

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nunamliut Wolves Amaqqut

Nunamliut School
P.O. Box 21029
Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska 99721
(907) 661-3226
FAX (907) 661-6215

Atqasuk Eagles Tinmiaqpaivch

Meade River School
P.O. Box 91030
Atqasuk, Alaska 99791
(907) 633-6315
FAX (907) 633-6215

Barrow Whalers Agvigsiuqtit

Barrow High School
P.O. Box 960
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-8950
FAX (907) 852-8969

HMS Wolves Amaqut

Eben Hopson, Sr., Memorial Middle School
P.O. Box 509
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-3880
FAX (907) 852-7784

Arctic Foxes Tigiganniat

Fred Ipalook Elementary School
P.O. Box 450
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-4711
FAX (907) 852-4713

Kiita Snowy Owls Ukpiit'ch

Kiita Learning Community
P.O. Box 169
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-9677
FAX (907) 852-4334

Kaveoook Rams Imnait'ch

Harold Kaveoook School
P.O. Box 20
Kaktovik, Alaska 99747
(907) 640-6626
FAX (907) 640-6718

Nulqsut Trappers Naniqiaqtuqtit

Trapper School
P.O. Box 89167
Nulqsut, Alaska 99789
(907) 480-6712
FAX (907) 480-6621

Tikiqaa Harpooners Kapuqtit

Tikiqaa School
P.O. Box 148
Point Hope, Alaska 99766
(907) 368-2662/2663
FAX (907) 368-2770

Kali Qavvilit'ch

Kali School
P.O. Box 59077
Point Lay, Alaska 99759
(907) 833-2311
FAX (907) 833-2315

Alak Huskies Qimuktit

Alak School
P.O. Box 10
Wainwright, Alaska 99782
(907) 763-2541
FAX (907) 763-2565



April 7, 2013

Honorable Benjamin Nageak
State Capitol
Room 428
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Nageak:

I am writing to thank you for your sponsoring House Bill 179 for public school funding for internet services. This bill supports all districts in Alaska. Increasing costs and flat funding are challenging districts to continue to provide the programs our students need. This bill will provide funding for internet services that are a critical component of a 21st Century education program.

E-rate provides federal funding for a portion of a school district's telecommunication costs. Your bill will provide state funding for the balance of those expenses and allow districts to increase their bandwidth. This allows those rural districts primarily served by satellite to increase the bandwidth available to students to 10 megabytes per second. This is a very basic level of service, The Capitol has 100 megabytes per second service. Although basic, it will be a tenfold increase for some rural schools in Alaska. Ten megabytes will be three times faster than our district's current service to village schools. This is a step in the right direction to address the equity issue of educational opportunity for rural students in Alaska.

This is not only a rural bill, urban districts will also benefit. Railbelt communities also use E-rate funding and will have the local share covered. The bill allows them to get a 10% increase in 2015.

An distinct advantage of this bill is that it allows the state to leverage federal funds. The federal E-rate program will continue to pay for a percent of district's telecommunication services. If districts are able to increase the amount spent on telecommunications because of state support, the federal government will provide more funding to Alaskan schools.

I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of the students of the North Slope Borough School District and students across the state. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Peggy Cowan
Superintendent



FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

520 Fifth Avenue Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4756 (907) 452-2000
www.k12northstar.org

April 2, 2013

**Senator Donald Olson
Representative Benjamin Nageak
State Capital Bldg.
Juneau, AK 99801**

Senator Olson and Representative Nageak,

I am writing in support of both SB 82 and HB 179; companion bills that provide funding to public schools for telecommunications or internet services. As you know, school districts are facing difficult budget decisions. By providing assistance to districts with technology costs, we are able to direct additional dollars to the classroom. In the Fairbanks North Star Borough, we anticipate a savings of approximately \$200,000 as a result of this legislation.

We appreciate support for education.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Lewis".

**Pete Lewis
Superintendent of Schools**