

Alaska Superintendents Association

234 Gold Street • Juneau, AK 99801
907.586.9702 • (Fax) 907.364.3805



April 3, 2019

Honorable Senator Bishop:

On behalf of the Alaska Superintendents Association (ASA), thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 50, the Alaska Education Facilities, Maintenance and Construction Tax. Our organization supports this bill and urges the Alaska State Legislature and Governor Mike Dunleavy to approve it as soon as possible.

SB 50 makes a great deal of sense. Our organization carefully considered that working adults in Alaska used to pay a \$10 per head school tax for 60 years, until it was repealed in 1980. We believe that most working Alaskans would readily pay such a tax again if it were reinstated at the proposed \$30 per worker, adjusted for inflation. As a member organization of the Alaska Council of School Administrators, ASA embraces the highest priority in the Joint Position Statements adopted for 2019: Priority Funding for Education. This Joint Position Statement calls for, in part, “timely, reliable and predictable revenue for schools and a call for a Revenue Enhanced Fiscal Plan Imperative. This position statement notes that, “the need remains to finalize and implement a complete long-term multi-revenue fiscal plan that includes additional revenue streams.” We believe SB 50 aligns with both of these top two position statements.

In addition, results from a recent survey show that Alaska adults overwhelmingly support government funding for public K-12 schools, ranking them ahead of public health and human services, corrections, public safety and law enforcement, and higher education. This research was a collaborative effort of the organizations that make up the Alaska Council of School Administrators, and our partners at the Association of Alaska School Boards and the Coalition for Education Equity of Alaska. Released in February, the research also shows that Alaskans support elected officials who, in turn, support public K-12 education. You can find out more about this new research at: <http://www.alaskaacsa.org/new-survey/>.

SB 50 provides a productive solution to an ongoing, vexing problem; lack of money for maintenance and repair in our schools. Thank you again for your sponsorship of SB 50. If there's anything more ASA can do to ensure swift passage of this legislation, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

Lisa Skiles Parady, JD, Ed.D.
Executive Director