



RESOLUTION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

To recommend repeal of the minimum expenditure for instruction

Resolution 3-2015

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska now has in place a system of accountability for schools and school districts; and

WHEREAS, the accountability system uses assessments to measure school and school district progress in English language arts and mathematics in subgroups of students and in the student body as a whole in grades 3 through 10; and

WHEREAS, the accountability system is accompanied by regulations specifying actions that schools and districts must take to improve; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has in place programs and services designed to assist schools and districts to improve; and

WHEREAS, since 1998 Alaska Statute 14.17.520 requires that at least 70 percent of school districts' operating fund expenditures be spent on instruction; and

WHEREAS, the districts and department consume staff time each year reviewing districts' instructional budgets, expenditures and requests for waivers, and preparing an annual report to the legislature; and

WHEREAS, the minimum expenditure requirement also places a burden on the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee to review the districts' waiver requests; and

WHEREAS, the department has seen that nearly all districts that request waivers are heavily affected by rising fixed costs in necessary non-instructional areas such as heating; and

WHEREAS, data over time has shown that from one year to the next there is a consistent number of districts that request a waiver; and

WHEREAS, local stakeholders provide budget oversight;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board of Education & Early Development recommends the repeal of the statutory requirement at AS 14.17.520 that requires districts to spend a minimum of 70 percent of their operating funds on instruction, in acknowledgement that a system of accountability directly tied to student achievement is now in place.

ADOPTED December 11, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Fields', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Fields, Chair
On behalf of the State Board of Education & Early Development