



Alaska Federation of Natives
2014 Legislative & Litigation Committee
Resolution 14-10

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR AN INCREASE TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally-recognized tribes, 134 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The Base Student Allocation (BSA) is the basis for how state funding is distributed for students and staff; and

WHEREAS: The State has not increased the BSA since 2011, falling substantially behind inflation; and

WHEREAS: The BSA should be increased every year, because costs to run Alaska schools (*e.g.*, staff salaries, staff benefits, fuel costs, etc.) increase every year; and

WHEREAS: Without an increase to the BSA to catch up with the rate of inflation positions and programs will have to be cut every year, including teachers, counselors, nurses, and sports; and

WHEREAS: In recent years the Alaska State Legislature (Legislature) has appropriated extra funds for construction, maintenance, or fuel, which are valuable, these monies cannot be used for staffing and do not help students in the classroom; and

WHEREAS: A \$400 dollar increase to the BSA in fiscal year (FY) 2015 will replace the educational funds that have been lost to inflation since the Legislature last increased the BSA in 2011, and an addition \$125 dollar BSA increase in each (FY) 2016 and 2017 will ensure a stable and predictable source of funding for our schools before the BSA will have be to reexamined.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN requests that the Legislature increase the BSA by the amounts above in order to avert the proposed district cuts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the increases to the BSA be adjusted for inflation in FY 2018 to allow the allocation to increase each year without additional legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

Passed on April 15, 2014

