



April 27, 2026

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

We are writing to express our support for HB 261. As parents and community members, we see firsthand the erosion of educational quality and opportunities for our kids - in school districts across the state - as a result of 15 years of underfunding. The loss in buying power our districts are experiencing due to the base student allocation falling so far behind inflation is real: It means teacher layoffs, loss of electives, school closures, class size increases, and an air of uncertainty and decline.

Yes, the losses are compounded by enrollment declines. These enrollment losses are in large part a symptom of underfunding. The cure is not further starvation of our schools but robust funding so we can rebuild a great education system for all Alaska families.

Please support HB 261 to reduce the negative impact of enrollment fluctuations and buffer districts against some of the fiscal unpredictability they experience with enrollment changes. Our districts are hampered by late-breaking budget numbers from the state and fluctuating enrollment numbers, forcing them to pink-slip teachers and creating anxiety and stress in our school communities.

We ALSO believe a significant BSA increase is needed. HB 261 does not fix the massive resource gap our districts are experiencing as a result of 15 years of underfunding.

We volunteer in our schools and communities and engage with the legislative process because we passionately believe education is the bedrock of a bright future in Alaska. Please (1) pass HB 261 to give our districts more budget stability, (2) pass a significant increase to the BSA this year, and (3) moving forward, adjust the BSA every year to account for cost increases.

Thank you for your service to Alaska. Sincerely,

Volunteer members of Great Alaska Schools coordinating team

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