

## House Education Committee, 4.28.25

Cyndy Fry, Special Education Director, Petersburg School District, delivered Invited Testimony on **HB 183** on behalf of Heather Conn, Principal, Petersburg School District

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Heather Conn and advocate for the preschool programs.

I wanted to provide a bit more context regarding the DWEEP application process, as it has truly been an **arduous** and time-intensive undertaking. We have been working through this process for quite some time—investing over 200 hours this year. To support this effort, the district contracted a retired teacher as a grant writer, as the workload proved too demanding for existing staff.

Additionally, Heather Conn has confirmed that we have met with Tlingit & Haida administrators on 12 separate occasions in an effort to establish a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) necessary for the grant. These meetings reflect not only the time and energy involved, but also the importance of maintaining the integrity of their programs and securing community support.

Heather Conn (Elementary Principal) and Robyn Taylor (Superintendent) are both better positioned to speak in greater detail and with more clarity on this process. Please don't hesitate to reach out to them—or to me—if you would like any additional information.

Best regards,

Cyndy Fry