



Anchorage School District

Education Center

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April 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

On behalf of the Anchorage School District, we are writing to express strong support for House Bill 78 as currently written.

Anchorage, like many communities across Alaska, continues to face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining highly qualified educators. These challenges directly impact the stability of our schools and the quality of education we are able to provide to our students. HB 78 represents an important step toward addressing these ongoing workforce issues by strengthening the overall competitiveness of Alaska's educator compensation and benefits.

A key factor influencing educators' decisions to come to and remain in Alaska is access to a secure and predictable retirement system. By offering a defined benefit option alongside the existing defined contribution plan, HB 78 would provide flexibility and improve long-term retirement security, making Alaska a more attractive place to teach.

The Anchorage School District supports HB 78 as written. We believe the current version of the bill strikes an appropriate balance between improving retirement benefits and maintaining fiscal responsibility through its shared-risk structure and capped employer contributions.

Maintaining the bill in its current form is critical to achieving its intended purpose: improving educator recruitment and retention without introducing additional uncertainty or unintended consequences.

Stable, experienced educators are essential to student success. Passing HB 78 as written would represent a meaningful investment in Alaska's educational workforce and the students we serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and for your continued commitment to Alaska's students and schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jharrett Bryantt
Superintendent
Anchorage School District

Carl Jacobs
School Board President
Anchorage School District

Educating All Students for Success in Life

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