



Alaska Council of School Administrators

Leadership, Unity and Advocacy for Public Education

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March 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Mia Costello
Alaska State Capitol

Dear Majority Leader Costello:

The Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) supports Senate Joint Resolution No. 9, a resolution that, if approved, would result in early funding notification for K-12 education.

Timely and reliable funding notification would have a substantial positive impact on K-12 school districts across the state by bringing certainty and stability in budget planning. SJR9 would eliminate the nonproductive work of preparing various budget scenarios while education funding is debated to the bitter end of the legislative session. It would allow districts to prepare realistic budgets for submission to local governments by early April.

SJR9 fully realized is a win for K-12 students, their teachers, administrators, parents and our communities. Ultimately, it's a win for the Alaska economy and our education system as a whole. The annual threat of pink slips and unknown funding levels leads to tremendous challenges with recruitment and retention of good educators and support staff especially against the backdrop of educator shortage. This is detrimental to our students and Alaska families who rely on a quality public education to lead them to a bright future.

ACSA is a nonprofit umbrella entity for the Alaska Superintendent Association, Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals, the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals and the Alaska Association of School Business Officials. Securing adequate, timely and predictable funding is a top priority for our organization and our members. SJR9 would go a long way toward addressing our top priority.

Please let me know if there is anything ACSA and our members can do to help in moving this important piece of legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Skiles Parady, Executive Director
Alaska Council of School Administrators