
From: Diana Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2026 7:00 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: SJR 29

Finance committee,

Please advance the senate joint resolution 29 to make it possible to provide more stability and predictability to state education funding. Our public school students are suffering.

Sincerely,

Diana Johnson

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK

99508

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2026 2:23 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: SJR 29

Dear House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your important work.

I am writing in favor of SJR 29. This amendment to our Alaska constitution will allow the state to dedicate funds specifically for public education. This provision will create a more stable way to fund education and help fix the education crisis we are currently seeing. If districts can plan on more reliable revenue and teachers and other employees see a better future ahead, then schools can improve more quickly.

Please vote for SJR 29 so the public has a chance to weigh in on this concept.

Thanks for your time,

Cheryl Lovegreen
Anchorage

From: MarkaAnne Brooks [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 8:06 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: SJR 29

Hi all -- thanks for all your hard work on behalf of Alaskans. Please keep in mind that our future, and the folks who will pick our retirement homes, is with the children. I paid a school tax and then didn't. I think a dedicated fund for education is a good idea. I hope it can be set up without a constitutional amendment. We have to fund our schools or we will lose more teachers and compromise our ability to provide a workforce from this generation of school children.

--
Anne Brooks

[REDACTED]

From: Larri Spengler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 8:35 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: "yes" on SJR 29

Greetings:

Please enable the public to vote on the creation of a dedicated fund for education. I believe Alaskans highly value education, and support it being funded, now and into the future.

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

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Larri Irene Spengler
[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801
[REDACTED]

From: Dacia Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 10:31 PM
To: House Finance

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously! I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. But **setting up a new account is not the same as putting money in it.** Our schools also need a meaningful increase to education funding NOW and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

Dacia Davis

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lisa Fiegel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 10:34 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support our schools

Hi House Finance Committee,

I'm a PTSA president at the public elementary school where my middle child attends in Anchorage. I also have a middle school student in public school and a preschooler who will enter this fall.

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously and I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. But we also need to put money in it! Please prioritize a meaningful increase to education funding. We need to invest in our community and that starts with investing in our children.

This year I've spent dozens of volunteer hours to make our school better and our PTSA has raised thousands of dollars to support our school. Parents are doing their part - please do yours!

Respectfully,
Lisa Smith Fiegel

From: carol suchland [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 6:48 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Education Funding

Hi, my name is Carol Suchland, I've lived in Alaska for 44 years and worked in Alaska Public Schools as a teacher and librarian for 38 years before retiring in 2020. As the funding for education has dropped, so has student achievement and the ability of Alaska to retain teachers. The decline of Alaska's educational system has also had an effect on the ability of our state to recruit doctors as well as other professionals.

It is imperative that you figure out a plan to fund public education now and into the future. I want to thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously. I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. Please set up a fund for public education, as well as a formula to put money into it at its formation and continue to fund it in the future. Our schools need a meaningful increase to education funding NOW and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

When public schools are fully funded they are able to provide students with the education they need to succeed and thrive. When our students thrive so do our communities.

Thanks,

Carol Suchland

From: Jenny Rowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 6:51 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: SJR 29 hearing

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously! I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. But **setting up a new account is not the same as putting money in it.** Our schools also need a meaningful increase to education funding NOW and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

Respectfully,
Jenny Rowe

From: Patricia Stark [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 7:41 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: School Funding

Dear Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously! I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. But **setting up a new account is not the same as putting money in it.** Our schools also need a meaningful increase to education funding NOW and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia Stark, Fairbanks

From: Chelsy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 8:55 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: SJR 29 Testimony

Greetings,

I am a constituent and a parent of a student in the Juneau School District. I have another child who will be attending in the fall of 2027. I am also a graduate of JSD. I am asking for your continued support for all of Alaska students.

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously! I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. But **setting up a new account is not the same as putting money in it**. Our schools also need a meaningful increase to education funding **NOW** and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

Thank you,

Chelsy Maller

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Jekka Roder [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 9:02 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Please fund our schools!

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously! I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. But **setting up a new account is not the same as putting money in it.** Our schools also need a meaningful increase to education funding NOW and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

The underfunding of our schools has already been the impetus for many of our friends to move out of state. I love Alaska and want our state to have a fruitful future which means we need to provide the best possible education opportunities. Right now we are limping by and not doing right by the children, families and our community.

Please do your very best to find our schools.

Thank you,
Jekka Roder

Jekka Studios LLC
[REDACTED]

From: Colleen M Bolling [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 9:05 AM
To: House Finance; Rep. Mia Costello; Sen. Matt Claman
Subject: I support SJR29 AND a meaningful education funding increase that is inflation-adjusted every year

Good morning,

I have three children in the Anchorage School District and we are devastated by the cuts that have been made year after year due to lack of funding for education. Education funding has fallen well behind inflation and our teachers and schools are making due with the bare minimum, which means are students are the ones suffering. This is bad for our kids, for our teachers and staff, and for the future of our state! People look at education as a top reason to move to or stay in a location, and we are seeing record out-migration. We are in a crisis trying to attract and retain teachers to fill positions at our schools.

I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education (SJR29), and we also need to fund the account and inflation-adjust the funding EVERY YEAR! Our funding has fallen so far behind inflation that we need an increase of \$1,200 just to match the buying power of 2011. Please make meaningful increases to education funding for the sake of our students, teachers, and our state.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Colleen Bolling

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK

From: Suparat Prasannet [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 9:45 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for SJR 29 – Miss Alaska Suparat Prasannet
Attachments: SJR 29 Support_Miss Alaska.pdf

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee,

Please find attached my letter in support of SJR 29, proposing a constitutional amendment to establish an education fund dedicated to public education in Alaska.

As Miss Alaska, and through my work with students and educators across the state, I have seen the importance of long-term stability in education funding. I appreciate your consideration of this measure and your continued work on behalf of Alaska's students.

Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,



SUPARAT PRASANNET

Miss Alaska

 @missamericaak & @suparara

 facebook.com/MissAmericaAK

 miss-alaska.org

Miss Alaska

Re: Support for SJR 29 | Constitutional Amendment Establishing an Education Fund

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Suparat Prasannet, and I have the honor of serving as Miss Alaska. I write in strong support of SJR 29, a proposal that would grant the Legislature the authority to establish a dedicated education fund within the state treasury for the sole purpose of supporting public education.

Across Alaska, I have spent the past year listening to students, educators, and families through my community service initiative, ECHO: Equity, Curriculum, Hope & Opportunity. The message is consistent. Our schools are navigating persistent instability: aging facilities, constrained resources, and difficult tradeoffs that directly affect classroom experience. Current estimates place Alaska's deferred school maintenance backlog at over \$400 million, with annual needs funded at less than one-third. These are not abstract figures; they translate into learning environments that shape, and at times limit, a student's opportunity.

SJR 29 offers a prudent, forward-looking framework. By allowing the creation of a constitutionally recognized education fund, the Legislature can invest designated assets with the expectation of competitive returns, while preserving a clear constitutional boundary: funds may be appropriated only for public education. This structure introduces durability into a system that has too often been defined by uncertainty. It reflects a principle widely accepted in fiscal policy: long-term investments should support long-term obligations.

From a policy perspective, the strength of SJR 29 lies in its restraint and flexibility. It does not mandate appropriations or prescribe rigid formulas. Instead, it equips future legislatures with a tool to responsibly steward resources in a way that aligns with Alaska's constitutional commitment to public education. It also places the ultimate decision before voters, reinforcing public trust and democratic accountability.

From a human perspective, the case is even clearer. As someone whose educational journey was shaped by both opportunity and inequity, I understand the lasting impact of stable, well-supported schools. Through ECHO, I have met students who are eager to succeed but face barriers that thoughtful policy can address. An education fund does not solve every challenge, but it establishes a foundation, one that signals to every student in Alaska that their education is not subject to volatility, but anchored in long-term commitment.

SJR 29 is a measured step toward fiscal responsibility and educational stability. It recognizes that investing in education is not a short-term expenditure, but a generational obligation.

I respectfully urge the Committee to advance SJR 29.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued service to the people of Alaska.

Respectfully,



Suparat Prasannet

Suparat Prasannet | Miss Alaska 2025

From: Galina Ryabova-Houston [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:01 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Testimony to Invest in our schools

Good morning,

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously! I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. But setting up a new account is not the same as putting money in it. Our schools also need a meaningful increase to education funding NOW and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation. Please, invest in our schools. Last year's Base Student Allocation increase was long overdue, but it is not enough to make up for 15 years of shrinking school funding relative to inflation.

Best regards,

Galina Ryabova-Houston
Mom of 2 kids in the Russian Immersion Program at Turnagain Elementary School

From: Lesley Hammer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:07 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Funding for Schools
Attachments: PastedGraphic-2.tiff

Dear House Finance Committee -

The purpose of this email is to let you know that I, as a long time Alaskan with 60 years of experience with Alaskan schools, and currently with 4 grandchildren in school in Anchorage, support your efforts to fund education. Please fund for excellence, for long term success, and with the broad health of our community and society in Alaska in mind.

Please take every opportunity to (more than!) adequately fund schools in a sustainable manner that enables our schools on the road to excellence, we have much damage to recover from!

Even if this funding means no cash PFD - the money would be much better spent funding the future of Alaska than dumping it into the pockets of individuals, it is an entitlement that has run it's course - do something better with that money - fund our future, our kids.

Thank you for your time and attention, I will closely be watching the votes!

Lesley Hammer
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, 99507

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Lesley Hammer
[REDACTED]



From: Katie Ronsse Libby [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:12 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: In support of school funding and SJR-29

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously.

I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. Our schools also need a meaningful increase to education funding NOW and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

Thank you for your efforts!

Katie

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Katrina Ronsse Libby, DPT, COMT
[REDACTED]

From: Rhianne Christopherson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:17 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: SJR 29

Dear House Finance Committee ,

Thank you for your commitment to addressing our local school funding crisis. While I strongly support the creation of a dedicated fund for education, I believe it is important to emphasize that establishing a new account is only a preliminary step; the efficacy of this fund depends entirely on the capital allocated to it.

Our schools require a meaningful and immediate increase in education funding to address current shortfalls. Furthermore, it is critical that future budget cycles include consistent adjustments to ensure that funding keeps pace with inflation. I urge you to prioritize both an immediate infusion of resources and a sustainable long-term plan to ensure our schools can effectively serve our students.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to our community's education system.

Sincerely,

Rhianne Christopherson

From: Kerry Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:20 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: YES on SJR 29

School funding is *not* what it has been since my family arrive in Alaska in 1935. My mother and aunts had stronger schools as Palmer "Colony Kids" than today's kids are allowed.

Please give kids their money **now**.

Vote yes on SJR 29, but school districts across Alaska are being strangled. Children are paying the price for non-Alaskan companies' greed and politicians' ambition.

We are Alaskans. We are in this together. Keep Alaskans in Alaska and put families first.

Thank you,

Kerry Brown
[REDACTED]

From: Alice Velsko-raidmae [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:28 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Education funding

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Alice Velsko-Raidmae. I am a veterinarian/practice owner in Anchorage and have two children who attend the Russian Immersion program at Turnagain Elementary School in the Anchorage School District.

This program has been an amazing experience for our children. My fifth grade daughter can now speak Russian fluently. They have the opportunity for cultural experiences such as celebrating Russian holidays, cooking traditional Russian foods, and learning about the day to day life of children in other countries. They are able to make friends with other students who moved here from Russia and Ukraine who have minimal understanding of the English language. There are opportunities to recite poems and songs in front of the school and family; these kinds of opportunities are rarely seen in traditional public schools. Few people in this country are bilingual, and continuing with this program will open up so many additional job opportunities for these students.

Our program is in jeopardy due to lack of funding for our schools. Due to teacher cuts, we are looking at only three teachers to teach six grades in two different languages. I am afraid that this will ultimately lead to the end of the program. The three Russian teachers my daughters have had so far are exceptionally talented. However, asking one person to teach two grades in two different languages in an overcrowded classroom is asking too much even for the best teachers. This will lead to teacher burnout and make it harder to replace the teachers that leave. Students will drop out of the program as parents watch their test scores and grades drop due to the decrease in personalized attention. Parents will be reluctant to sign up for the lottery for a program that will automatically place their Kindergarten students in with first graders. Eventually, there will not be enough teachers or students to make the program function. These programs are a unique draw to our district, and once they are gone they will be hard to replace. As a small business owner, I would like to be able to recruit out of state talent by telling people what amazing schools and programs we have, but right now I would not recommend the Anchorage School District or any Alaska public schools.

I strongly support HB 374 to increase the base student allocation so that we can maintain these unique programs and lead the country with our amazing schools. We are experiencing a net out-migration in Alaska. We need to have consistently high quality public schools if we expect people to raise their families and work in our great state.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alice Velsko-Raidmae, DVM
Anchorage School District Parent
Veterinarian/Owner
College Village Animal Clinic
[REDACTED]

From: Sarah Schoen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:39 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: SJR 29

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously! I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. But **setting up a new account is not the same as putting money in it.** Our schools also need a meaningful increase to education funding NOW and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

Sincerely,
Sarah Schoen
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Jeremy Lieb [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 11:22 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Please prioritize school funding

Dear Finance Committee:

Thank you for taking school funding seriously by considering SJR 29. I support creating a dedicated source of funding for education. I also urge you to prioritize increasing education funding immediately and over the long term.

Our schools are in crisis. There may be legitimate policy debates about a range of school issues, but one thing is crystal clear: our schools are not being adequately funded. Bringing state funding back to where it was 15 years in inflation-adjusted terms is a necessary first step to any realistic plan to improve education outcomes. We can't reasonably improve outcomes when teachers with options are leaving the state, buildings are crumbling, extra curriculars, sports, music, and arts that are so important to students and the community are disappearing, and classes are overcrowded.

I have lived in Anchorage for 10 years, and I am a dad to two teenagers and a 3 year old. My older children, now in high school and middle school have, had good experiences in ASD, and I am grateful for that. But the signs of strain on the system have become more apparent each year.

Unless things change quickly, I plan to move to a state that continues to value families and education after my middle child graduates in 2030. I love Alaska, and want to raise my kids here, but youngest child will start kindergarten in 2028, and it would be a great disservice to him to stay if our schools continue on their current trajectory.

Thank you,
Jeremy

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Jeremy C. Lieb
[REDACTED]

From: Joyanne Bloom [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 11:34 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for SJR29

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously! I support the creation of a dedicated fund for education. But **setting up a new account is not the same as putting money in it.** Our schools also need a meaningful increase to education funding NOW and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

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Joyanne Bloom

[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801

[REDACTED]

From: Lila Lee Little [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 11:43 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Please prioritize education funding for Alaska schools

Dear House Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis seriously. I support the idea of creating a dedicated fund for education, but simply setting up an account is not the same as putting money in it. Our schools need a meaningful increase in funding now and in the years ahead so we can catch up and keep up with inflation.

As an educator here in Alaska, I see the impact every day. Inflation has taken a real toll on our schools. It takes an increase of about \$180 to the base student allocation just to keep up with recent inflation, and roughly \$1200 to restore the buying power we had in 2011. Without action, we are asking schools to do more with less year after year.

Funding must match the actual cost of educating students. Strong schools require qualified teachers, safe and well maintained buildings, current materials, and support systems for students. These are not optional and they cannot be achieved without real investment.

I urge you to make education a top priority this session. Please support meaningful increases to the base student allocation and ensure that any long term solutions are backed with real funding.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Alaska's students and communities.

Sincerely,
Lila Johnson

Parent of 4 children in the KPBSD School District