



## Aleutians East Borough School District

P.O. Box 429, Sand Point, Alaska 99661

Ph. 907-383-5222 FAX 907-383-3496

**Serving the children in the Alaskan communities of:**

**Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, and Sand Point**

[www.aebsd.org](http://www.aebsd.org)

---

Tim Stathis, Superintendent

**January 29, 2013**

### **Honored Representative Higgins and Members of the Senate and House Education Committees:**

I am writing to earnestly convey to you the dire need for HB-87 to successfully pass, for SESA funding to continue. SESA's service for our youth in the extremity of remoteness of our region is essential to the fulfilling of my promise to the parents of our Special Needs students, that ALL our students shall be provided an equal opportunity for excellence of education. We have an autistic child in the remote community/island of Akutan. SESA's intervention for this child has been a vital part of the child's development, positive self-esteem, and building identity. SESA support to our Teachers who work with our special needs students has, as well, been vital to our efforts. The costs of travel to Akutan are enormous (r/t ANC-Akutan is approximately \$1800), and these costs have been rising over the years; rising costs has a proportional negative impact on offered services. I therefore encourage increasing SESA's State funding to meet such rising demands (as I understand SESA has been flat funded for 15 years!). We cannot deny our pledge to provide for Alaska's youth no matter how remote the destiny of their upbringing. Please support everything SESA needs to continue with its mission.

Thank you.

**T. Stathis, Superintendent**  
**Aleutians East Borough School District**  
**Sand Point, Alaska 99661**  
**[tstathis@aebsd.org](mailto:tstathis@aebsd.org)**  
**wk. 907-383-5222**  
**c. 907-538-4962**