



Association of Alaska School Boards  
1111 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 19, 2018

To: Alaska House Education Committee

Flat funding of the Base Student Allocation (BSA) has had a significant negative impact on school districts throughout Alaska. During the recent AASB Fly-In you heard school board members speak about the increases in transportation, airfares, utilities, cleaning supplies, health care costs, paper supplies and all the many commodities needed to operate schools. Meeting these increased operating costs has directly impacted classrooms.

Supporting an increase in the BSA would allow school districts to replace what has been lost from the classroom. These are things that directly affect students such as reinstatement of academic electives including CTE, art, and music; replacing teachers, counselors, and paraprofessionals; and providing direct services to students such as interventions, tutoring, and after school activities.

AASB's Delegate Assembly supports an increase to the BSA through a long-standing resolution:

**2.2 URGING EARLY, ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE, AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

*AASB urges the State of Alaska to provide early, adequate, equitable, and predictable funding of public education. AASB believes that adequate funding should include the following:*


- *State funding of the TERS-PERS retirement liability;*
- *An increase to the Base Student Allocation to account for both inflation and adequate pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education;*
- *Recognition of the need to keep pupil-teacher ratios to a level in line with research-based best practices;*
- *Career and technical education;*
- *An early adoption timeline that allows school boards and district administration to effectively plan instruction and staffing for the upcoming school year'*


*AASB urges that in years when the Alaska Legislature has not approved an education budget by April 1, the budget from the previous year shall be the legal minimum funding for the next fiscal year.*

*AASB urges the legislature to review and recommend appropriate adjustments to AS.14.17.460, District Cost Factors, to ensure equity in school funding.*

*AASB urges the Legislature to provide stable forward funding that addresses inflation, including the use of an education endowment, to ensure funding predictability.*

We encourage the committee's support of HB 339

  
Michael Swain, President

  
Norman Wooten, Executive Director

**From:** Alaska PTA  
**To:** [Michelle Sydeman](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska PTA Statement in Support of \$100 BSA Increase  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2018 1:21:17 PM

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Good afternoon,

"Alaska's children have had financial support for their education cut continually in the past few years, to the point that classroom sizes are above 25+ students to 1 educators. Educators are leaving the public school system in Alaska as their jobs are not secure. Alaska PTA supports raising the BSA by \$100 in order to support our educators and students in the classrooms."

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Thank you for all you do for the children of Alaska.

"Every Child, One Voice"

Thank you,  
Candy Jo Bracken  
Alaska PTA President  
907-388-1394





February 19, 2018

Representative Les Gara  
Vice Chair, House Finance Committee  
State Capitol Room 511  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Gara,

On behalf of NEA-Alaska's 13,000 teachers and education support professionals I am writing in support of House Bill 339 (HB339) to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

Increasing the BSA puts resources directly into classrooms to enhance student learning. Increasing classroom funding leads to smaller class sizes, more individual attention for every student, higher quality lessons, more school counselors, teacher aides, and an improved learning environment.

Since the last adjustment of the BSA, healthcare, energy, and operational costs for schools have continued to increase. Alaska's school districts have been forced to cover rising costs that have outpaced inflation by making significant cuts. Districts have raised class sizes, cut student-centered programs, reduced the time to prepare great lessons, decreased budgets for supplies and equipment, and laid off teachers and education support professionals. All of these reductions have limited the opportunities for students.

Every child in Alaska deserves an excellent public education, but they only have one chance to get it. The dedicated educators of NEA-Alaska do everything in their power to enhance student learning on a daily basis but their hands have been tied by declining budgets and increased workloads. Increasing the BSA is about making sure Alaska kids have the support, tools, and time they need to be successful. Thank you for taking this meaningful step toward improving public education for every Alaska student.

Tim Parker

President, NEA-Alaska

**From:** Mike Bronson  
**To:** [Michelle Sydeman](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Jennifer Johnston](#); [Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)  
**Subject:** NAACP support for HB 339 to raise school funding  
**Date:** Monday, February 12, 2018 8:20:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Representative Gara,

The Anchorage Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People supports your HB 339. The bill will raise the base student allocation and is expected to improve class size as well as math and reading instruction statewide.

Thank you,

-Mike Bronson  
Education Committee  
NAACP Anchorage

