

From: [Kelly McBride](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Jason Johnson](#)
Subject: Thank you for the opportunity to testify & follow-up information
Date: Friday, March 27, 2026 9:17:04 AM

Co-Chairs Himschoot and Story and Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and for your continued commitment to supporting special education in Alaska. I appreciate the thoughtful questions and the committee's engagement with the challenges districts face in meeting the needs of students with disabilities.

I wanted to follow up on a funding question I was unable to answer following my testimony. Per our Business Manager, in FY25 the Galena City School District spent \$3,081,831 on special education services. Of that amount, \$1,585,434 was supported by federal IDEA grants—specifically Title VI-B Special Education and Section 619 Early Childhood Special Education.

Regarding state funding, Alaska's 1.2 special education funding multiplier applies only to students who physically reside in Galena. This means the multiplier does not apply to IDEA-eligible homeschool students, even though the district is legally required to provide special education services to them. As a result, we receive state funding for only approximately 8% of the IEPs we are responsible for serving.

Thank you again for your time, attention, and support of Alaska's students with disabilities. Please feel free to reach out if you would like any additional information.

Warm regards,

Kelly McBride

Director of Student Support Services

Galena City School District

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