



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
Senate Education Committee

SENATOR Löki Gale Tobin, Chair
State Capital Room 11, Juneau AK 99801, Phone 465-3704

Senate Bill 52 – Increase Base Student Allocation

Sponsor Statement

In recent years, flat funding and inflation have degraded Alaska's vital system of public education. Without additional funding, Alaska will see increasingly large class sizes and continued teacher and staff attrition.

Senate Bill 52 seeks to increase the annual investment in public education across the State of Alaska by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) over a period of three years. During public testimony, the Senate Education Committee heard compelling testimony that an increase to the BSA would breathe new life into Alaska's struggling public education system.

SB 52 would increase transparency by requiring the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to create an online data dashboard to be a single point of relevant information about Alaska's public schools. SB 52 also authorizes DEED to work with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development to gather important information on how Alaska's students perform after high school. This information will allow policy makers and school boards to make informed decisions about where and how to allocate resources.

The members of the Senate Education Committee believe Senate Bill 52 represents a clear policy choice to help Alaska's public schools address years of increasing costs. Committee members also believe increasing the BSA is a fiscally responsible use of revenue because improving educational opportunities and outcomes is an investment in our shared future as Alaskans.