

From: Stephanie Illguth [<mailto:stillguth@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 8:18 AM
To: Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Amendments for Department of Education

Dear Representatives,

We currently have a \$2.8 billion dollar state budget deficit. The Education budget is \$1.621 billion. Surely there are some cuts that can be made to the education budget, especially the foundation education funding, which has not been reduced and makes up 80% of the budget?

I know we can't make cuts amounting to the total of the deficit, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't make any cuts. Spending more is certainly not the answer, enacting extra taxes on Alaskans is not the answer either.

There must be a way for education in our state to continue providing opportunities and quality education to our students, but on a smaller budget. Where is all the education money going anyway? It seems to me that teachers are not paid enough, and supply most of their own materials, with out of pocket money. There must be budget cuts to the Department of Education, but there must also be a reorganization of how the money is distributed within their department.

I for one do not want to continue to plunge Alaska further into debt and leave it for the next generation to deal with.

Thank you for your time.

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~Stephanie Illguth