
From: Christopher Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 10:02 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 261

I am writing today in support of HB 261: Education Funding. While forward funding of education would be preferred, this bill affords some predictability for districts when setting their annual budgets. Please vote "Yes" on HB 261.

Respectfully,

Christopher Brown
Homer, AK 99603

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 9:38 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 261 Education Funding

Dear House Committee Finance Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to HB 261.

As a retired educator, I am writing in support of HB 261. Particular aspects of the bill positively effect public school education funding. First of all, employing an average of a three year attendance for enrollment will help alleviate some of the present instability that districts face on annual basis with the "projections." This will greatly help with budget preparation for the upcoming year.

As a former intensive needs teacher, I am fully aware of the high cost of educating our intensive needs students who need a very specialized and individualized program which entails supportive services (such as paraeducators, specialists...speech and language, occupational and/or physical therapists, vision specialists, deaf and hard of hearing educators, bilingual educators, adaptive equipment specialists and equipment, bussing, etc.). This bill would allow the budget for intensive needs students to be reviewed mid-term as opposed to the October 10th count. Having intensive needs students enroll after October 10th, the official count, is not unusual. This part of the bill would offer all programs more financial stability.

Sadly, our Kenai Peninsula Borough School District School Board voted to close River City Academy for the upcoming year. Despite the widespread community support for this alternative school, the financial crisis of public education and the current funding requirement that small schools are included in larger school funding caused the closure of this school. HB 261 allows for a different funding formula which would allow small schools to continue to exist.

Please support HB 261 .

Thank you,
Karen Murdock, M.Ed, BP Teacher of Excellence
[REDACTED]
Homer, AK 99603

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2026 5:01 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 261

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for your service to Alaskans. As you wrap up the session, please support HB 261 that fixes many problems in our current system. It gives school districts more accurate funding for special ed students and moves the funding schedule to best match local district and city schedules. This allows our school funding to better match what is going on at the local level and leads to a better hiring process to retain quality teachers.

Please vote for HB 261.

I appreciate your time,

Cheryl Lovegreen