

Alaska Superintendents Association

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March 2, 2021

The Honorable Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Alaska State Legislature
Capital Building, Rm 411
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins,

The Alaska Superintendents Association offers its support of HB 18, supporting national board certification for public school teachers. ASA believes every Alaska student deserves a qualified, effective teacher, and promoting National Board Certification is an excellent pathway to achieving this goal.

A primary purpose of the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) is to provide a collective voice for Alaska's school superintendents, K-12 principals, school business officials and all school administrators advocating for quality public education for Alaska students. In our ACSA Joint Position Statements, we consistently prioritize recruiting, retaining, and preparing high-quality educators as a critical need for improving Alaska schools. Research clearly shows the most influential school-based factor in student achievement is teacher quality, and National Board Certification allows teachers to demonstrate that they meet the highest available benchmarks for teacher quality.

ASA supports the ambitious goal set out in HB 18 - 4% of Alaska teachers receiving National Board Certification. As of 2019, Alaska is ranked 25th in the nation for percentage of teachers receiving National Board Certification, with 2.57% certified. The national average is just under 3%, as of the most recent report in 2011. Increasing the share of Alaska teachers with National Board Certification is an important step, along with addressing teacher retention, to improving Alaska schools for all students.

This legislation would set an important goal for Alaska schools and work to strengthen public education in our state. We are proud to support HB 18 and the goal of providing an effective teacher for all students.

Thank you for your commitment to improving public education for Alaska students. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent
Yukon Koyukuk School District
ASA President