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## **SUPPORT FOR ALASKA STATE SUPPORT OF SCHOOL MEALS**

The organizations listed below have signed resolutions in support of State Funding for School Meals:

### **State Educational Organizations:**

- Aleutians East School District
- Anchorage School District
- Bering Strait School Board
- Bristol Bay Borough School Board
- Chugach School District
- Copper River School District
- Cordova School Board
- Iditarod Area School District
- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
- Lake and Peninsula School District
- Kuspuk School District
- Lower Kuskokwim School District
- Nenana School Board
- Petersburg City Schools
- Yakutat School District
- Yupiit School District
- Valdez School District

### **Additional Organizations:**

- ALPHA – Alaska Public Health Association
- Alaska Association of Social Workers
- Homer Community Food Pantry
- Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
- NEA-Alaska Chapter
- Petersburg Indian Association
- Unity Outreach, North Pole, AK

Organizational support through letters, testimony, etc. has been submitted by:

- AARP Alaska
- Alaska Action for Healthy Kids Team
- Alaska School Nutrition Association
- Alaska Youth & Parent Foundation
- Association of Alaska School Boards
- Food Bank of Alaska



## **RESOLUTION**

### **Support for State Funding for School Meals**

**WHEREAS** the mission of the Alaska Food Coalition (AFC) - a statewide group of non-profit, faith-based, tribal and government organizations is working to help feed hungry Alaskans in their communities and strengthen and coordinate public and private food and nutrition assistance programs in the state; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska State Senators passed SB213 during the 2010 legislative session supporting AFC's efforts to ensure children start each school day with a healthy and balanced meal; and

**WHEREAS** Feeding America analysis of 2006-2008 United States Department Agriculture data on food insecurity in America found 14.3%, or 26,534 children in Alaska under 18 years of age are food insecure, meaning they don't have access at all times to enough food for a healthy active life; this problem is more severe in rural Alaska, where nearly one child in four experienced food insecurity; and

**WHEREAS** insufficient nutrition puts children at risk for illness and weakens their immune system. In comparison to food secure children, children from food insecure families are 90% more likely to be in fair or poor health and have 30% higher rates of hospitalization; and

**WHEREAS** the lack of adequate nutrition affects the cognitive and behavioral development of children. Food insecurity is associated with grade repetition, absenteeism, tardiness, anxiety, aggression, poor mathematics scores, psychosocial dysfunction and difficulty with social interaction among 6 to 12 year old children; and

**WHEREAS** food insecurity puts children in development in jeopardy, characterized by challenges with speaking, behavior, and movement; increasing the likelihood of later problems with attention, learning, and social interaction. Young children living in low income and food insecure households are more likely to be developmentally at risk than children from food secure households; and

**WHEREAS** federal programs exist to assist in providing nutrition to children through the schools, most notably the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program; and

**WHEREAS** Alaskan schools primarily do not offer breakfast programs because it is not economically feasible. The federal reimbursement for breakfast does not cover the high costs of food and transportation in Alaska;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the \_\_\_\_\_ supports an adequate financial appropriation from the state to strengthen and expand the School Breakfast Program in Alaska, so that breakfast may be available to all children at all schools throughout the state, including low income children and children with food insecurity. No child in Alaska should go without breakfast.