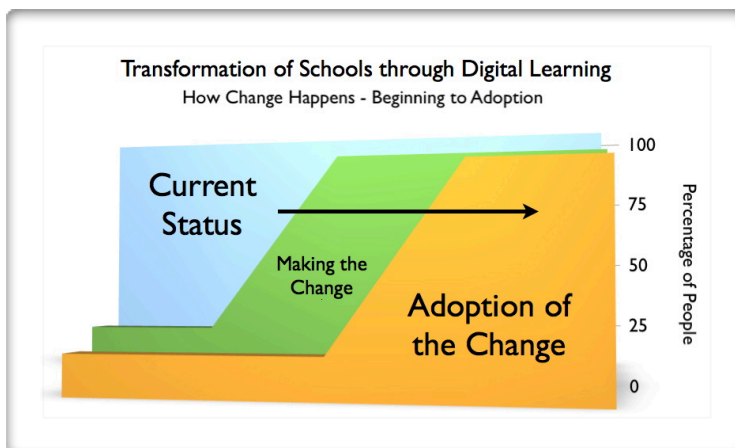




Rationale for Inclusion of Digital Learning in Education Foundation Support

“The legislature shall... establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children”
- Article 7, Paragraph 1- *Alaska Constitution*

- The need for consistent, sustainable funding to support innovative education for all Alaska children is both an obligation and an opportunity. The challenge is that all children do not have access to an equitable education experience. Additional funding will help school leaders meet that responsibility. Adding funds to the foundation formula and collaboration between individual legislators and school districts to expand digital learning opportunities for students can transform education in Alaska. For us to miss this opportunity to change the face of teaching and learning now would be a tragedy.
- The advantages of digital learning are dramatic, through increased educational resource availability, instructional strategies to better engage and motivate students, differentiate learning and increase teacher productivity.



- Technology changes rapidly and needs to be renewed frequently. Static one time funding sources lead to obsolete equipment and limited adoption of education strategies utilizing technology.
- Adoption of change happens over time. Without consistent funding, technology progress cannot be realized and sustained.

- Key findings from research indicate that while many Alaska’s schools are moving forward with digital learning, they are concerned about the funding to sustain their efforts.
- That same research states that many Alaskan children do not have access to one-to one digital learning. For the approximate 90% of Alaska children that don’t have access to digital learning, districts will need guidance and funding to initiate projects that bring equity to public education.
- Consistent and stable funding results in the ability for school districts to plan, design, and sustain ongoing uses of technology for all students.
- By including digital learning into the calculation for Basic Need (as does HB 242), school leaders are ensured of designated funding streams. This will enable them to meet their responsibility to provide an equitable education for all Alaskan children and realize the opportunity to transform of Alaska schools through digital learning.