



Anchorage School District

Education Center

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. • Anchorage, AK 99504 • 907-742-4000 • www.asdk12.org

March 11, 2026

Dear members of the House Education Committee,

I write today as an individual member of the Anchorage School Board and with mixed feelings about HB 374. Please know that while I appreciate your individual and collective efforts to support Alaska's students, the \$630 figure proposed in this bill brings a line from *Oliver Twist* to my mind: "Please sir, I want some more."

I want some more for our students, please, because I've just voted to balance Anchorage's \$90 million deficit for FY27 by spending ASD's unreserved fund balance down to 1% for a *third* budget cycle in a row (so once again, I'll be hoping we have no earthquakes, volcanoes, or fires), by closing three schools for next year, and by culling roughly 10% of ASD's workforce (encompassing, but not limited to, more than 57 administrative, IT, and custodial positions; more than 71 positions dedicated to providing students with gifted, blind/deaf/visually impaired/hard of hearing, and special education services; and more than 250 K-12 classroom teaching positions).

I want some more for our students, please, because although we now have a balanced budget, their class sizes will be extraordinary.

- Next year's Kindergarten and 1st grade students will be enrolled in classrooms whose pupil-teacher-ratios (PTRs) of 27 and 28 will be 35% and 33% larger, respectively, than they were during the 2015-2016 school year.
- Middle school students will have lost an entire classroom period which would have enabled them to access CTE, foreign languages, or fine arts courses. Meanwhile, they will be enrolled in classrooms whose PTRs of 34 will be 25% larger than they were in the 2015-16 school year.
- High school students will be enrolled in classrooms whose PTRs of 36.25 will be 23% larger than the PTRs students experienced in 2015-16. Fewer teachers per pupil mean that these students will be offered radically fewer opportunities for advanced, remedial, or elective courses. Those numbers have prompted at least one high school principal to publicly entertain the concept of putting 80 students together in the cafeteria next year to ensure they can access one of their graduation requirements.

Educating All Students for Success in Life

Anchorage School Board Carl Jacobs, President

Margo Bellamy, Vice President

Dave Donley

Kelly Lessens, Treasurer

Pat Higgins

Dora Wilson, Clerk

Andy Holleman

Superintendent Dr. Jharrett Bryantt

I want some more for our students, please, because the amount proposed in HB 374—though not without value—would fail to provide the level of investment needed for ASD to implement the target class sizes the legislature approved in HB 57.

I want some more for our students, please, because I'm concerned that the approach for establishing the amount proposed in HB 374—the mean of the largest districts' BSA-based needs to close projected deficits for next year—fails to account for the cuts and efficiencies districts have implemented over the past fifteen years.

I want some more for our students, please, because adjusting the BSA to account for inflation since FY11—the last time that occurred—now requires an increase of \$1,442 per pupil for FY27, and the amount proposed by HB 374 would only provide 43.7% of the funding needed to do so.

I want some more for our students, please, because Alaska's schools should actually be funded at a level which will accord all students a meaningful opportunity to achieve proficiency in the areas for which the state has performance standards, the state's own summative data shows that all students cannot currently do so, and the amount currently proposed by HB 374 is far too low to facilitate meaningful opportunities to do so next year.

So while I sincerely appreciate that HB 374 proposes to increase the BSA for FY27 by \$630 and would respectfully and responsibly work with my colleagues on the ASD Board to put that figure to work on behalf of our students as soon as Alaska's statute is amended, on behalf of our students, I'd like to go on record as saying this: "Please, sir, I want some more."

Sincerely,
Kelly Lessens

Ella Lubin

From: Jan Carolyn Hardy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 3:36 PM
To: House Education
Cc: Shellie Sarah Gooden; [REDACTED] Jan Carolyn Hardy
Subject: Testimony for HB 374

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

March 11, 2026

Dear Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to you with regard to HB 374, a bill which would raise the Base Student Allocation by \$630 per child.

We all hear that our children are our future. How is it we allow our future to be so deprived of training and opportunity? We would rather give the oil corporations tax breaks, which if otherwise implemented would add millions to our State revenue. This revenue, if imposed and applied to education, would go far in preparing our children for a way of life far faster paced and more challenging than any of us adults have faced.

Let's show our children that we care about their future. That we will do everything to prepare them for success. Please increase the BSA. For the sake of the future of the State of Alaska and the future of our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 374.

In Solidarity,

Jan Carolyn Hardy

Tikkun Olam,

Jan Carolyn Hardy

Alaska AFSCME Retiree Chapter 52, Executive Board President

ASEA/AFSCME PAC, Director, District 15

Anchorage Area Central Labor Council, Member

Alaska AFL-CIO, Vice President

Alaskans 4 Posterity, Board Member



Theology defines what is possible in our lives. Rabbi Kari Tuling

No one is free until everyone is free. Maya Angelou

Silence is complicity. Joseph R. Biden

*Everyone does better when **everyone** does better.* Eleanor Roosevelt

Please spay or neuter your pets!

If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair. Shirley Chisolm

Days are like scrolls: write on them only what you want Remembered. Bachya ibn Pakuda

AM YISRAEL CHAI

The Nation of Israel Lives

Ella Lubin

From: Liza Tran <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 3:26 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Support HB374

Dear House Education,

Support HB374 Our schools need funding this year and every year!

THANK YOU for Last year's BSA increase - but it was maybe HALF of what we needed, inflation has already gone up since last year.

With Gratitude,
Ms. Liza Lynn Tran

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."
-Maya Angelou

Ella Lubin

From: Akara Anglin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 2:30 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Support HB 374 – Ensuring Students Have the Resources They Need

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Akara Anglin, and I am both a teacher and a mother of two children in the Anchorage School District. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 374, which raises the base student allocation from \$6,660 to \$7,290.

This year, the school that I am employed at, had to explain to the Anchorage School District Deputy Chief of Schools that cutting our program to 18 full-time positions would mean we would not be able to open our doors for the 2026–2027 school year. My School serves 500 students from Kindergarten through 12th grade, offering intensive Alaskan experiences from berry picking and harvesting to Model United Nations, as well as mixed-grade seminars that foster social-emotional learning.

We are also facing the loss of our full-time nurse and security guard. Our nurse has been essential to student and staff safety – she has saved a substitute teacher’s life and responded to severe student injuries requiring emergency services. Students cannot thrive academically if their most basic safety and health needs are at risk. In my own children’s experience, their charter school administration had to advocate directly with the Anchorage School Districts Director of Choice Schools to retain their full-time nurse even after submitting a balanced budget.

Many school districts across Alaska are facing extreme difficulty balancing their budgets. These challenges are affecting students and families across districts, leaving us feeling uncertain, frustrated, and mistrustful of the system meant to support our children.

Raising the base student allocation through HB 374 will help schools provide essential resources – support services, classroom materials, and staffing – to improve learning experiences and better meet student needs. As an educator and a parent, I urge you to support this bill to give our schools the tools they need to serve students safely, effectively, and equitably.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

- Akara Anglin
[REDACTED]

Ella Lubin

From: Sally Rue <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 2:28 PM
To: House Education
Cc: Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: support for Base Student Allocation increase HB 374

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,
I urge you to support HB 374 and vote in support of the increase to the BSA.

I have been involved in Alaska's public education system for well over 40 years, as an active parent and school volunteer, as an elected school board member, and as a supportive citizen. My children got an excellent education in the 1980s and 90s.

I have watched with sadness (and alarm) as Alaska has failed to keep pace with other states in providing a sound education to our children. The funding increase last year was a good step, but it did not make up for the losses to inflation over the last decades.

A good public education system is not a frill. It is an essential building block of a healthy and sustainable economy and future for Alaska. We cannot succeed as a state if we cannot retain and attract young families and businesses. A stable and effective public education system is the bedrock for our future.

Please invest in Alaska's future by increasing the BSA and supporting HB 374.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Sally Rue
7083 Hendrickson Rd.
Juneau

Ella Lubin

From: Marlowe Dunker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 1:04 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB374

I am a 45 year Juneau resident and parent of two children in public school. I support HB 374 and urge you to adjust BSA as it proposes, this year and every year.

Access to quality education is absolutely the backbone of our communities and economy.

Thank you,

Marlowe Dunker

[REDACTED] Juneau

Sent from my iPhone

Ella Lubin

From: Mary Catharine Martin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 12:32 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 374

Hello,

As a parent of two young kids in public school, I support HB 374. Even with the BSA increase last year, Alaska's school system is still dealing with net cuts after inflation.

It is absolutely crucial that the BSA be increased this year and every year so that Alaska's school system can offer a quality education to students. This would have the added benefit of making clear to anyone looking to live here that Alaska is a good place to raise a family. Right now, the opposite is true, as was made clear by the recent opinion piece you likely read from Alaska Teacher of the Year Ben Walker in the Anchorage Daily News. <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2026/02/26/opinion-alaska-is-losing-its-best-teachers-and-its-no-accident/>

Thank you for reading, and for supporting HB 374.

MC

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Mary Catharine Martin

ph: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ella Lubin

From: Sean Campbell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 12:06 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 374

Good afternoon Education Committee,

I write to you as a 21 year Alaskan educator, a current elementary school principal, a father of two sons enrolled in Homer's public schools and a community member. It is through these four lenses that I implore you to pass HB 374.

Since I first started teaching at Homer High School, our state has annually looked at education funding through a deficit perspective, putting students, families and educators in an unnecessarily perilous position. We are facing the results of this-underfunded schools, schools closing, and families and educators leaving the state. HB 374 would be a significant step to stem this decades long cycle.

Professionally, each year I have conversations with excellent teachers about whether they will have a job the following year or not. These are the same conversations my principals had with me and my colleagues in previous years: young, excellent teachers being rewarded for their work with uncertainty for the coming year. HB 374 would allow me and principals across the state to maintain our teaching staffs for the coming year and years into the future.

Student learning is directly impacted by having a caring, dedicated teacher every year. We are compromising this every year with teacher turnover far outpacing the national average-some communities are turning over 50% or more of their teachers annually. The Alaska Reads Act and subsequent curricular decisions have made inroads in Alaskan students' reading, but legislation like this is ineffective without quality teachers to deliver the curriculum, limiting student learning. HB 374 will benefit our students by ensuring they have class sizes and opportunities that will improve their educational futures. Anecdotally, since I first started teaching at Homer High School 21 years ago, the teaching staff has been cut in half while student enrollment has maintained. Our shop classes have been decimated, our art programs winnowed out, our foreign languages cut in half, our academic offerings reduced. As a father, I am deeply concerned about my sons' opportunities. HB 374 will give them and all Alaskan students a the opportunities they deserve and need for their futures.

Homer and so many other Alaskan communities are thriving communities but by decimating our schools we are damaging our communities in the long run. We need well educated students to ensure that our communities continue to thrive. Well funded schools is the foundation for long term economic success of Alaskan communities. HB 374 will help to ensure this.

Thank you for your consideration. Pass HB 374 to support Alaskan students, their families and our communities.

Sean Campbell
Sent from my iPhone

Ella Lubin

From: Laura Eichelberger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 11:03 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Support HB 374

Dear Alaska House Education Committee Members,

I'm writing to implore you to support HB 374.

I graduated from the Alaska public school system. It prepared me well for college, graduate school, and to be able to return to my home state to make meaningful contributions to our community.

I am now asking you to support my children to have the same quality public education as I had.

Good schools are the foundation of a strong economy: Alaska cannot attract skilled labor if we cannot attract families.

Our schools are in crisis, evidenced by a teacher turnover rate that is 3-times the national average. This situation is compounded by increasingly unstable federal and state support.

The state has a constitutional duty to step in and fully fund public education for every student in Alaska.

Our state has no economic future if we fail to invest in the education of the next generation. Alaska's future is on the line, and your action will help decide it.

This is a moment to lead for our children and the future of our state. I urge you to vote to support HB 374.

Respectfully,

Laura Eichelberger, Anchorage

Ella Lubin

From: Corky Still <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 11:40 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Fund Our Schools!!

As a born and raised Alaskan, it's disgusting how far we have let our educational standards drop. I came back to Anchorage after college to work and raise a family. Now I am considering moving away from the state due to the absolute disgrace that our educational system has become.

The future starts with our children and our children need a proper education to thrive!

FUND OUR SCHOOLS!!

William Still
Project Engineer and Lifelong Alaskan

Protect Our Planet

Ella Lubin

From: Colleen M Bolling <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 11:26 AM
To: House Education
Subject: I support HB 374 to increase the BSA and continue to inflation-proof education funding
Attachments: BSA vs Inflation_2011-2026.jpg

Good morning,

I support HB 374 to increase the BSA and to continue to inflation-proof education funding every year.

I am a mother of 3 in Anchorage and I care deeply about quality public education. I grew up in Anchorage and attended my neighborhood schools and received an excellent public education that prepared me for a fruitful life. I want my kids and all Alaskans to have this same opportunity. The attached graph shows the egregious way our state has failed education. Education funding has fallen behind inflation EVERY SINGLE YEAR since 2011, which means cuts have been made EVERY SINGLE YEAR. We have the constitutional duty to provide adequate education to our communities, and we are failing in this endeavor.

Please increase education funding to serve our children, our communities and our state! Quality public education is truly the backbone of strong communities and a strong economy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Colleen Bolling

[REDACTED], Anchorage, AK

Ella Lubin

From: Laura Peek <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 10:56 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Operating Budget (HB 263) and HB 374

Good morning,

My name is Laura Peek. I am an Alaskan, a parent and school nurse. I am advocating for an increase in education funding to help cover inflation and I would like that to be state statute.

For years, our educators have been doing more with less. Every year the Districts battle to retain educators and support and it is exhausting. Educators sign on with a district knowing that their retirement is basically non-existent. They work hard at their job with less support and a bleak future. How can the State of Alaska hope to recruit and retain educators when there are threats of job cuts *every year*? Our educators burn out and leave.

Families become disheartened and discouraged because the educators and programs that make a great school are cut or threatened to be cut *every year*.

It is no wonder why our schools are losing students and we are having a difficult time retaining educators.

So many complaints about 25% of Alaska's workforce doesn't live in Alaska. How is Alaska supposed to produce students ready to be in the Alaskan workforce when we cannot fund our education system?

We should not need to battle *every year* for funding for education.

Fund our schools, fund Alaska's future.

Thank you

Laura Peek

Ella Lubin

From: Mary T. Hopkins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 10:55 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Operating Budget (HB 263) Testimony

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mary Hopkins. I am a mother of two Anchorage school children, and I am a nurse who works in the Anchorage School District. I have a privilege of helping and interacting with Anchorage area school children everyday.

I am writing to advocate for an increase in education funding to help cover inflation. I support HB 374. Any scenario where education and children are supported, means a healthier and better future for our society. Children thrive and learn when they are healthy at school and in appropriately sized classrooms.

I hope that you all understand the importance of prioritizing our future and education of the youth.

Respectfully,
Mary Hopkins

Ella Lubin

From: ahnie litecky <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 10:38 AM
To: House Education
Subject: I support HB 374

Dear House Education Committee,

My name is Ahnie Litecky, and I live in Homer. I have three children in school here in 4th, 6th, and 7th grades.

I support HB 374. Please raise the Base Student Allocation by \$630 this year.

Our schools need real help now. A funding increase will help prevent school closures, keep good teachers in our classrooms, and support students across Alaska. This matters for neighborhood schools, charter schools, and homeschool families.

Education funding has not kept up with inflation for years. Last year's increase was not enough to fix the problem. Many districts are still facing painful cuts, larger class sizes, and fewer opportunities for students.

Strong public schools help families stay in Alaska and help our communities grow. They also help our state build a stronger future.

Please support HB 374 and invest in Alaska's students.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,

Ahnie Litecky

Ella Lubin

From: Jenna Hamm <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 10:17 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Support for HB 374

Dear Representatives of the House Education Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to support the \$630 increase to the Base Student Allocation as outlined in HB 374. Students across Alaska need your support for public education. Adequately funded schools are essential to young Alaskans' success and well-being. This year's BSA increase will help keep our public schools open, our students challenged, and our communities thriving. Please support HB 374.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska's youth!

Jenna

Jenna Hamm

School Board Member

Denali Borough School District, Seat B

Cell: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]

www.dbsd.org

Ella Lubin

From: Melany Wilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 10:10 AM
To: House Education
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Written Testimony to the Alaska House Education Committee In Support of HB 374

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **HB 374**, which would increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and help restore a portion of the education funding reductions Alaska's public schools have experienced over the past decade.

As a parent and a state employee, I strongly believe that stable and adequate funding for public education is essential to Alaska's long-term economic strength and community well-being. Our schools are the foundation of a capable workforce, strong families, and resilient communities. When schools are underfunded, the impacts are felt far beyond the classroom — affecting workforce retention, family stability, and the overall economic vitality of our state.

HB 374 represents an important step toward restoring predictability and sustainability in school funding. Increasing the BSA will help districts maintain essential public education services, including reasonable class sizes, access to core academic subjects such as math, science, and literacy, as well as enrichment opportunities like arts and language programs. Just as importantly, it supports critical student services such as school nursing, counseling, and safe learning environments.

Families make decisions about where to live and work based in part on the strength of local schools. When public education funding is unstable or insufficient, Alaska risks losing families, skilled workers, and future economic opportunity. Investing in education is not only a moral obligation to our children — it is a strategic investment in Alaska's economic future.

I respectfully urge the Committee to advance HB 374 and support meaningful increases to the Base Student Allocation to help ensure Alaska's public education system remains strong, stable, and capable of meeting the needs of students today and into the future.

Thank you for your service and for your commitment to Alaska's students and families.

Sincerely,

Melany Wilson

Parent and State Employee

Ella Lubin

From: Aesha Pallesen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 9:51 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Support HB 374

Good morning members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 374 to increase the BSA by \$630 per student this year. It is imperative that we continue to adjust the BSA this year, and every year, to keep up with inflation and to provide consistent funding to maintain our public school system. Without this, Alaska's children and communities cannot succeed.

I am a parent of two students - a 4th grader and a 1st grader - at Chugach Optional Elementary School within the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional is a high-achieving alternative public school of choice. Along with other schools across the state, Chugach is currently facing a loss of classroom teachers which will greatly increase class sizes and decrease the effectiveness of our program.

My two boys love Chugach, and they learn and thrive there every day. I am concerned, however, that the continued underfunding of schools will make it so that the school they love will simply not be able to continue.

The budget is tight, and the decisions you face are tough ones, but I urge you to think of Alaska's future. There is no better investment than our children.

Please support the current version of HB 374 and a reasonable increase to the BSA!

Thank you,

Aesha Pallesen (mom of Luca and Gabriel, Chugach Optional Elementary)

Ella Lubin

From: chelsea nagoda <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 8:45 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Written testimony for operating budget 263

Dear Members,

My name is Chelsea Nagoda and I am a school nurse working for ASD. I'm writing to ask you to support an increase in funding for education.

Funding through HB 374 would benefit all of Alaska's students. It would help lower student teacher ratios, keep well qualified teachers in the classroom, keep special education and paraprofessionals in the classroom and keep nurses and counselors in schools. Every time a staff member is displaced through cuts to education, it affects students. The new teacher from the year before gets a pink slip: it might be the teacher that a student relied on for tutoring or who helped with their behavior regulation. Or it might be the teacher that helped a student have the "a-ha!" moment in math and still needs that touchstone of encouragement once in a while. It could be the counselor or nurse that helps a student manage their anxiety or helps with their asthma or diabetes so they can stay in school all day. My point is: Stability matters to kids and to successful learning in each school.

Staffing is what brings schools to life and stable staffing allows schools and students to thrive and flourish. When you can count on people to be present in your life it makes a huge difference in wanting to even come to school. I've seen what 27 kindergarteners without a paraprofessional looks like. It's like playing a game of whack-a-mole. The same goes for understaffed SPED programs or a fifth grade class of 33. One person can't help that many students achieve their best. We want students to grow and be ready for real life when they graduate. Stable and reliable funding helps school districts do that good work. Stable and reliable funding helps deliver quality education, better student outcomes and retain workers who are passionate about their jobs. Teachers, nurses, counselors, principals, and support staff give 100% or more of themselves every day in service to their community. I am asking you to partner with us to give Alaskan kids the best opportunity to learn and grow by supporting additional funding for HB374.

Thank you for the work you do every day. I know that budget work is never fun as you can't always do what you want or hope to do. Please keep Alaskan kids a priority as you consider spending. They and the people who teach them are worth every penny!

Chelsea Nagoda RN, BSN

Ella Lubin

From: Stephen Edwards <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 8:25 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Support HB 374

The school in our neighborhood will be closed unless education funding is increased. My kids attended here and we chose this school over other options available. I want others to have the same opportunity. Neighborhood schools attract workers to our state and will stop the outmigration.

Stephen Edwards

Meadow lakes

Wasilla

Ella Lubin

From: Amanda Cherok <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 8:17 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Support of HB 374

Dear Legislators,

My name is Amanda Cherok, and I am the parent of two young children—a 6-year-old and a 9-year-old—who attend our local public schools. I am writing to you today in strong support of **HB 374** and the essential, overdue adjustment to the **Base Student Allocation**—not just this year, but every year going forward.

As a parent, I see firsthand what happens when schools are asked to do more with less. Class sizes grow, programs shrink, support staff disappear, and the burden placed on teachers becomes unsustainable. None of this is abstract. My children feel these cuts in their classrooms every single day. And every year that the BSA fails to keep up with inflation and rising costs, our kids are the ones who lose the most.

HB 374 is not just a policy proposal—it is a lifeline. It represents stability, predictability, and the basic commitment our state owes to its children. When the BSA stays flat, our schools fall behind. When the BSA rises only once every decade, the damage is felt for years. But when we adjust the BSA consistently—year after year—we give schools the ability to plan, to hire, to retain high-quality educators, and to meet the real needs of Alaska’s students.

Strong public schools don’t just happen. They are built through steady investment, thoughtful policy, and leaders who understand that children cannot afford to wait for political cycles to align. My children—and every child across Alaska—deserve schools that are equipped, staffed, and supported well enough to help them thrive.

I want my kids in classrooms where:

- Teachers have the resources and support they need,
- Specialists, counselors, and aides are available when children need help,
- Class sizes are manageable,
- And learning is prioritized, not sacrificed to budget shortfalls.

HB 374 moves us toward that vision. And making BSA adjustments **every year** ensures we never again fall so far behind that it becomes a crisis. Our public schools are the foundation of our communities, our workforce, and our state's future. If we want Alaska to thrive, we must make sure our kids can thrive first.

I urge you to support HB 374 and commit to regular, predictable increases to the BSA. My children’s future—and the future of Alaska—depends on the choices you make in this session.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your dedication to the families of our state.

Sincerely,

Amanda Cherok

Parent of two Alaska public-school students

Homer, Alaska

Ella Lubin

From: Matthew Blakeslee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 7:57 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Testimony Supporting HB 374 – Base Student Allocation Increase

My name is Matthew Blakeslee, and I strongly support HB 374 and the proposed increase to the Base Student Allocation.

For too long, Alaska’s education system has been underfunded and weakened by poor policy decisions. Since 2014, our state has fallen from 27th in the nation in education to 48th. That decline did not happen by accident—it reflects years of failing to adequately fund and policy choices intentionally made to undermine public education.

Alaskans are tired of watching our education system fall behind. We want to see real steps in the right direction. Increasing the BSA by \$630 is not a complete solution, but it is an important step toward stabilizing our schools, retaining good teachers, and supporting students across the state.

I strongly support HB 374 and urge you to move this bill forward.

-Matt Blakeslee

From: Sarah Schirack <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 7:37 AM
To: House Education
Subject: I support HB 374

I feel so lucky that our family has a school and teachers for our daughters that we love. Please do right by them and increase the BSA so we don't lose so much of what makes our school great and consider moving our two-professional family to Seattle as a result. Teachers and schools deserve so much better than painful whiplash each year.

I support HB 374! We need to adjust the BSA this year and every year so our schools, our students, and our state can thrive. Please increase the BSA by \$630 per student THIS YEAR as well as continued, inflation-proof increases annually!

- **Invest for success.** Funding matters! Alaska's test scores, participation in postsecondary training and education, and teacher retention were significantly higher when our schools were better funded.
- **Strong schools keep working families in Alaska.** Impoverished schools drive outmigration and economic decline.
- **Business and labor leaders support investment in education** because a strong economy requires a trained and educated workforce.
- **Public schools serve ALL kids.** Many families rely on and love neighborhood schools and our neighborhood schools are required to serve all kids regardless of their needs.
- **Education is an obligation.** Alaska's constitution requires the Legislature provide for a system of public schools open to all children, defined by the courts to require "adequate funding so as to accord to schools the ability to provide instruction in the standards."
- **Education funding falls behind inflation every year that we *don't* raise the BSA.** Since 2011, per-student funding has risen 17% while inflation has risen 45%.
- **Last year's \$700 BSA increase amounted to only \$20 more than the prior year, thanks to the wacky way we fund education. That's why many districts are still hurting.**
 - The Mat-Su Borough School District is considering cutting 55 positions.
 - In Fairbanks, high school class sizes are up to 40 due to cuts and consolidations.
 - The Anchorage School District is looking for ways to cut its school budget by \$88 million.
- **Families are leaving the state, and doctors, nurses, and military families are turning down positions in Alaska because of our long-term failure to invest in education.** Our [nonresident workforce is at a record high](#) as people choose not to raise their families here.

Ella Lubin

From: Megon Coon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 7:11 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please support House Bill 374

Dear members of the House Education Committee,

As a parent of two children in Alaskan public schools, I've watched over the last few years as my school district has been forced to increase class sizes and cut important services to children as funding has failed to keep pace with rising costs. Alaskan children deserve stable, well-funded public schools; we must do better.

School districts need financial consistency and the ability to plan ahead in order to retain good educators and staff and maintain programs that help Alaskan children. HB 374 and the permanent increase to the BSA it ensures are a good step in the right direction.

Please support HB 374 and invest in Alaska's public schools. It's time to demonstrate your commitment to our children's education.

Thank you for all of your hard work and your consideration.

Sincerely,
Megon Coon

Ella Lubin

From: Mike Bronson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 6:34 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Vote for HB 374. The price of constitutionally adequate schools likely will be hundreds of millions of dollars more per year.
Attachments: House finance ed subcomm Feb 27 2026.pdf

Dear House education committee,

Please vote for HB 374 to raise the base student allocation. It is a step toward meeting the legislature's constitutional obligation.

Don't let anyone tell you that [money shouldn't matter](#) for improving instruction for kindergarteners to twelfth graders. As the buying power of the State's [base student allocation](#) plunged after 2009, student [reading](#) and math scores [fell a full grade level](#) to about the worst in the US. Some [two thousand teachers disappeared](#). [Class size](#) ballooned to among the biggest in the US.

Don't let [legislators](#) tell you that it is not their fault, and that they already [meet their duty](#) to students. [Judge Gleason](#) ruled that the Legislature is responsible for schools, and it must provide schools where a substantial majority of students meet the State standards in English, math and science. She also defined adequacy under the constitution as requiring that all children must be provided the opportunity to meet those standards regardless of circumstances. Unfortunately, the Legislature in particular and their schools in general meet neither standard.

The constitution requires adequate schools, but neither the constitution nor the courts say that meeting the requirement is contingent on whether legislators think they can afford it. Legislators [will know](#) their schools are adequate when the percentage of proficient students doubles, students regain a year of lost learning, and most students learn at least one year's worth of curriculum in one school year. That will involve many more instructors.

The price of constitutionally adequate schools likely will be hundreds of millions of dollars more per year. In 2015, the sole [study](#) of academic adequacy in Alaska had calculated an additional \$124 million for Anchorage to match academically successful schools elsewhere. If you account for inflation and then extrapolate that local estimate to statewide, you'll find a projected price tag of about [\\$600 million per year](#) more for constitutionally adequate schools.

Thank you,

-Mike Bronson
Substack on schools:
<https://substack.com/@mike256524/posts>

Ella Lubin

From: Katrina Monta <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 4:53 AM
To: Senate Education; House Education
Subject: Re: Increase the BSA

To Whom it May Concern:

Today, our KGBSD school board will be looking at the second reading of our RIF plan and that will lead into the decisions to reconfigure our elementary schools, with the closure of two elementary schools (One of which is the newest building in the district, and the other is the largest elementary school in square footage of usable space.)

According to the article linked below, the U.S. The Department of Education has highlighted the importance of flexibility in education for the students and teacher welfare, and I feel that this could be a viable solution for some of the indiscrepancies happening in our school district.

<https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-highlights-flexibility-federal-education-funding-support-innovative-teacher-workforce-strategies-states-0>

Tomorrow, my life has the potential to change forever and the decisions that are made today will have a lasting impact on myself and the community of Ketchikan, Alaska.

My name is Katrina Monta. I am a third grade teacher at Point Higgins Elementary School in Ketchikan, Alaska. Due to misappropriation of funds, our school district, Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District (KGBSD) is now approximately \$5.5M in debt. To compensate for the misappropriation of funds, the current school district board has put into place an RIF and school outlook for FY27, that includes laying off more than 50 teachers and closing two elementary schools.

I am writing this letter in hopes to share this information with you, so that it can be in favor of increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for FY27. Even after the proposed extreme cuts to the KGBSD, the budget for the district is still not balanced. The district is now in a MOA with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough to repay their debt, with accrued interest. The increase in the BSA would provide around \$1M to assist in balancing the budget for FY27.

I write this letter in support of the BSA increase, and other funding opportunities that may alleviate some of the financial burden that the KGBSD has found itself in. I am one of the 50+ teachers that will be told on Thursday that we no longer have a job. I am a Tlingit Alaska Native, who has three degrees and a professional teaching license. I was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska. I attended Point Higgins Elementary school from kindergarten to seventh grade. Now, I work there and have for the past nine years. I began working as a substitute teacher, then a paraprofessional and worked through getting a MAT in teaching, and have been teaching there for the last seven years. I have taught both second and third grade.

If there are other funding opportunities available to save our school, please let me know. I am willing to work on writing proposals and sharing the information that I have.

Sincerely yours,

Katrina Monta
Valedictorian of Ketchikan High School, 2010
BS in Civil Engineering, 2014
MS in Engineering Management, 2016

MAT - K-8 Teacher, 2019
Professional Teaching Certificate, 2022

On Mar 10, 2026, at 6:49 AM, Katrina Monta <[REDACTED]> wrote:

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Katrina Monta. I am a third grade teacher at Point Higgins Elementary School in Ketchikan, Alaska. Due to misappropriation of funds, our school district, Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District (KGBSD) is now approximately \$5.5M in debt. To compensate for the misappropriation of funds, the current school district board has put into place an RIF and school outlook for FY27, that includes laying off more than 50 teachers and closing two elementary schools.

I am writing this letter in hopes to share this information with you, so that it can be in favor of increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for FY27. Even after the proposed extreme cuts to the KGBSD, the budget for the district is still not balanced. The district is now in a MOA with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough to repay their debt, with accrued interest. The increase in the BSA would provide around \$1M to assist in balancing the budget for FY27.

I write this letter in support of the BSA increase, and other funding opportunities that may alleviate some of the financial burden that the KGBSD has found itself in. I am one of the 50+ teachers that will be told on Thursday that we no longer have a job. I am a Tlingit Alaska Native, who has three degrees and a professional teaching license. I was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska. I attended Point Higgins Elementary school from kindergarten to seventh grade. Now, I work there and have for the past nine years. I began working as a substitute teacher, then a paraprofessional and worked through getting a MAT in teaching, and have been teaching there for the last seven years. I have taught both second and third grade.

If there are other funding opportunities available to save our school, please let me know. I am willing to work on writing proposals and sharing the information that I have.

Sincerely yours,

Katrina Monta
Valedictorian of Ketchikan High School, 2010
BS in Civil Engineering, 2014
MS in Engineering Management, 2016
MAT - K-8 Teacher, 2019
Professional Teaching Certificate, 2022

Ella Lubin

From: Patricia Fisher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 10:00 PM
To: House Education
Subject: SUPPORT FOR AN INCREASE IN THE BSA

I am writing to show my support for HB374. The bill is critical to provide additional funds for the school districts in the state.

The state's largest school districts are facing budget deficits:

Anchorage School District - \$90 million deficit

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District - \$23 million deficit

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District - \$8.5 million deficit

Juneau School District - \$6.7 million deficit

These school districts can no longer afford to provide the highest quality public education that our students deserve. This is our best opportunity to show our support for much-needed investment to get public education funding back on track. A strong education system is the very best thing you can do for the State.

PLEASE FUND AN INCREASE TO THE BSA.

Patricia Fisher

Resident of the Mat-Su Borough

[REDACTED]

Ella Lubin

From: Melissa Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 9:39 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Raise the BSA

Dear House Education Committee,

Please support the HB 374 bill so that I can continue to feel good about the future of my children's education in the public school system, and be proud to call myself an Alaskan. Without significant funding being put into our school system, our family will be another statistic, forced to leave the state for the betterment of our children's future.

My husband and I both benefited from the public school education that Alaska offered in the 80's and 90's, and we can now see how much our children lack due to over 30 years of misappropriation and lack of financial planning.

Please take the necessary steps to keep Alaskan children's futures secure, and vote to support HB374.

Thank you,
Melissa Williams
Parent, and community member
Anchorage, AK

Ella Lubin

From: L. C. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 7:57 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Support HB 374

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 374 and the proposed \$630 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). This investment is essential to stabilizing Alaska's public schools and ensuring that every student has access to the quality education they deserve.

First, many of Alaska's largest school districts are facing severe budget deficits that threaten core educational services. Districts such as Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna, Kenai Peninsula, and Juneau (my home) are already dealing with significant shortfalls. Increasing the BSA will help districts close these gaps and prevent further cuts to classrooms, staff, and essential student programs.

Second, predictable and adequate funding allows school districts to plan responsibly for the future. When funding remains stagnant while costs continue to rise, districts are forced into repeated cycles of layoffs, program reductions, and emergency budget decisions. Increasing the BSA helps restore stability so schools can focus on long-term student success rather than short-term survival.

Third, investing in public education is an investment in Alaska's future. Strong schools attract families, support local economies, and prepare the next generation of workers, leaders, and citizens. Ensuring that schools have the resources they need directly benefits communities across the state.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 374 and advance this critical investment in Alaska's public education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Cassidy
Formerly of Kodiak. Current resident of Juneau.
Veteran teacher of 19 years.

Ella Lubin

From: Hailee Simons <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 7:14 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 375

Dear Representatives,

Why is **our** education being decided for us? Why do **we as students** get told what's best for us? Is **our** education for you or us at this point? These are questions that my peers and I are asking ourselves and our educators, and the sad part is, they don't have an answer for us. We are sick and tired of sitting here, being told what's being done to our education without a say in any of it. So now we're stepping up and using our voices in the only effective way we can. We support and need to pass HB 374.

Ella Lubin

From: Shannon Brodie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 4:50 PM
To: House Finance
Cc: Rep. Ky Holland; Sen. Cathy Giessel; House Education
Subject: Support HB 374

To Our Alaskan Legislators:

I support HB 374. This will help all schools. (neighborhood, charter and private) We need to adjust the BSA this year and continue to follow inflation rates every year to retain the quality educators we have and so our schools, our students, and our state can thrive. Alaska's future is counting on it.

Thank you. Please vote YES on this bill.

Shannon Brodie
[REDACTED]

Ella Lubin

From: Tippetts, Amanda <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 4:43 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 374 Testimony

Dear House Education Committee Members

First of all, thank you for hearing HB 374 and considering an increase to the Base Student Allocation. When I moved to Alaska in 2024, I was surprised to learn that for a period, additional education funding came from one-time annual allocations that weren't finalized until summer. This is a challenging situation for operations in districts that typically recruit and hire in the spring to ensure a smooth start to the following school year. These districts were forced to cut staff in the spring and hire in the summer once the funding arrived. By that time available candidates hardly existed and recruiting from outside Alaska was nearly impossible.

I felt so much hope when the previous BSA increase passed for this school year. We confidently planned for the future assuming funding would cover costs, only to find that another increase in benefit costs, specifically health insurance, has forced our district into a hiring freeze. This is happening while the middle school, where I am the principal, is still short one special education teacher.

We are small and our need may seem small but it has a large impact on the lives of the students in our classrooms. It makes sense to have funding that matches cost increases for districts, and I hope you can help facilitate the needed funding.

Thanks!
Amanda Tippetts



Amanda Tippetts

Principal

907-834-2411

atippetts@valdezcityschools.org

Every Day Counts

Excellence with honor, service, and compassion

Ella Lubin

From: Amy Schachle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:32 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 374

Hello,

I am writing to ask you to pass HB 37. Please raise the BSA to help our schools overcome their budget deficits. All children deserve high quality education and we can help get Alaska there by passing HB 37. My neighborhood elementary school is slated to be closed in a weak attempt to cut costs. Very little savings will occur from this drastic cut. Children will need to be transported to another school. Teachers will need to be retained to teach children at the state mandated ratio (many teachers state this ratio is not enforced and often more students than mandated). Is the savings, from laying off a small number of support staff, worth the strain created for the community? What about the strain put on the receiving schools?

Please do what you can to help our students. Please raise the BSA by passing HB 37.

Thank you,
Amy Schachle

Ella Lubin

From: Allison Londregan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:30 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 375

Dear Representatives,

I love my students. Their enthusiasm, drive, and persistence keep me excited to show up at work each day. Connecting with my students and seeing their growth socially, emotionally, and academically is my favorite part of my job. These kids deserve it all, but foundationally they deserve to have an excellent education. The conviction that every student in this country deserves an excellent education is what drove me to become a teacher and is what keeps me in this tumultuous profession today. I am writing to you today in support of HB 375.

If our state chooses not to pass this bill, what is that saying we prioritize? What could be more important than funding the education of our youth? As I write this email, I am looking at the faces of five beautiful 13-year-old students. I've seen these kids have so much growth in my two years as their teacher and the thought that they will be shoved into classrooms with 30 students next year in a completely restructured system that does not provide them adequate adult support, breaks my heart.

We are not valuing education. In my five years teaching in Alaska, I have been transferred four times for budgeting reasons. This has required me to restart each year, depriving me of the ability to build upon the prior year, thus the quality of the education I am providing is not to the level it could be if we prioritized educational spending.

It is of paramount importance that we pass HB 374.

--

Sending Positivity Your Way,
Ms. Allison Londregan
English Language Arts Teacher
Schoenbar Middle School

"Once children learn how to learn, nothing is going to narrow their mind. The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious, to have one idea spark another." *Marva Collins*

Ella Lubin

From: Joshua Gill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 2:57 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 374
Attachments: HB374.pdf

Public testimony-

Joshua Gill
Principal
Ayaprun Elitnaurvik

Ella Lubin

From: Amber Cunningham <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 2:57 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 374

Good afternoon,

My name is Amber Cunningham. I am from the village of Unalakleet where I raise my three children. I work for the Bering Strait School District and I currently serve on the Mount Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board. We have had a very rocky year with lack of funding to adequately provide students across the state with high quality education. We recently lost several teaching positions, which really limits the number of electives students can choose from. Students attend Mount Edgecumbe for opportunities that they are not provided in their villages. In my community, we have only 40 some kids in our high school. This means we only have one math teacher, one science teacher, one social studies teacher that has to split his time between middle and high school students, and one English teacher. We also have a shop teacher and a music teacher that provides a class for choir and band, but that is about all we have elective wise. Mount Edgecumbe had the capacity to offer classes that students from villages don't normally have access to, but with budget deficits, the number of opportunities dwindled with the loss of teachers.

I am in support of HB 374 for increasing the BSA to at least the bare minimum of \$7,290 per student. We need to stop short-changing our students and adequately fund our schools across the state. When we give our children room to grow, they bloom into wonderful leaders. Thank you!

--

"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."
Martin Luther King Jr.

Amber Cunningham
Unalakleet, Alaska

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Ella Lubin

From: Sophia Armstrong <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 2:07 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Support for House Bill 374

Testimony in support of House Bill 374 to permanently increase the BSA to support public schools.

Please support increasing the BSA permanently. I am a life-long educator in this state. I see how educators are being held to a higher and higher standard with pay covering less and less of our bills. If you want Alaska's children to receive a good education, then you need good teachers to apply and stay at positions in our state. The low pay (compared to the cost of living) and lack of dignified retirement means that the best educators will leave for greener pastures. That's what I'm looking at doing. Good teachers can get better jobs elsewhere, and we aren't too stupid to stay.

--

Sophia Armstrong
1st Grade Teacher
[REDACTED]

Ella Lubin

From: Rebecca Hills <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 10:39 AM
To: House Education
Subject: In support of HB 374

Hello fellow Alaskans!

I am an Alaska born and educated resident of Anchorage. I have two kids, ages 9 and 11 who are currently attending ASD schools.

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 374. Our schools are falling apart in front of our eyes, class sizes are soaring, the best teachers are leaving our schools, beloved physicians, nurses and other amazing professionals are leaving the state because of the low levels of support for education in Alaska. My husband and I have discussed leaving the state as well, due to the dismal state of education funding in Alaska. We need to increase education funding before it is too late! I am happy to pay a tax or lose my PFD to make sure we can have acceptable schools for our kids.

Please support AT LEAST a \$630 increase to the BSA. This will not solve the problem but will at least signal support for education in our state.

Thanks for the work you do for our state,

Rebecca Hills
Anchorage

Rebecca Hills, PhD, MSPH
Public Health Informatics Consultant
[REDACTED]

Ella Lubin

From: Irene Bortnick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 10:18 AM
To: House Education
Subject: support for HB 374

Dear committee members,

I trust that you agree that the BSA must be adjusted this year (and every year) and that you will support the passage of HB 374. Our children and families deserve no less and our state will barely survive without good schools.

When my husband and I moved to Anchorage in 1984, the school system was one of the best in the country and salaries and benefits were among the highest in the nation. Like many people we planned to only stay in the state for a short time. We ended up raising our 4 children (now successful adults) here and both worked for the school district for 20 and 13 years respectively then additional years as substitutes.

Since that time however, funding has failed to keep up with inflation and schools across the state are suffering. I loved my job as a kindergarten teacher and looked forward to (almost) every day. Now, I remark often, as do my fellow retirees, that I am so glad I am no longer in the classroom. That is a very sad statement. Teachers are overworked, have too many students to be able to give each the attention they need and they are burning out. We cannot afford to lose these talented, experienced teachers. I don't need to tell you the detrimental effects this has on the well being of our state and the dire socio-economic effects this will have if nothing is done.

Please vote for HB 374.

Thank you for the hard work you do for all of us.
Irene Bortnick

Ella Lubin

From: Lessens_Kelly <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:48 AM
To: House Education
Cc: Jacobs_Carl; Sullivan_America; Office Of The Superintendent
Subject: K. Lessens HB 374 testimony
Attachments: 26.3.10 Lessens HouseEd testimony HB 374.pdf

Dear members of the House Education Committee,

Please accept the following attachment as testimony in support of revising HB 374's proposed BSA increase of \$630 / pupil to no less than \$868 / pupil.

I am submitting this as an individual member of the Anchorage School Board.

Sincerely,
Kelly Lessens

Ella Lubin

From: Jacqueline Muehlbauer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:53 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 374

Hello!

I support HB 374! We need to adjust the BSA this year and every year so our schools, our students, and our state can thrive.

Thank you,

*Jacqueline Muehlbauer
Fairbanks*

Ella Lubin

From: Katrina Monta <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 6:50 AM
To: Senate Education; House Education
Subject: Increase the BSA

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Katrina Monta. I am a third grade teacher at Point Higgins Elementary School in Ketchikan, Alaska. Due to misappropriation of funds, our school district, Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District (KGBSD) is now approximately \$5.5M in debt. To compensate for the misappropriation of funds, the current school district board has put into place an RIF and school outlook for FY27, that includes laying off more than 50 teachers and closing two elementary schools.

I am writing this letter in hopes to share this information with you, so that it can be in favor of increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for FY27. Even after the proposed extreme cuts to the KGBSD, the budget for the district is still not balanced. The district is now in a MOA with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough to repay their debt, with accrued interest. The increase in the BSA would provide around \$1M to assist in balancing the budget for FY27.

I write this letter in support of the BSA increase, and other funding opportunities that may alleviate some of the financial burden that the KGBSD has found itself in. I am one of the 50+ teachers that will be told on Thursday that we no longer have a job. I am a Tlingit Alaska Native, who has three degrees and a professional teaching license. I was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska. I attended Point Higgins Elementary school from kindergarten to seventh grade. Now, I work there and have for the past nine years. I began working as a substitute teacher, then a paraprofessional and worked through getting a MAT in teaching, and have been teaching there for the last seven years. I have taught both second and third grade.

If there are other funding opportunities available to save our school, please let me know. I am willing to work on writing proposals and sharing the information that I have.

Sincerely yours,

Katrina Monta
Valedictorian of Ketchikan High School, 2010
BS in Civil Engineering, 2014
MS in Engineering Management, 2016
MAT - K-8 Teacher, 2019
Professional Teaching Certificate, 2022

Ella Lubin

From: kodirai.goodman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 12:23 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Increase the BSA

I'm writing to ask you vote in favor of the BSA increase. As a local resident I can genuinely say it will be a monumental support to the future of education for the next generation.

Ella Lubin

From: Ellen Jaimes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:16 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 374

Dear members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to you all to urge you to vote in favor of this critical bill. You know the deficits that districts across our state are facing and we need YOU to adjust the BSA this year and every year so that our schools, our students, and our state can thrive. I have two young children (7 & 3). Alaskan children are the single greatest resource we have as a state, and when young families like mine enter into and see the results of more than a decade of inadequate funding for public education it changes the calculus to stay in Alaska. It makes our small businesses and employers statewide less attractive to potential recruits. It undermines the very community that has made Alaska home for my family now going on 14 years. If the State of Alaska fails to invest in our K-12 population of children and families then there is no future for any of us.

I appreciate your time and attention to this critical issue facing the State. I thank you for your service on behalf of all Alaskans, even those who can't yet vote :)

Sincerely,
Ellen

--

Dena'inaq eʔnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina) I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina. (English)

Ella Lubin

From: Nancy Lehnhart <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 9:42 PM
To: House Education
Subject: I support HB 374

Dear Representative,

I am a life-long Alaskan and have worked in the schools for many years, as well as raised four children who went to Alaska public schools. The inaction of the legislature to keep up with inflation is so painfully evident! Strong teachers are leaving the profession, families are choosing not to stay here to raise kids, class sizes are too big and it really makes a difference.

It is our obligation to support our next generation with an adequately funded education. It's time to recognize the severity of the situation and begin catching up.

Please move this bill forward and champion its success. It is so critical for our children to thrive if we want our state to be a promising place to live!

Thank you for the work you do!

--Nancy Lehnhart

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

Ella Lubin

From: Tricia Stock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 12:16 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 374

To the House Chair person and Members of the Committee,

I am a mother of three students and teacher here in rural Alaska. I value education and growth opportunities for our Alaska kids. I know the money is tight, it is for everyone. Inflation is not something we can control, but adequate funding for our schools is something you can help us with. Please support this bill to aid in keeping up with inflation so we can continue to cover the rising costs of fuel, electricity, insurance and salaries for teachers who try to cover high costs of living here. We struggle to find teachers willing to give up so much to live here on the salaries provided. We struggle to find janitors, bus drivers, and substitutes. Frankly a person has to want to be here so badly that they are willing to struggle financially in order to do their job on our Island in rural Alaska. I do want to be here, I love the remote living away from the world and the closeness to nature. I watch my kids have opportunities to grow, learn, compete, thrive, be stripped from them due to budget cuts and finances. Please do what you can for the children.

Thank you, Tricia Stock

Ella Lubin

From: Chelsea Narvaez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:46 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Vote yes HB 374

To whom this may concern,
Please invest in our children, they are the future of this country. Please vote on HB 374 to increase the BSA. Small rural communities like Ketchikan could use it!
And while you're at it, help feed them too! No kid should go hungry while in school.

Thank you.

Chelsea Narvaez
Ketchikan, AK

Ella Lubin

From: ROBERT FULLERTON <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 4:52 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Increase the BSA

Our schools here in Ketchikan are about to be hallowed out by our school board. Please help our kids by passing the increased BSA. It's tragic what is about to happen here. We are about to lose two schools and dozens of teachers. Please don't let this happen.

Very respectfully,
Robert Fullerton

Sent from my iPhone

Ella Lubin

From: Mary Maley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 2:32 PM
To: House Education
Subject: From a teacher

Please support HB 374

Ella Lubin

From: Dan Maclean <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 12:44 PM
To: House Education
Subject: I support HB 374

House Education Committee:

I am a parent of two children in the Anchorage School District and 1 ASD graduate. I have taught at Service High School in Anchorage since 2006.

I appreciate everyone who voted for the veto override this summer. But there is still more work to do.

I have witnessed first hand the withering of Alaska public education as the result of declining real dollar BSA funding: larger class size, less diverse class offerings, reduced administrative support. All of these factors hurt the future of Alaska.

Please support HB 374.

Dan Maclean
Anchorage, AK

Ella Lubin

From: Diana Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 8:43 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Deep Cuts: why can't we afford school nurses?

House education committee,
I submitted the letter below to ADN. If your time is short, please skip to the bolded section.
Sincerely,
Diana Johnson
—

Across Alaska, our school districts face impossible budget deficits and some have already been cutting their budgets and gutting programs for years. Locally, our Anchorage School District (ASD) has finally run out of savings and one-time funding boosts with which to bridge the gap between the flat Base Student Allocation (BSA) and the inflation-driven rising costs of running our schools. The gap is enormous and the proposed cuts are devastating: increasing class sizes by 4, tossing the middle school model, cutting gifted education, removing nurses from schools, cutting special education staff, and dropping school sports. Children will suffer with losses in learning, year over year, in overstuffed classrooms with overstretched school staff. Families with means will move out of state in search of better education, young people will choose to start careers elsewhere, and we'll be looking at a future of decline.

Here in Anchorage, school nursing is just one of many of ASD's proposed cuts, but I am a middle school nurse, so I feel deeply unsettled by it. On one hand, I see ASD's need to trim our budget and that it's no one's fault that nursing is on the chopping block; everything is. On the other hand, my nursing office is very busy and I'm providing an essential service to our community every day of the school year. If I'm not in the building, the nursing work won't go away, it'll just be delegated to our front office or teaching staff without medical training, decreasing safety and increasing stress on staff, students, and families. It's confusing to be busy and essential and also deemed extraneous via budget cut. How did we come to a place of no longer being able to afford a public service as basic as school nursing?

What I gather is that our state's revenues have been in decline and our state government hasn't been able to adapt to that reality in any way but by cutting services. When you cut far enough, you hit essential services like classroom teachers and school nurses. If we want to maintain these essential services for our communities, we either need to cut other services, raise revenue through taxation of one variety or another, or both.

This week, the ASD School Board was able to retain many school nurses and school sports through actions such as closing several elementary schools. My understanding of these savings, however, is that they were one-time savings and that nursing and school sports will be cut again next year without a significant BSA increase at the state level; ASD's deficit this year is \$90 million and anticipated deficit next year is an additional \$47 million.

Legislators: band together this session, as you did last, to pass education funding. Push to inflation-proof the BSA. Raise revenue through taxation or cut other services if there are any left to cut. Keep in mind that governor Dunleavy, who has vetoed bipartisan education funding bills three

times in the last three years, will veto any education funding bill you pass, requiring 45 of 60 of you to again band together to override his veto. (By the way, it was amazing to see so many legislators come together last summer to override Dunleavy's BSA veto. Alaskans appreciate you and see your monumental efforts!)

Finally, Alaskans, in the coming state gubernatorial and legislative elections, rank candidates whose records show solid, unwavering support for our kids and our communities. These cuts are too deep. From here on out, let's fund our schools!

Diana Johnson is a lifelong Anchorage resident, an ASD graduate, a parent of young children, and an ASD school nurse.

Ella Lubin

From: Kevin Klott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 7:56 PM
To: House Education
Subject: House Bill 374

Dear House Education Committee,

My name is Kevin Klott and I am writing in strong support of House Bill 374. As an Alaskan, I believe our students deserve strong, stable, well-funded public schools. Right now, too many school districts are being asked to do more with less. Rising costs, staffing challenges, and ongoing budget pressure are making it harder for schools to provide the quality education families expect and students need.

A permanent increase to the BSA matters because schools need predictable funding. One-time fixes are not enough. Districts need the ability to plan ahead, retain good teachers and staff, protect student opportunities, and maintain programs that help children succeed.

HB 374 is a practical step in the right direction. According to recent reporting, the bill would add about \$158.6 million statewide and was introduced specifically to help address serious district budget shortfalls.

Please support HB 374 and invest in Alaska's public schools. Our students only get one chance at their education, and they should not bear the cost of continued underfunding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kevin Klott

Ella Lubin

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 5:00 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 374

Dear House Education Committee,

I appreciate your dedication to public education and to our Alaska families. As you know, our school districts are still in crisis and having to cut teachers and essential services. Please pass HB 374 to increase the BSA and help our students get lower class sizes and a quality education.

Cheryl Lovegreen
Anchorage

Ella Lubin

From: Jennifer Booz <[REDACTED]@ak.us>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 1:06 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Increase the BSA

Dear House Education Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Booz and I have been a middle school teacher in Alaska for 19 years. I am writing to you today as a teacher, a parent of a high school student, and an active member of my community. I love Alaska, I love Homer Middle, and I love my job as a teacher. However, over the 19 years I have been teaching, I have seen funding and resources for teachers and students being chipped away to the point we are experiencing a critical teacher shortage and a severe loss of programs for students.

Funding Alaska's public school system is not just an option—it is a constitutional duty. The vast majority of our students—our future leaders, workers, and community members—attend public schools. Yet, year after year, we have watched funding fail to keep pace with inflation, leading to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and the loss of valuable programs that engage and support our students. These cuts are not just a numbers on a spreadsheet; they have devastating consequences that will impact the children sitting in my classroom today, as well as our entire community here on the Kenai Peninsula and around the state. Already, I see the effects of previous cuts firsthand. I see teachers stretching every resource to its limit. I see students struggling because they don't have access to intervention programs that used to exist. I see families frustrated, knowing that their children are not getting the same level of education they once did.

A Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase of \$1,808 is not an arbitrary number. It is the amount needed to simply keep up with the rising costs of education, ensuring our students have access to the teachers, learning materials, and opportunities they deserve. Without this increase, we are not just cutting budgets—we are cutting futures. In my district, we are facing a staggering \$17 million budget deficit. To bridge this huge monetary gap, we are looking again at eliminating pools, theaters, arts, sports, and other extracurricular activities, stripping away opportunities that keep students engaged, build confidence, and foster a sense of belonging. These programs are not just "extras"—they are lifelines for many students, offering a creative outlet, a team to belong to, and skills that extend beyond the classroom. Additionally, school consolidations would force hundreds of students into longer bus rides, leading to lost sleep, chronic exhaustion, and missed opportunities to participate in after-school activities that shape well-rounded individuals.

The district is also facing massive teacher layoffs and reductions in support staff, meaning fewer adults to provide individualized attention, intervention services, and the support our students need to thrive. With increased class sizes, students will struggle to receive the instruction and guidance necessary for success, making it harder to close achievement gaps and provide the high-quality education they deserve. These cuts will not just impact schools—they will weaken our entire community, driving families away, reducing opportunities for our youth, and diminishing the strength of our public education system. Without immediate action and proper funding, we are failing our students and jeopardizing Alaska's future.

Our students deserve better. Our communities deserve better. A significant investment in our public schools is needed NOW. I urge you to fulfill your constitutional duty and prioritize the future of Alaska by increasing the BSA. Thank you for your time and your commitment to Alaska's students.

Jennifer Booz