

Alaska Superintendents Association

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Board resolution of the Alaska Superintendents Association, adopted on Sunday March 8, 2015

ASA Resolution Opposing Unfunded Mandates

It is resolved that:

The Alaska Superintendents Association (ASA) strongly opposes unfunded mandates to school districts, schools, teachers and students. Every minute of every school day is precious, and many (if not most) well-intended mandates, especially those surrounding training, clutter the school day with rigid requirements that may not advance student achievement. In fact they reduce instructional time for both students and staff. The state should resist imposing unfunded mandates on districts with the same intensity of purpose used to oppose unfunded federal mandates on the state. There is always a cost with a requirement, particularly in the context of obtaining expertise in the content matter, staff time, record keeping, curriculum development, time and materials for training and testing, etc. If the legislature deems that training for K-12 is important enough to put into law, then commensurate fiscal support that reflects the true costs to implement at the district level is essential. It is also vital to note that over time, various mandates accumulate into a complex mass of regulations that are unclear, cumbersome, and difficult to administer. If we are to meet the charge of compulsory learning for all Alaskan students, we ardently recommend all potential mandates are prioritized, reviewed for alignment with other mandates, appraised for associated costs, and only passed in cases where this process determines which priority mandates will be accompanied by adequate implementation resources.

Signed, on behalf of the ASA board, by:

Todd Poage
ASA President