



## GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GALENA, ALASKA 99741  
PHONE (907) 656-1205  
FAX (907) 656-2238

SUPERINTENDENT  
Chris Reitan

Re: HB 142 – Monthly Stipend for Boarding Schools

Dear House Education Committee;

I'm writing this letter in support of HB 142 – Monthly Stipend for Boarding Schools. Galena City School District has operated the Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA) on the vacated Galena Air Force Base for the past 16 years. GILA is a statewide boarding facility for students seeking choice. It is Alaska's longest operating secondary career and technical (CTE) education boarding school and offers industry-standard certification in aviation, automotive technology, cosmetology, and culinary arts. GILA also offers a strong academic program with dual credit opportunities unprecedented in rural Alaska. During the 2012-13 school year, GILA has served over 224 students from 79 communities, most of them rural and remote. 91% of the students are Alaska Native.

Galena City School District appreciates the support the Alaska legislature has provided district operated boarding schools. Beginning in 2006 the legislature provided three district-operated boarding schools additional funding through **Alaska Statute Sec. 14.16.200 State funding for districts operating statewide residential educational programs** to offset our room and board costs and to provide students state-wide more educational choices. At the end of the spring 2011 legislative session the monthly per pupil room and board stipend that a school district can receive for each student housed in a statewide residential educational program was doubled for a two year period. For Galena City School District this legislative action doubled the amount that the district receives per month for each student from \$484 to \$968 for FY 12 and FY 13. Unless additional legislative action is taken to address the per pupil monthly room and board stipend, the stipend will return to the previous funding level of \$484 critically impacting GCSD's boarding school program operations as well as the other district operated boarding schools currently operating in the state. GCSD respectfully requests your support for HB 142 – Monthly Stipend for Boarding Schools. HB 142 adjusts Sec. 14.16.200 to a dollar amount that a district can receive for room and board costs that more accurately reflects the true costs of housing and feeding 210 boarding school students.

In closing, GCSD thanks the Alaska legislature for your previous generous support of high school boarding school programs that provide many rural Alaskan students an alternative education that is unavailable in their home communities. We also thank you in advance for your consideration of HB 142.

Yours in Education,

Chris Reitan, GCSD Superintendent  
Email: [chris.reitan@galenanet.com](mailto:chris.reitan@galenanet.com)