriculum	Instructional Technology Supplies & Equip		Instructional Support
	Network	Network Technology Supplies & Equip		Non-instruction
<b>2013-14</b>		<b>Position Reductions</b>	<b>FTE</b>	
	Inst & Supervision	Executive Assistant - Asst. Superintendent	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	HR/Labor Relations	Executive Assistant - HR/Labor Relations	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Accounting	Payroll Clerk	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Business Services	Printer	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Technology	Technology Support Techs.	(2.0)	Non-instruction
	Purchasing	Warehouseman	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Custodians	(4.0)	Non-instruction
	Research & Accountability	Exempt Evaluation Support	(0.5)	Non-instruction
	Technology	Technology Network Specialist	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Non-Departmental	Reserve Teaching Positions	(2.0)	Instructional Support
	Elementary Schools	Teachers-Increase Class Size Targets	(12.0)	Instruction
	Elementary Schools	RTI - Response to Intervention Coordinator	(0.5)	Instructional Support
	Middle Schools	Teachers-Increase Class Size Targets	(4.0)	Instruction
	Jr/SR High Schools	Teachers-Increase Class Size Targets	(4.0)	Instruction
	Senior High Schools	Teachers-Increase Class Size Targets	(17.5)	Instruction
	Senior High Schools	District-wide Nurse	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Senior High Schools	Districtwide Teacher Allocation	(2.0)	Instructional Support
	Travel	Staff Travel		Non-instruction
	Districtwide	Substitute Funding		Instructional Support
	Business Services	Software Consultant Support		Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	O&M Svcs. Equipment		Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Snow Removal		Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Utilities		Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Equipment Repairs		Non-instruction
	Special Education	Extended Learning Program Supplies & Equipment		Instructional Support
	Student Support Services	Summer School Regular Education		Instructional Support
	Curriculum	Defer Half of Math Curriculum Materials Purchase		Instruction
	Elementary Schools	Elementary Intervention Support		Instructional Support
<b>2014-15</b>		<b>Position Reductions</b>	<b>FTE</b>	
	Business Services	ADC Switchboard Operator	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Human Resources	Assistant HR Director	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Custodial Zone Manager	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Special Education	Special Education Staff	(0.5)	Instructional Support
	Non-Departmental	Reserve Teaching Position	(3.0)	Instructional Support
	Charter Schools	Principal - Charter School	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Facilities Management	Utilities		Non-instruction
	Student Support Services	SRO Grant Matching		Instructional Support
	Student Support Services	CTE Travel Budget		Non-instruction
<b>2015-16</b>		<b>Position Reductions</b>	<b>FTE</b>	
	Student Support Services	Intervention Room Aides	(8.5)	Instructional Support
	Elementary Schools	RTI Assistant	(6.5)	Instructional Support

**PARTIAL LIST OF BUDGET ACTIONS SINCE 2009-10**

(Does not represent all actions or items added into the budget, or special education changes, or staffing changes based all enrollment changes, etc.)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Classification</b>
	Curriculum	ITT	(4.0)	Instructional Support
	Student Support Services	Classroom Aides OPTIONS	(3.0)	Instructional Support
	Elementary Schools	Principals - Salcha/Two Rivers	(2.0)	Instructional Support
	Student Support Services	Nurses - .5 ea at Anderson Crawford Hutchison Salcha	(2.0)	Instructional Support
	Student Support Services	School Safety Liaisons	(2.0)	Instructional Support
	Student Support Services	ELL Tutor	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Research & Accountability	Exec Director of Research & Accountability	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Facilities Management	Facilities Management Admin Secretary	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Technology	Computer Technician	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Library Media	Library Media Services Director	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Library Media	Library Media Secretary	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Elementary Schools	Elementary Attendance Secretary	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	All Schools	Non-Personnel Supplies/Prof Tech 15% decrease		Instruction
	Travel	Staff Travel		Non-instruction
	Curriculum	Elimination of Terra Nova & DW standardized testing		Instructional Support
	Facilities Management	Reduce Utilities		Non-instruction
	Non-Departmental	Reserve Teaching Position		Instructional Support
	Technology	Teacher Computer Replacement		Instruction
	Student Support Services	SRO Contract with City		Instructional Support
	Student Activities	Personnel & Non-Personnel Allocations		Non-instruction
<b>2016-17</b>		<b>Position Reductions</b>	<b>FTE</b>	
	Student Support Services	Teacher-Golden Heart Academy	(1.0)	Instruction
	Elementary Schools	RTI Assistants	(2.0)	Instructional Support
	Elementary Schools	RTI Teachers/Facilitators	(6.0)	Instructional Support
	Special Education	Teacher-Mentor	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Special Education	Secretary	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Student Support Services	Behavior Intervention Aide - SMART Program	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Curriculum	ITT	(2.0)	Instructional Support
	Facilities Management	Project & Grounds Manager	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Student Support Services	Elimination of Tean OPTIONS Program	(3.0)	Instructional Support
	Accounting	Assistant Accounting Clerk	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Purchasing	Purchasing Clerk	(1.0)	Non-instruction
	Facilities Management	Wire Crew	(2.0)	Non-instruction
	Senior High Schools	Prevention Intervention Specialist	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Middle Schools	Swimming Aide	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	Elementary Schools	Teacher - Elementary Music Restructure	(1.6)	Instruction
	Special Education	School Psychologist	(1.0)	Instructional Support
	All Schools	Non-Personnel Supplies/Prof Tech 10% decrease		Instruction
	Senior High Schools	Department Heads		Instructional Support
	All Schools	Reduce Extended Contracts - Librarians & Counselors		Instructional Support



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

January 30, 2018

Legislature of the State of Alaska  
31<sup>st</sup> Legislature – First Regular Session

Re: Increased Education Funding for the Base Student Allocation – Letter of Support

The Matanuska Susitna Borough School District supports increased funding to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). With no new increases to the BSA over the past two fiscal years, the Mat-Su Borough School District has relied on a combination of expense reductions and the utilization of fund balance (savings) to balance its budget. This approach cannot be sustained long-term.

Over the past two years, the Mat-Su Borough School District has had to make difficult decisions in order to protect classroom instruction. Nevertheless, deep cuts were required to pass a balanced budget for the 2017-18 school year. A total of \$8.4 million (87 full-time equivalent positions) was cut from the District's roll-over budget. Budget cuts included increasing class sizes through reductions to the teacher workforce, eliminating instructional support positions, reducing supply budgets, and increasing activity fees.

Based on early estimates, the Mat-Su Borough School District is anticipating an \$8 million deficit for FY19. Further budget cuts threaten the quality of education and the District's fund balance (2.87% of total expenditures) cannot continue to be used to stave off additional cuts. At this time, we are calling on our State's elected officials to help fund the increasing costs of education so we can sustain quality educational programs for the students we serve.

Respectfully,

Dr. Monica Goyette,  
MSBSD Superintendent

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

## FY2018 Budget Reductions

FY 18 Operating Fund Expense Reductions			
	FTE	Amount	Total Reduction
EXECUTIVE REDUCTION	1.00		\$ 160,700
CERTIFIED REDUCTION			\$ 3,322,761
Instructional Support	11.96	\$ 1,334,455	
Classroom Teachers	18.00	\$ 1,839,826	
Additional Days		\$ 56,480	
ESY Reduced by 1 Week		\$ 92,000	
NON-CERTIFIED REDUCTION			\$ 2,778,561
SPED Assistants	18.99	\$ 1,232,734	
Custodial Support	17.00	\$ 753,023	
Administrative Support	9.50	\$ 792,804	
STUDENT ACTIVITIES by 12.50%			\$ 560,294
Stipends		\$ 472,852	
Travel		\$ 73,692	
Rentals		\$ 13,750	
DEPARTMENT DISCRETIONARY			\$ 939,673
FOOD SERVICE SUBSIDY			\$ 374,616
SCHOOL DISCRETIONARY METRICS			\$ 307,155
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76.45</b>		<b>\$ 8,443,760</b>

**From:** Miller, Mark  
**To:** [Michelle Sydeman](#); [School Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Mark Miller](#)  
**Subject:** Increasing BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 2:56:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [State of the District December 2017 v2.pptx](#)

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Hi Michelle,

Thank you for speaking with me today. I very strongly endorse a BSA increase. As you can see from the attached powerpoint, over the past five years the BSA has been nearly flat (DEED web site). Over that same time, my operating expenses from the general fund have increased nearly 10% while my student count has fallen by about 3%. While we have used our general fund balance to survive the last couple of years, we have effectively spent any carryover money and are being forced to consider severe cuts to try to fill a \$3 million hole between this year's budget and next year's budget. We have become very lean and efficient, as 90% of our budget goes to compensate personnel. A \$100 BSA student increase would not solve this problem, but it would go a long way to help. As the This in turn will help us continue to improve student achievement in a save and supportive environment. Superintendent of Juneau School District I strongly endorse Rep. Gara's bill.

Mark Miller, Ed.D.

Superintendent  
Juneau School District  
City and Borough of Juneau  
10014 Crazy Horse Dr.  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907.523.1702



Reduction Description	Positions Eliminated					Cumulative Budget Reductions
	Cabinet	JSAA	JEA	Exempt	JESS	
Assistant Superintendent	1.00					182,000
High School Assistant Principals		2.00				274,000
Administrator (Coordinator): Facilities Planning		1.00				130,000
Coordinator: Education Technology		1.00				130,000
Administrator (Coordinator): Student Safety & Climate		1.00				130,000
Classroom Teachers because of change in teacher allocation			14.80			1,581,000
Special Education Classroom Teachers			11.50			1,228,000
Cultural Specialist Teacher			1.00			107,000
Elementary Extended Learning Teachers			3.00			320,000
Extended Learning Counselors			2.00			214,000
Middle School Counselors			2.00			214,000
Elementary Instructional Coaches			3.00			320,000
Science Instructional Coach			1.00			107,000
Art Specialist			1.00			107,000
Secondary Literacy Coaches			1.00			107,000
HomeBRIDGE Teacher			0.50			53,000
Combine RALLY and Community Schools						
Supervisors (not operating fund)						0
Assistant Superintendent Admin Assistant				1.00		105,000
High School In-School Suspension Staff					3.00	191,000
HomeBRIDGE Support Staff					0.50	34,000
Special Education Para-educators					6.54	405,000
Truancy Officer					1.00	69,000
Administrative Assistant in Teaching & Learning					1.00	63,000
Information Technology					6.00	707,000
Data Assessment Specialist					1.00	79,000
Middle School Literacy Support Staff					2.00	138,000
High School Literacy Support Staff					6.00	413,000
Accounts Payable position					1.00	87,000

## Budget Reductions since 2011:

▪ \$11,035,000 Million in Cuts

▪ 92 Full-Time Positions



# Deferred Maintenance

- ▶ Examples of projects and costs:

▶ JDHS Replacement of Two Boilers	\$1,100,000
▶ Marie Drake Heating Controls	330,000
▶ JDHS Partial Roof Repair	300,000
▶ Marie Drake Driveway/Walkway Repair	210,000
▶ Marie Drake Renovate YDHS Commons	120,000
▶ MRCS Replace Hallway Carpeting	90,000
▶ DHMS Replace Heating Controls	70,000
▶ MRCS Replace Classroom Exterior Porch Slabs	65,000





## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Office of Superintendent

Sean Dusek, Superintendent of Schools

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520

Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

March 2, 2018

Representatives Gara, Drummond, Spohnholz, Kawasaki, Tuck, Josephson, Parish  
State of Alaska House of Representatives  
Juneau, AK

RE: [HB 339: INCREASE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION](#)

Please consider this letter as testimony for HB 339. We have been working through reduction scenarios for our FY19 budget which will be presented to the Board of Education on March 5, 2018. It's been a difficult process; any further cuts will have a significant negative impact to our students and their success. A school board member and a KPBSD student did testify in support of HB 339 during a hearing on February 12, 2018, while they were in Juneau.

The number one priority of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education is: ["Provide sustained, timely, and adequate educational funding for Alaska's students."](#) Our district stands ready to work with the legislature to find the right solutions for solving today's fiscal challenge, recognizing that difficult decisions must be made.

**KPBSD supports an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), and reiterates that continued flat funding is a cut to our education revenue.**

A \$100 BSA increase would provide our district approximately an additional \$1.8 million from the State, and also raise the maximum allowable contribution from the Kenai Peninsula Borough by approximately \$400,000. Without this BSA increase, all of the large school districts are looking to increase their class sizes and reduce staff.

**KPBSD projects a \$3.3-million-dollar deficit in FY19 with flat funding from the Borough and State of Alaska.**

Our budget is built with a revenue assumption of maximum funding from the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and flat funding from the State of Alaska which leaves us with a \$1.3 million deficit. Our administrative team is working diligently to plan scenarios to keep reductions as far away from the classroom as possible.

**Since FY15, the KPBSD has reduced expenditures by \$7.9 million dollars.**

The reductions include 11.26 FTE positions in district office, 15.38 FTE positions in school administration and staff, and a reduction in work hours for some support staff. Efficiencies have been found and made in technology, supplies, software, utilities, travel, curriculum, food service, student transportation, and equipment expenditures.

**Adequately funding public education is a legal responsibility of the State of Alaska legislature and is its primary financial concern.**

The education funding plan must be consistent, reliable and predictable to enable schools to focus on their primary mission: educate our youth. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is accountable for the dollars entrusted to it and supports measures that will allow our District to operate in a more efficient manner.

The KPBSD recognizes the current state fiscal climate, and appreciates the work the legislature is doing to pass a fiscal plan in a timely manner, with education funding as a priority. Our district continues to focus on rigor, relevance, and responsiveness, in order to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.

Sincerely,



Sean Dusek  
Superintendent of Schools

**From:** [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#)  
**To:** [Michelle Sydeman](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 339 Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 11:34:08 AM

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**From:** Sandra Daws [mailto:sdaws01@kibsd.org]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 2:20 PM

**To:** Rep. Harriet Drummond

**Cc:** Larry Ledoux

**Subject:** HB 339 Testimony

Representative Drummond,

Thank you for your time this morning, I am including my written testimony since I cut it down to stay within the 2 minute time frame. Please contact me if you should have any questions.

I am Sandy Daws, Business Manager, for the **Kodiak Island Borough School District**. Kodiak has four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school in the city of Kodiak. In addition, our district supports 7 more rural sites. Six of those can only be accessed by plane or boat. Kodiak serves approx. 2300 students.

In the past year, Kodiak School District has seen a large reduction in our staffing. FY17 to now, **Kodiak had to cut 18 teaching positions**, reduced hours for our classified Staff, cut staff travel, classroom supplies, curriculum supplies, maintenance supplies, and reduced our professional development for our entire staff.

These cuts **from the FY17 budget to the FY18 budget resulted in a 2.1 million** cut in salaries and supplies.

With no projected new funding from the state, Kodiak School District has requested and additional 1.5 million from the Kodiak Borough. This would put KIB contribution at 96% to the cap. Then what happens next year? We need a long-term, early funding plan from the state and increasing the BSA is a start in that direction.

**If we do not receive additional funding from our Borough or the State, Kodiak School District will be cutting 9 more Teachers, 7 classified positions.**

Reducing Teaching positions and classroom support staff means **bigger class size and fewer options for students.**

In addition, we will have to reduce funding for renewal and replacement of our facilities and equipment. Items like gym floor refinishing and replacing a far beyond useful service life truck-mounted sander.

Deeper cuts to our supply budgets and we will have to postpone our curriculum replacement for a second year in a row.

**A key to student success** is access to current and high quality content. In addition, the curriculum must be diverse in learning needs and interests. .

What we have done to reduce costs:

Flat funding does not keep up with inflation, teacher/staff raises and rising costs of health insurance. Our district has been working hard to find ways to reduce costs. Example: 80% of our staff on a High Deductible Health Insurance, and by June 30, 2020 our entire district will be on a High Deductible health insurance.

We are exploring ways to stabilize our Technology purchase by leasing allowing us to spread the cost out over a four-year period.

Exploring stratifying our elementary schools as another long-term solution.

**Keeping Quality Educators is the most significant variable in student success.**



March 28, 2018

Dear Representative Gara,

I wanted to touch base and pledge my support for your legislation, HB339.

As far as Education Funding goes, it is no secret that we are all struggling for survival. While another year of flat funding is better than a reduction in educational funding, it still causes us to make significant cuts and drives us deeper into our reserves. Energy costs, medical benefits, travel, shipping, salaries, etc. will all continue to escalate as we try to maintain our mode of operation.

Last year, LPSD was forced to reduce its instructional year by 20 days, and this year we are forced to cut positions. We are a small district and any cut to personnel affects us deeply. This year alone, we are cutting administrative, certified, and classified positions. We have condemned playgrounds in our villages, leaky roofs, vehicles in disrepair, and outdated curriculum with no financial means to fix or replace them.

Simply put, with each year of flat funding we are offering less of a comprehensive education to our students. We have cut our inefficiencies and niceties, and now it is simply core services that are left; the services that honestly cannot be cut. Our kids, and frankly our teachers, are being adversely affected with each year that we are asked to do more with less.

To close, I understand that it has been a tough year for Alaska in general, and we are thankful for your leadership and continued support of education. As always, we appreciate all that you do for us down in Juneau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ty Mase".

Ty Mase, Superintendent  
Lake and Peninsula School District



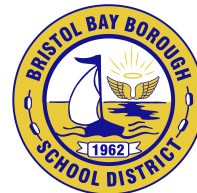
## THE BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

#2 School Road North

P.O. Box 169

Naknek, Alaska 99633

Phone: (907) 246-4225/Fax: (907) 246-6875



March 28, 2018

Dear Representative Gara,

Thank you so much for continually being a strong advocate for adequate education funding. Your bill, HB 339, is something that our district is in full support of and we hope this letter will help you in your efforts.

Education funding has not kept up with the cost of providing an adequate education for our students here at BBBSD. Over the past five years here at BBBSD we have had to take a number of measures to meet these challenges, including:

- Securing the maximum contribution our Borough can provide.
- Reducing elementary staff by combining elementary grades into K/1, 2/3, 4/5.
- Reducing secondary staff and requiring teachers to provide instruction for grades 6-12.
- Reducing education programming (music, art, language, CTE)
- Reducing administrative staff that provide support in Federal Programs, Grants, Business office functions and clerical tasks.
- Eliminating Pre-K instruction from our budget (later reinstated via grants).
- Renovating infrastructure to reduce energy costs via funding from our Borough.
- Relying on our community to fundraise to provide for non-core instruction.
- Working with the Bristol Bay Education Association in an agreement that included 0% increase to the salary schedule for the FY17 and FY18 school years.
- Working with neighboring districts to provide CTE instruction.

Our district has worked diligently to provide the best education possible with the funding that the state has provided. We have made cuts, we have found efficiencies and we have worked to find alternate sources of revenue. All of these efforts will continue, but we are at a point where we will once again need to consider cuts to staffing, cuts that will be detrimental to the quality of education we can provide.

Alaska's students deserve an excellent education, despite our fiscal climate. Your leadership and continued support of Alaska's students is truly an inspiration for Alaska's children and educators. Thank you for being our voice in these difficult times.

Chin'an,

Bill Hill  
Superintendent

P.O. Box 1330  
675 Second Street  
Cordova, AK 99574



(T) 907-424-3265  
(F) 907-424-3271  
[www.cordovasd.org](http://www.cordovasd.org)

February 27, 2018

Representative Les Gara  
State House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Gara,

On behalf of the Cordova School District, I wanted to extend my thanks to you for introducing and co-sponsoring HB 339, which proposes an increase of \$100 to the current Base Student Allocation.

Educators across Alaska are aware of the large scope of matters under consideration in the legislature that will have a significant impact on our state as a whole, including educational programming. Considering these matters in combination with the current economic climate, I urge you to use your influence and your vote in investing in Alaska's future, namely our children and that of the public education school system.

Further, I understand and appreciate that the legislature must consider a number of ways to address Alaska's current economic situation; of equal importance is the compelling need to act with foresight in planning for a promising future, as well. As part of your considerations, the following legislative actions would provide a sense of hope to local districts as we look toward educating our students for the future:

- Developing a sound state fiscal plan that addresses costs and cultivates new revenue streams
- Implementing meaningful retirement frameworks that will reduce the unsustainable required contributions from local school districts
- Providing relief from burdensome state legislative mandates that add to school district costs
- Opposing efforts that erode a district's authority to maintain local control of programs and operations
- Investing in the one resource that we know does not ebb and flow with the times: Alaska's children

In closing, the costs of public education are great, and so are the rewards! Visit a neighborhood school, near or far, rural or urban, and you are sure to see the wonderment of what investing in public education has to offer. Cordova School District has historically done our part by meeting high levels of academic performance and achievement standards, including graduation rates, both locally and at a state level. An increase to the BSA would offer the chance to enhance current programming and to grow new opportunities for our students. If we maintain the "status quo" as the world moves ahead, we are actually falling behind.

Please show your commitment by working diligently to see that public education is funded in ways that meet the changing times and the ever-growing needs of our diverse students.

Thank you for your continued service and support of Alaska's children and communities.

Sincerely,

Alex Russin, Superintendent



## George Ascott

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**From:** Rep. Harriet Drummond  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2018 12:30 PM  
**To:** George Ascott  
**Subject:** FW: Gara's HB 339

**From:** Bart Mwarey [mailto:[bmwarey@hydaburg.k12.ak.us](mailto:bmwarey@hydaburg.k12.ak.us)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2018 5:02 PM  
**To:** Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Gara's HB 339

Honorable Drummond:

My name is Bart Mwarey, Superintendent/Principal of Hydaburg City School District. I am writing in support of Gara's HB 339, which would increase the base allocation (SBA) next year by \$100.00. It has been difficult to plan ahead with no increases in the SBA over the last few years. Hiring and retaining quality teachers has been difficult with the level of funding we've been getting in our District.

Your assistance in approving the \$100.00 would greatly be appreciated.

Thank you,

--

Bart Mwarey  
Superintendent/Principal  
Hydaburg City School District  
Phone 907-285-3491 Fax: 907-285-3391  
Cell: 907-401-3359  
[bmwarey@hydaburg.k12.ak.us](mailto:bmwarey@hydaburg.k12.ak.us)



Kuspuk School District  
100 Boundary Avenue  
PO 49  
Aniak, AK 99557  
Tel: 907-675-4205  
Fax: 907-675-4305

Representative Les Gara  
State Capitol Room 511  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Gara:

On behalf of the Kuspuk School District, I support the restoration of funding to its place prior to the past three years. The increased funding would greatly benefit the students of our district.

The impact that flat funding has had to the district is as follows, causing us to go over budget in the following areas.

- Classified Instructional Aide hours - had to cut some hours.
- Maintenance Supplies, Travel and Maintaining schools
- Food Service - Transfer of funds to help cover food expenditures
- Curriculum - Adoption materials
- Utility costs including Electricity and Communications
- Contract services - Services paid for contracting

The students and staff greatly appreciate your efforts in trying to restore funding.

Sincerely,

Bernard Grieve  
Kuspuk School District Superintendent

**From:** Connie Newman [mailto:cnewman@iditarodsd.org]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2018 3:01 PM

**To:** Rep. Les Gara ; Rep. Bryce Edgmon ; michelle.syndenow@akleg.gov; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins ; Sen. Lyman Hoffman

**Subject:** Funding for our students

Good Day,

Thank you for your continued effort to meet the needs of our children. I support the HB 339 \$100 dollar addition to the base student allocation. This will help the district retain our current staffing. This does not include funding for a counselor which our student's desperately need for academic advising, social emotional mentoring or family interventions to address child sexual abuse, domestic violence and substance abuse.

I would also to thank you for reaching out to find answers for keeping our children and families safe. Currently our schools have doors that do not lock, are not equipped with a central alarm to notify of a need for a lock down in the buildings in case of a violent intruder. Unfortunately we have had an incident involving someone coming to school with a knife.

Iditarod Area School District is committed to the Early Learning initiatives of our excellent education department staff and with their help we have established preschool programs in four of our seven villages with monies from the Moore Grant Settlement. With support from our partners at SERRC we integrated technology for addressing and enhancing culturally relevant instructional practices through a grant award. Currently we are partnering with University of Montana campuses and our University of Alaska to recruit and retain qualified certified staff, and to grow our own local certified teachers with help from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

To celebrate and commemorate one of our certified staff who was the victim of a tragic plane crash the board approved the IASD Be a Teacher (One) Day  
In Memory of Julia Walker.

All of us at IASD and the State will work with you to continue your efforts to provide an academically rigorous and culturally relevant program of study to our students and colleagues.

*Connie A. Newman, Superintendent  
Iditarod Area School District  
Box 90  
McGrath, AK 99627*

[cnewman@iditarodsd.org](mailto:cnewman@iditarodsd.org)

*907-524-1221 Voice  
907-524-3217 Fax*

*"Watch your thoughts for they become words.  
Watch your words for they become actions.  
Watch your actions for they become habits.  
Watch your habits for they become your character.  
And watch your character for it becomes your destiny.  
What we think, we become.  
My father always said that... and I think I am fine."  
~~ Margaret Thatcher*



Petersburg School District

PO Box 289

Petersburg, AK 99833

Ph/FAX (877) 526-7656

February 27, 2018

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins:

Thank you for your continued support of public education in Alaska, and for your tireless work on behalf of our children. I truly appreciate the staggering task ahead of you during this legislative session, and wish you wisdom and strength as you tackle these difficult budgetary issues.

I am writing this letter in support of HB 339, sponsored by Representative Gara, increasing the BSA by \$100 after three years of flat funding. If funding were restored to its place prior to the past three years, this would result in a 2% increase, or \$121,866 to our students and teachers.

Our district has maintained a fiscally conservative budget for many years, and the last 3 years have been no different. Essentially, the way we have managed to make ends meet is by reducing staff through attrition, instituting nearly flat salary increases (between .5 and 1%), **reducing course offerings**, implementing energy saving measures, reducing professional development travel opportunities, reducing teaching supplies, and reducing the number of students who travel for activities.

We will continue to "tighten our belts" and make wise budgetary decisions, but there is only so far we can go before these reductions have long-term negative effects on student learning and opportunities for growth. We are proud of the robust, well-rounded curriculum provided in our small school district, and will continue to manage our resources conservatively. I wholeheartedly support HB 339, and look forward to working with you in the future to provide the best possible education for all of Alaska's children. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Erica Kludt-Painter

Superintendent, Petersburg School District



# Craig City School District

Jack Walsh, Superintendent

P.O. Box 800 Craig, Alaska 99921

[www.craigschools.com](http://www.craigschools.com)

Phone (907)826.3274, FAX (907) 826.3322

CCSD is dedicated to providing a meaningful, comprehensive, and engaging education to all students, so they participate responsibly in the global society.

February 27, 2018

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tompkins  
State Capital Room 411  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tompkins,

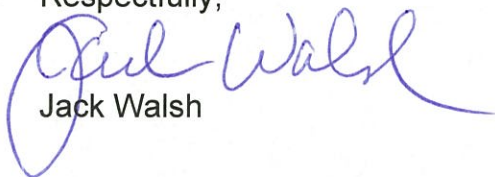
I write today in support of HB339, a bill sponsored by Representative Gara and multiple co-sponsors, to increase the Base Student Allocation. This Bill has the potential to increase our foundation budget for the Craig City School District by nearly 2% and that is a welcomed relief for this district and every district across the state.

Craig City School District serves nearly 500 students in our Craig schools and in our correspondence and homeschool program. As a small district in a rural part of the state, we offer quality programs and services for families and are truly committed to the types of choice parents and students want.

In recent years, the State's fiscal situation and the federal government's challenges have forced us to operate with less funding. This downturn has also affected employment opportunities and with that, our student numbers have regularly declined. The result is we have **had to cut teaching and other positions**, increased fees for student activities and facilities use, and we have reduced some of our sports programs, professional development, and student support. Looking ahead, I fear that without funding increases like this bill would create, we will see further reductions, more deferred maintenance, and less classroom resources for teachers. None of this will help us improve the opportunities for students or help ensure our future parents, workers, and leaders of Alaska get the education they deserve.

I hope we can count on you to get behind this bill and to support an increase to the BSA for FY19.

Respectfully,



Jack Walsh

Cc Representative Les Gara  
Senator Bert Stedman





March 11, 2018

Representative Gara:

My name is Dr. Mary Wegner, and I am the superintendent of the Sitka School District. I am writing today in support of HB 339, Increase Base Student Allocation.

Thank you for your support of public education in Alaska, and thank you for putting forward a bill to support student learning throughout the state. Sitka Schools is facing a budget deficit for FY19 that is 12% of our total general fund budget. We need timely and adequate state funding to keep our talented teachers and provide a quality education for the students of Sitka. Providing an excellent education to every student every day requires high-caliber teachers combined with a culturally responsive learning environment with targeted instruction to meet a student's individual learning needs. All of which helps us achieve the three commitments of Alaska's Education Challenge, which are increasing student success, cultivating safety and well-being, and supporting responsible and reflective learners.

Given the financial crisis in Alaska and in the community of Sitka, we have made significant cuts over the past 4 years to our non-personnel budgets in order to maintain our teaching force. However, we are now at the point where we are looking at the reality of reducing our number of teachers so much so that a conservative estimate has our class sizes increasing by up to 60% if additional revenue is not available to us. I appreciate that HB 339 has been put forward for consideration. However, even with HB 339 we will lose teachers in Sitka because it is just not enough to make up for the flat-funding of recent years. Specifically, since FY16 utilities and health care costs have gone up a combined total of 102% for a total cost to the district of \$1,091,438. If passed HB 339 is expected to bring in \$271,000 for Sitka Schools. Although this doesn't close our existing \$2.3 million deficit, it can help to save some teaching positions, and for that I am very thankful.

Thank you for taking my testimony, and thank you for your commitment to public education in Alaska. I hope you will pass HB 339 and increase the Base Student Allocation.

Sincerely,

Mary Wegner, Ed.D.

# Class Size Impact of Teacher Reductions

Grade	FY18 October Count Ratio	1 Teacher Position		2 Teachers Positions		3 Teachers Positions	
		Ratio	% Change	Ratio	% Change	Ratio	% Change
K	19:1	23:1	21%	31:1	63%		
1	17:1	24:1	41%	32:1	88%		
2	18:1	21:1	17%	28:1	56%		
3	21:1	23:1	10%	30:1	43%		
4	21:1	26:1	24%	35:1	67%		
5	21:1	26:1	14%	34:1	62%		
BMS	15:1	16:1	5%	16:1	5%	17:1	11%
SHS	16:1	16:1	0%	17:1	6%	18:1	13%

PHS is 12:1 and cannot cover basic academic needs with fewer teachers, so they are taking cuts in other ways.

**From:** Jennifer McNichol <[mcnicholj@sitkaschools.org](mailto:mcnicholj@sitkaschools.org)>

**Date:** March 5, 2018 at 9:07:43 PM AKST

**To:** "[Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov)" <[Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov)>

**Cc:** "[george.ascott@akleg.gov](mailto:george.ascott@akleg.gov)" <[george.ascott@akleg.gov](mailto:george.ascott@akleg.gov)>, "Representative Les Gara" <[Representative.Les.Gara@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Les.Gara@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** HB339

Hello, Representative Drummond and members of the House Education Committee,

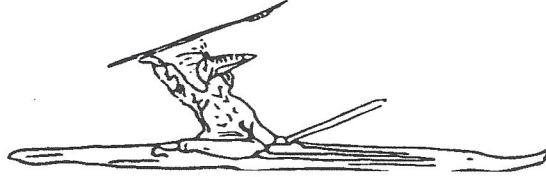
I am writing this evening to place my strong support for HB 339 on the record. In addition to being a pediatrician and mother here in Sitka, I serve as the chair of our local school board. I have had the pleasure of meeting several of you in Juneau in that capacity.

Our school budget situation in Sitka remains dire: we are working to close a projected \$2.3 million deficit, which represents 12% of our total operating budget. We continue to face rising costs in heat, local utilities, and health insurance premiums. "Flat-funding" from the state has NOT kept pace with these cost increases, and our municipality is unable to readily make up the difference as it faces its own budget crisis. The question looming in front of us is how many teacher positions do we cut, having made up the deficits of preceding years with every imaginable non-instructional cut. We have calculated that a \$100/student BSA increase represents approximately \$270,000 for our district - that would preserve funding for nearly 3 teaching positions. Given the size of our district (with 109 teachers currently on staff), 3 teachers means a lot, and retaining them would help mitigate the increases in class sizes that are inevitable in the current climate. Larger classes are not going to help us address our #1 board goal - to reduce the achievement gaps in our district. For these reasons, I urge the House Education Committee to give HB 339 the deliberation that it deserves, and to pass it on for consideration by the entire House.

Thank you for your time in reading this, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer McNichol, M.D.  
Sitka School Board Chair





# ALEUTIAN REGION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Joseph B. Beckford, Superintendent

REAA #8 (ADAK, ATKA, and NIKOLSKI)  
P.O. Box 92230  
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

[www.aleutregion.org](http://www.aleutregion.org)  
[jbeckford@aleutregion.org](mailto:jbeckford@aleutregion.org)

907-277-2648  
Fax 907-277-2649  
Cell 907-360-8441

February 28, 2018

Representative Les Gara  
Alaska State Capitol, Room #501  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Gara:

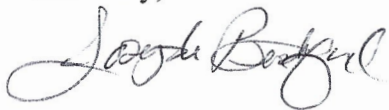
This letter is to offer my support for your HB Bill # 339, which would increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$100 from \$5930 to \$6030. This would represent a 0.017% increase.

While I support this proposal, I would like to address it from perhaps a different angle, as I suspect that many of your colleagues would only say, "Yeh, he's a school guy; they're never satisfied and always want more money." So, here are my simple points. I follow closely the currency market. Since January 2017 to February 2018, the value of the dollar has dropped from .98 against the Euro to .81 against the Euro. That is a precipitous drop of 18 % in the value of a dollar. So, a dollar that was almost on par with the Euro last year has the purchasing power of \$0.81 or 81 cents today. But, does this translate into the market basket. Well, if we go back to the international scale, the federal per diem rate - which is a market basket based indicator - for federal travel to a city in Europe as Berlin has been adjusted from \$299./day last January in Berlin to \$347./day today. That is a 16% increase, so the comparison pretty much holds, and it has been verified by federal government action. I think it reasonable to say that we can expect a 16% increase in domestic market basket costs relatively quickly.

Why is this important and what is going to happen? Two things: first, more people can compete for the same goods from other countries, and secondly, the only logical outcome of a devaluation of any currency is going to be domestic inflation. We are seeing that already in the market basket approach, but most Americans don't understand why. While a weak dollar may be great for businesses focused on international competition, it is devastating for domestic businesses, state and local government, and yes, school districts. So, while our federal government is touting new competitiveness of American business on an international scale, everyone else is going to suffer. The vast majority will suffer for the privileged few. And, the new tax break that is coming from the federal government? Well, taxpayers can kiss that benefit goodbye - it's already being eaten up by inflation; the numbers and scenario above prove that. So, both the state, local government, school districts and consumers find themselves in the same boat. However, Alaska school districts are financially dependent - they have no independent taxing authority nor the ability to make their case for more money even from their own constituencies. State and local governments can make the case to their constituents as they do have taxing authority. The State Legislature is the only source that school districts can turn to for help. Otherwise, you can't expect any more than 84% of what schools were able to do last year. If Districts barely made it last year, you can expect some of them to start crumbling this year.

I hate to be a prophet of doom, but I think the economic indicators are clearly there, leaving education with nowhere to go, but to its Legislature. I hope the Alaska Legislature will respond in the small measure by supporting the increase represented in this Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph Beckford".

Joseph Beckford  
Superintendent



# *Delta/Greely School District*

*The Delta/Greely School District provides each student with opportunities to become a responsible and productive member of society*

February 7, 2018

Dear House Education Committee,

This letter of support for Representative Gara's bill to increase the Base-Student-Allocation is written as candidly and honestly as I can possibly be. I am not attempting to be over dramatic or create a scenario merely to solicit additional funding for schools without cause. The poll conducted by the Alaska Senate confirms that the general public recognizes the fact that education in Alaska is underfunded.

The State of Alaska has faced a fiscal crisis and there has been a need to tighten our belts and "cut the fat". Some perceive that schools have not taken on their fair share of this burden but I can tell you from here in the trenches that, in deed, we have. First, there was very little "fat" to be trimmed from the education funding since that base student allocation has risen by less than five percent over the past seven years while the costs of doing business continue to rise.

In Delta/Greely School District we pride ourselves on being fiscally conservative and careful to live within our means. We were fortunate to have saved for a rainy day when budgets allowed. During the 2017-2018 school year, our expenditures exceeded our revenue by \$209,000. This year (2017-18) our budget is built on our expenditures exceeding revenue by \$165,000. We have cut supplies and reduced staff (secretarial, teaching, food service, instructional aides...and we had already cut administrative staff). We are constantly looking for any and all efficiencies we can.

As I begin planning for the coming school year, I start by facing an additional \$240,000 in personal costs that are owed to our staff based on the current contracts. Contracts that have not changed for three years. We are at this very moment looking at what staff we may need to lay-off in order to meet our budget. Again, I am not saying this to be dramatic or just to make a point. These lay-offs are real and the people involved are real. At this point we are anticipating reducing our staff by at least three classified and a half-time certificated position.

The recommended one hundred dollar increase included in Representative Gara's bill would certainly provide at least some relief to us as we grapple with decisions on how to maintain quality education with a tightened budget that is threatening to cut off circulation. The students of Delta/Greely have always done well in state assessments and our families recognize the value of a good education. They expect and deserve nothing less.

Please stand up in support of the educational program that your constituents have identified as a priority for this state. Please support the increase to the Base Student Allocation.

Sincerely,

Laural Jackson, DGSD Superintendent

**From:** Mark A. Schill-Zonts [mailto:mark.schill-zonts@k12northstar.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 4:12 PM

**To:** Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** HB339

The HB339 increase MUST happen. The Governor can take a pay cut. The kids have gone without too long.

Thank you,

**MARK SCHILL-ZONTS**

**SAFETY ASSISTANT**

**RYAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**452-4751 EXT.13030**

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**LIVE FOR TODAY**

**DREAM FOR TOMORROW**

**LEARN FROM YESTERDAY**

Albert Einstein



February 21, 2018

Chair Drummond and Members of the House Education Committee:

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My name is Dr. Mary Wegner, and I am the superintendent of the Sitka School District. I am testifying today in support of HB 339, Increase Base Student Allocation.

Thank you for your support of public education in Alaska, and thank you for putting forward a bill to support student learning throughout the state. Sitka Schools is facing a budget deficit for FY19 that is 12% of our total general fund budget. We need timely and adequate state funding to keep our talented teachers and provide a quality education for the students of Sitka. Providing an excellent education to every student every day requires high-caliber teachers combined with a culturally responsive learning environment with targeted instruction to meet a student's individual learning needs. All of which helps us achieve the three commitments of Alaska's Education Challenge, which are increasing student success, cultivating safety and well-being, and supporting responsible and reflective learners.

Given the financial crisis in Alaska and in the community of Sitka, we have made significant cuts over the past 4 years to our non-personnel budgets in order to maintain our teaching force. However, we are now at the point where we are looking at the reality of reducing our number of teachers so much so that a conservative estimate has our class sizes increasing by up to 60% if additional revenue is not available to us. I appreciate that HB 339 has been put forward for consideration. However, even with HB 339 we will lose teachers in Sitka because it is just not enough to make up for the flat-funding of recent years. Specifically, since FY16 utilities and health care costs have gone up a combined total of 102% for a total cost to the district of \$1,091,438. If passed HB 339 is expected to bring in \$271,000 for Sitka Schools. Although this doesn't close our existing \$2.3 million deficit, it can help to save some teaching positions, and for that I am very thankful.

Thank you for taking my testimony, and thank you for your commitment to public education in Alaska. I hope you will pass HB 339 and increase the Base Student Allocation.

Sincerely,

Mary Wegner, Ed.D.



## HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 1289

Haines, Alaska 99827

Dear Alaskan Legislators:

On behalf of the Haines Borough School District, we encourage you to support HB339 which would increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$100. As you are aware, the BSA has not been increased for several years. During this time we have experienced increases in costs in salaries, insurance, supplies, materials, and transportation. We have also seen an increase in the costs of maintaining our buildings due to several years of deferred maintenance. The result has been staff reductions and a scaling back in some programs.

It is recognized that education has not seen the cuts that the other areas of the government has experienced and for that we are grateful; however, flat funding is State beginning to take a serious toll of the quality of education that can be provided. HB339 would provide our district an additional \$56,658 in additional state aid for next year. These additional funds will greatly help in minimizing the damage caused by raising costs.

We ask you to support HB339. We also want to thank you for your service to Alaskans of all ages but especially to the children of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard E. Carlson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard E. Carlson  
Interim Superintendent

**From:** Sarah Birmanns  
**To:** [Michelle Sydeman](#)  
**Subject:** Funding our schools  
**Date:** Monday, February 12, 2018 7:12:38 PM

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Hi - I am writing on behalf of teachers and students in the Anchorage School District.

Nine years ago, when I started teaching in Anchorage, I saw 65 students a day, in 4 classes with 3 preps. I was full time. I was a specialist, one of the only non-Latina Spanish teachers in the Spanish Immersion Program. This year I see 108 students a day and teach 4 periods with 4 preps and I am a .6 part-time employee with no insurance. I volunteered to cut my time because I honestly don't think I would love my job if I had 150 -175 students a day like some of my colleagues do. My husband and I are both award-winning educators. We are leaving in 2-3 years if things don't improve. Teachers and students need relief. Please help.

Sarah Birmanns  
Anchorage, AK

Sent from my iPhone



# Chatham School District

Susan Sciabbarrasi  
SUPERINTENDENT



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P.O. BOX 109, ANGOON, ALASKA 99820

PHONE: 907-788-3302 or 907-788-3682 FAX: 907-788-3252

February 27, 2018

Rep. Les Gara

Re: Support of HB 339

I am writing in support of HB 339.

Chatham School District is made up of 4 communities in Rural Alaska. Each site has between 10-75 students per site and the sites are many miles apart, therefore, the only access is by seaplanes or the ferry system (only 2 days per week). The cost for travel as well as receipt of goods and services to these remote areas continues to rise. It is difficult for areas outside of the State of Alaska to understand the challenges when there are no roads in or out of the towns and a thousand miles from a major city.

Last year was the first year the district did not receive the federal Timber Receipts, which has been a huge impact on the rural communities. This year we have had to reduce our certified teaching staff to offset that loss. Our students are among the most needy, economically as well as academically (approximately 30-35% proficient) and continued level funding has an even greater impact on the education of our students. The additional \$100 added to the BSA will provide Chatham School District with \$64,868. This will allow us to keep one teacher and will assist to offset our Food Service programs in the two Native Communities. Without additional funding, we are again looking at reducing our certified and classified staff and may not be able to continue providing two solid meals per day for our students since the NSLP program does not fully fund our expenses due to the cost to ship food to the remote villages. Those two meals are staples for many of our students.

Without additional funding for next year, we will be required to continue to reduce our staff, services, materials and supplies. We will have to limit our extra-curricular and sports activities and travel. All of which, are detrimental to our students' current success as well as their post-secondary endeavors.

When the Timber industry declined, the Timber Receipts were the saving factor for many of our communities and they have helped to sustain them over the past years while the state maintained level funding. Of course, we all know that level funding is actually decreased funding due to the annual rise in the cost of living. With no additional funding for small villages and towns around the state, such as Chatham School District, I feel the students will suffer tremendously.

Therefore, it is my fervent hope that you will support HB 339 and maintain your continuous commitment to our children, and especially the REAA communities who rely solely on state funds to be able to provide for the bare necessities for many of our school children.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Susan Sciabbarrasi  
Superintendent