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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 12:45 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Support education through \$\$ funding!

Good afternoon,

I am the mother of 3 girls who attend Chugach Optional Elementary School. I am very concerned with the situation for ASD. At our school next year, we are losing two teachers, which impacts two of my children's class sizes next year: 35 students and 1 teacher. Research tells us this is way too many students! We need teachers, public education needs to be funded.

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.

I appreciate your time, and trust you will do everything in your power by our position to protect education, and future generations to come. I've had many conversations with affluent families who are considering moving or homeschooling. This is not what Anchorage or Alaska needs. Kicking the can down the road needs to stop. We can't keep putting band-aids on the problem!

Thank you,

Amy Rayess

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, Ak 99517

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**From:** Jan Caulfield [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:01 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** I support SJR 29 & education funding NOW

I support SJR 29 that would establish 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 putting the education needs of Alaskans first! Our children and families are our most important resource.

Regards,

Jan Caulfield  
Juneau, Alaska

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**From:** Katie Reilly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:01 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please Fund Public Schools

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for taking our school funding crisis—and the future of our children—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 today and in future years to catch up – and keep up – with inflation.

I encourage you all to continue to prioritize school funding. It impacts so much of Alaska life, from the economy to public health to public safety. Quality schools improves the lives of all Alaskans. And quality schools take money to sustain and grow and thrive. In the same way that politicians' reelection campaigns need funding to succeed (something you all likely understand well), school and other public services also need funding to succeed.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration for finding a solution to our ongoing education funding crisis. Our kids and educators deserve better than living in crisis from year to year.

Best,  
Katie  
Anchorage, 99508

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**From:** Lia Slemons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:23 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SJR 29 and sustained educational funding

Honorable House Finance,

Thank you for your broadly scoped work on Alaska's K-12 educational system. School Districts invest in teachers, staff, and students in terms of decades and need the long-term, predictable funding to do so with greater effect.

I want to emphasize that such a fund needs meaningful investment now. The state has the legal responsibility for funding Alaskan schools, and across the state, that funding is not meeting the increased costs of everything, from materials to staff to health care.

I am a parent of a middle schooler and an elementary schooler, and I substitute teach high school in the Anchorage School District. At every grade, class size makes a difference in how much time is spent learning vs. redirecting behavior. Effective budget cuts (falling behind inflation) mean class sizes will increase drastically next year.

I am very concerned about the loss of the middle school model- just a couple of years after ASD moved 6th grade to middle school, we are slated to lose middle school teacher planning periods, meaning less support for individual students transitioning from elementary to high school and less elective opportunities for important learning like music, art, and digital literacy. I honestly don't know how my nephew will get through middle school without that teacher buttressing, and I don't know how we'll possibly be ready to send my sensitive youngest to middle school. Those are critical years for cognitive development.

I also am terribly frustrated by the continued erosion of music and art in the elementary schools, removing creativity and consistency so important in learning.

We are losing teachers and an entire cohort of young people will graduate (hopefully, if they don't fall through the widening cracks with less staff support) with fewer course choices, weaker teacher relationships, more lost learning time, and less creative opportunities. Alaska as a whole will stagnate.

Yes, let's set up an education fund, and then let's fund it, by at least the ~\$1200 to match the purchasing power of 2011.

Thanks,  
Lia Slemons

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK

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Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)  
I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina. (English)  
*Translation by J. Isaak and S. Shaginoff-Stuart*

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**From:** Erika Burr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:57 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Ashley Carrick; Sen. Mike Cronk  
**Subject:** SJR29 and increasing education funding

Hello, my name is Erika Burr.

I'm a teacher and parent in the Fairbanks Northstar Borough. I am writing today in support of SJR29, for the creation of a dedicated fund for education. I also have questions about whether and how the proposed fund could be used to support school-preparedness for our communities. Investment in quality early childhood education dramatically multiplies the return on K-12 spending. (indeed, please visit [heckmanequation.org](http://heckmanequation.org) to learn more about the incredible benefits of expanding access to quality birth to five education).

I want to thank our legislators for taking our school funding and workforce crisis seriously. Thank you for actively pursuing multiple approaches to support sustainable improvement.

As I look forward to the conversations that further progress of SJR29 could prompt, I also want to be clear that progress toward **setting up a new fund is not the same as spending sufficient funds to support our children's education**. Our schools also need a meaningful, sustained increase to education funding now and each year in the future to close the growing funding gaps and to keep pace with inflation.

Kids, parents, educators and employers depend on your ongoing energetic support. Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully consider, promote and refine this and other tools to build our Alaskan economy, workforce, and communities for current and future generations. Working together is a deeply held Alaskan value. When Alaskans work together for a strong future, it gives us courage, hope and purpose to keep showing up and giving our best every day.

Thank you,

Erika G. Burr  
Fairbanks parent and teacher  
99709

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**From:** Rebecca Bernard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 2:35 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SJR 29

Committee Co-Chairs Rep. Foster, Rep. Josephson, Rep. Schrage, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SJR 29, a measure to send to Alaska voters in November a constitutional amendment to establish a dedicated fund for public education in the state. As the parent of two young people who have been educated in the Anchorage public schools -- one now in college, the other still in high school -- I have witnessed the slow suffocation of our schools by the simple math of state funding failing to keep up with inflation year after year after year. Class sizes have grown noticeably larger; I had the sad experience at parent-teacher conferences of listening to my child's English teacher explain that he can't assign much writing because he just doesn't have the time to review all those essays.

A dedicated education fund would be a great way to mitigate this problem, though of course it will only be as useful as the amount of funds put into it. In addition, this will take some time to establish, and our schools desperately need a boost in funding now. I urge you to vote yes on this measure, and to also support a boost to education funding through an increase to the BSA.

Thank you for taking my testimony.

Respectfully,  
Rebecca Bernard  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jean Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 3:53 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** School Funding Crisis

House 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.

Alaskans support education and strongly encourage you to support measures that fund and safeguard our public schools today and in the future.

Thank you!

Jean Miller  
Proud Alaskan Parent

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**From:** Judy Green [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 6:20 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Alaska K-12 schools

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to urge you to find a way to adequately fund our schools. For the past 10 + years our schools have been underfunded and although some legislators have tried to add funding at various intervals, too often something happens and the bill does not go through or gets vetoed etc. I raised my kids here in the 80s and 90s and they received a decent education. Funding issues were a problem then too but somehow it always worked out in the end. Back then there was a call to forward fund schools so they would know how much money they had and wouldn't have to lay off teachers only to rehire them again in the fall (if they were still around.) Well, that problem never did get fixed and now we have schools in need of major repairs as well as more students per class and fewer electives, nurses etc. This is not quality education! I have four grandchildren in the Anchorage school district and a daughter who is a French teacher who is looking at losing her job next year if the budget doesn't improve. (They have dropped most foreign language classes except at the schools where immersion students attend and her school is the only high school in the district offering French to non-immersion students. They will also drop French as an option next year and eliminate her position if they have to cut again. How many of you went to a high school that did not offer French?) We are going backwards here and our test scores show it. I voted for both bonds and am willing to pay extra for schools as I believe they are so very Important but in reality paying for teachers should be covered by our state budget not by homeowners. I am so disappointed in how our children are being treated. They are our most valuable resource and we are failing them and the teachers who work so hard despite the setbacks. Please find a way to increase the base student allocation and begin to build back our schools to their prior level of excellence!

Thank you!

Judith Green  
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK  
99501

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Rozlyn Grady [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 6:21 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony on SJR 29 – Public Education Fund

Good afternoon, members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Roz'lyn Grady-Wyche. I am a Special Education Teacher, a parent of five, and a community advocate here in Alaska.

First, I want to thank you for recognizing that our education system is in crisis and for bringing forward SJR 29. The idea of a dedicated education fund is a step in the right direction. Our students deserve long-term stability, and a protected fund could help move us toward that goal.

However, I need to be very clear that creating a fund is not the same as funding our schools.

Right now, in classrooms across Alaska, we are already behind. Inflation has eroded our resources. We are trying to meet growing student needs with shrinking support. As a special education teacher, I see firsthand what happens when funding falls short students who need intensive support don't always get it, teachers are stretched thin, and families are left navigating systems that are under-resourced. Our schools need real, meaningful investment NOW not just a framework for future funding.

We cannot ask our educators, our students, and our communities to wait. We need an increase to the Base Student Allocation that reflects today's costs and begins to restore the buying power we've lost over the past decade.

SJR 29 can be part of a long-term solution, but it cannot replace immediate action.

So, I urge you: Support this resolution but also commit to fully funding public education this session. Our students cannot learn in promises. They need resources, support, and opportunity today.

Public education is the foundation of strong communities and a strong Alaska. We must treat it that way.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to our children.

Roz'lyn Grady-Wyche