

From: [REDACTED] y
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** Please, support HB69 and increase education funding.
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:17:20 PM

Dear House Education Committee,

My name is Eva Allaby, and I am a parent of a first grade student in Fairbanks, Alaska. I also have two younger children, aged four and two, who will hopefully be future students at this school.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is preparing to address a critical challenge through a comprehensive School Consolidation Plan. The district intends to close five schools, in addition to the five schools already closed over the past five years. I understand that over the last 20 years, student enrollment in the district has fallen by 15%, making it necessary to reduce the number of schools.

However, it is important to consider that the Base Student Allocation (BSA) has been essentially flat-funded since 2011, while fixed costs like health insurance and utility costs have skyrocketed. Alaska public schools are in crisis, with school districts across the state cutting programs, closing schools, and eliminating education jobs **due to a lack of state funding**. Educators are being forced to do more with less, handling increased workloads and spending less time ensuring every student has the opportunity to learn. From 2011 to 2024, the BSA has increased by less than 5%, while Alaska's urban consumer price index has risen by 32% according to Alaska Dept. of Labor.

Just after the threat of our school's closure last year, there was an unsurprisingly huge exodus of staff. Last week, the school nurse announced that it would be her last week, and shortly before Christmas, my son's teacher, with 15 years of experience, quit. My family is seriously considering leaving Alaska to provide our children with better learning opportunities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Eva Allaby

Please, support HB69 and increase education funding.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: ██████s
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Alaska Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:56:15 AM

Hello,

Funding Alaska's public school system is a Constitutional duty. The majority of students in Alaska attend public schools.

I work as a mentor in rural Alaska coaching new teachers and new to Alaska teachers. The only option in rural Alaska, especially Native villages, is public school. The continuous neglect and under investment in our public schools must end for the benefit of our students, families, and communities.

A BSA increased of \$1808 is necessary to keep pace with inflation and ensure that all students have access to quality education, resources, and opportunities that they rightfully deserve under our state constitution.

A significant investment in Alaska's school system is needed NOW.

Thank you for doing what is right for Alaska's students - our future.

Sarah Ellis
Alaska State Mentor
Retired teacher - 33 years in Alaska Public Schools

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Rep. Andi Story](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#)
Subject: Alaska needs to support our schools!
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:42:18 PM

Dear legislators,
PLEASE make this the year we shore up our public schools, and salvage and restore what we can from the damage that has been done these past years of not keeping up with inflation.

I work in the schools and it is really hard to see. Class sizes have gotten so large it is out of hand. Students get lost in this kind of system. You should see how literally packed the rooms feel! Teachers' jobs are so stressful, many of them are leaving the profession, those with valuable experience and also young teachers who had the dream to teach but the reality of teaching is so miserable that they leave for something else. When we give teachers big class sizes and sometimes can't afford to hire (or have a shortage of) extra support for children with special needs, the task for the teachers and the environment for the children is not what anyone can thrive in. The answer is not smaller administration in the schools either, so many admin positions have been consolidated; people are working with huge workloads which adds chaos to an already stretched system.

Children deserve better and our communities and families will all benefit from a renewed commitment to our schools. We once had some of the strongest school funding and strongest schools in the nation. We can expect and work towards schools changing and evolving and improving, but nothing is possible when resources are so severely withheld. Let's make sure we believe in, and are willing to support, strong public schools in Alaska!

Thank you for listening to those who are testifying. Please make the needed decisions to be bold and restore funding and hope to our schools.

Sincerely,
Nancy Lehnhart
Juneau

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[House Education](#)

Subject:

Aquarian Charter

Date:

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:28:54 PM

Hi, as a parent of an Aquarian Charter School student I am concerned with future funding regarding HB69.

I received information that the school will be struggling to pay their staff as they adjust to the next few years under HB69.

This news is devastating and unacceptable. We need to increase funding to keep the hard working staff at Aquarian Charter.

I am extremely grateful to all the staff at Aquarian Charter School, and all people in our community who support our school's & students

- Jessica Maldonado
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: BSA increase.
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 6:11:44 PM

Please, please, please increase the BSA for students. Our schools are bare ones due to the lack of funding in the past. This needs to change our future generation depends on it. Our district has closed 4 schools in the last 3 years and is proposed to close 5 more in a few weeks due to lack of funding. This is over 44% of our districts schools. This can not and should not be happening. Please increase the BSA to match inflation and then some.

Thank you,
Allison mogensen

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: BSA increase
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:58:22 PM

Please raise the BSA. Our students and the future of the state are worth the investment.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:41:14 AM

Dear Legislators,
How about this?

We institute a 30% income tax. Give Alaskan full time residents a 20% discount and exempt any household making less than \$75,000 per year.

This will bring in income from folks that don't live here. It might even encourage them to move here, and it will protect our most vulnerable populations from being unfairly taxed.

The exclusion would help many teachers, and other civil servants in our state, but still bring in badly needed revenue for the state to support education.

Please, vote for HB 69. Our districts are starving, and the only thing left to cut is teachers, raising class sizes to unteachable levels.

Sincerely,
Pepper McFarland

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Education
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:52:03 AM

My name is Naomi Youngberg and as a grandparent of children in the Petersburg School District I am concerned about the lack of funding for public education. A BSA increase of \$1,808 is necessary to keep pace with inflation and ensure that all students have access to quality education, resources and opportunities. I am in support of House Bill 69. Please support public education. Thank you

For the children,
Naomi

[REDACTED]

To:

[REDACTED]

[House Education](#)

Subject:

Fund education in Alaska

Date:

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 3:18:41 PM

Dear House Education Committee,

I am writing to you with concerns about the future of education in Alaska. As our state continues to grow and evolve, so too must our investment in the students who will shape that future. I respectfully urge you to support an increase in education funding by \$1,000 per student in the upcoming budget.

Education is the foundation of a prosperous society, and every student deserves the opportunity to succeed regardless of where they live. Our schools are facing growing challenges, from rising costs of living and infrastructure needs to a significant shortage of educators. These difficulties impact the quality of education we are able to provide our students.

By increasing funding by \$1,000 per student, we would provide schools with the necessary resources to improve class sizes, increase teacher compensation, expand extracurricular programs, enhance special education services, and invest in educational technology. In turn, this would lead to better academic outcomes, greater opportunities for all students, and a stronger workforce for Alaska's future.

I know that funding decisions are never easy, but I firmly believe that investing in education is an investment in Alaska's long-term prosperity. I ask that you advocate for this critical funding increase to ensure that all of Alaska's students are given the tools they need to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. I look forward to your leadership in supporting education in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Barb Brown

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kodiak, Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: representative.donna.mears@alaska.gov
Subject: Funding education
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:06:12 PM

Subject: Funding education

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Rep Himschoot's bill.

One of the most potent mitigators against dementia is cognitive reserve. What does that mean? It means providing opportunity for excellent education early on to allow all children to be inquisitive, life-long learners. If/when parts of our brain capacity fade out later in life, having more cognitive reserve allows for the possibility of new neural pathways to figure out the problem, remember the word, or maintain the ability to perform ADLs (activities of daily living). As well as keeping religion out of schools it is imperative to pay teachers well to reduce expensive and disruptive turn-over. Hopefully the return to defined benefits will be accomplished this session also.

Below is a graphic, published in the Lancet in late 2023, which summarizes many studies (meta-analysis) about which factors can reduce dementia later in life. Note the single biggest mitigatable factor is early education (7-8% risk reduction). Dementia as you know is a growing scourge, not only as our population ages but as early education receives inadequate funding. I'm writing to you about this angle because it's about the children, yes, of course, but in addition excellent early education will potentially save billions of dollars in costly care for those with dementia — not to speak of the suffering thrust upon their families and caregivers.

Good luck with session!
Best wishes
Emily Kane ND
Juneau



From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Fwd: Increase Base Student Allocation
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 12:25:18 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Greta Lewanski [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 12:21 PM
Subject: Increase Base Student Allocation
To: <house.education@ak.leg.gov>

Hello,

As a mama of two elementary aged students and someone who spends a lot of time in our local schools, I support an increase to the base student allocation.

Teachers need more pay.
Support staff needs more pay.
Students need proper supplies, activities and mental health support.

We need to support our students and school staff heartily. This is the future we are building.

Please increase the base student allocation.

Warmly,
Greta

--

[REDACTED]

From: House Education
To: [Helpdesk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Support for HB 69: Enhancing Alaska's Education Funding
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2025 9:56:28 AM

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Jacqueline Muehlbauer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2025 8:35:04 AM
To: House Education <House.Education@akleg.gov>; Senate Education <Senate.Education@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 69: Enhancing Alaska's Education Funding

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature Education Committees,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 69, which aims to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Alaska's public education system. As a resident of Fairbanks and a parent of children attending Pearl Creek Elementary School, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges our schools face due to insufficient funding.

The current BSA has not kept pace with inflation and the rising costs of education, leading to larger class sizes, reduced programs, and the potential closure of neighborhood schools like Pearl Creek. Increasing the BSA is essential to provide our students with the quality education they deserve and to maintain the vitality of our communities.

Pearl Creek Elementary is a cornerstone of our community, known for its academic excellence, unique outdoor learning opportunities, and strong community involvement. The potential closure of such schools not only disrupts students' education but also diminishes the attractiveness of our community to prospective families and businesses.

By supporting HB 69, you will be investing in the future of Alaska's children and the overall well-being of our state. I urge you to prioritize this legislation and work towards its swift passage.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Muehlbauer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 1

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Fwd: Testimony on HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 11:35:25 AM
Attachments: [Testimony HB69.docx](#)

Greetings Members of the House Education Committee,

Please find attached my testimony on HB 69.
I will also be calling in to testify tomorrow.

Respectfully,
Sarah Joan Lawrie

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69 - please read
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 3:04:47 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I urge you to pass HB 69 for the following reasons:

Funding the public school system is your Constitutional duty. This bill will impact the vast majority of Alaska's students because most are in the public school system. Continuous neglect and under-investment in our school system makes Alaska a much less attractive place to raise a family. The BSA increase of \$1808 is necessary to keep pace with inflation. Since 2011, the BSA has not increased enough to keep pace with inflation. The result is severe staff shortages and program elimination.

Stephanie Harold
Hoonah, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69 Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:33:56 AM

I am writing to weigh in on HB 69 Education Funding. To begin, I am excited to see that education funding is being addressed early in this session. We have gone far too long without a meaningful increase in the BSA, and inflation has decimated the present levels of funding that schools receive.

The proposed increases to the BSA over the next three years, coupled with inflation proofing the process, would allow for a consistency and reliability in education funding that hasn't existed in our state for nearly a decade. At the same time, such a change would allow school districts to focus on what is most important: educating our students.

Thank you for your continued support of education in our great state.

Respectfully,

Christopher Brown
Homer, AK

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69 Education Funding
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:30:33 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to submit a public testimony regarding HB 69 and the proposed budget cuts for KPBSD. I am a current resident of Homer, AK and a parent of two children involved with the public school system on the Kenai Peninsula. I can say first-hand how concerning this is for our children and community. Teachers are already struggling with the workload they currently have and minimal pay for such jobs, increasing PTR would only make this worse for teachers and students. Additionally, individual learning opportunities would become impossible to give to students that are really struggling.

Our small city has little resources as it is, and the proposed budget cuts for KPBSD would be detrimental. Our pool and theatre at HHS are a very important part of our community. Not only is our pool a part of extra-curricular activities, it's the only public source for swim lessons in our community. As many parents, including myself, stated the last time our pool was at risk; it is also a safety concern for children living in a small city on the water. Knowing water safety and how to swim is extremely important in our community.

In addition, our theatre and additional extra-curricular activities/school sports are very important to our children. Often these activities are an incentive to keep students going when the school day is difficult, staying active is very important for the physical and mental health of our youth. My concern is not just for my own children, but for their peers and for generations to come. Please, strongly consider the impact to our children and our education system when making a decision regarding the BSA Increase. Our children and our community need these resources.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

- Amanda Smith

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69 Increase BSA: Please support
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:06:55 PM

Dear Members of the House Education Committee:

I fully support increasing the BSA for Alaska's public schools. My four siblings and I attended Alaska public schools, K-12.

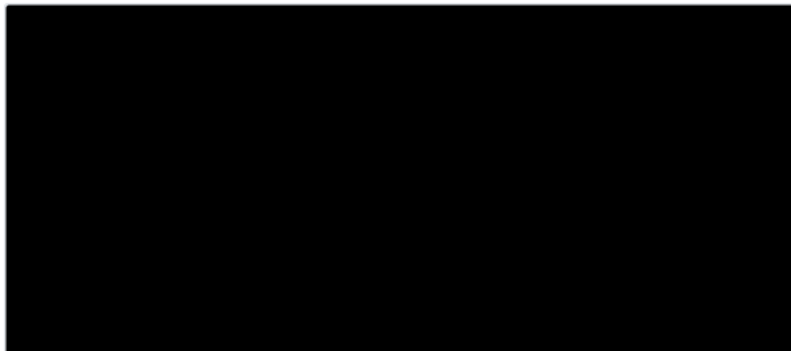
Please see the two links below, to an Alaska Law Review article, published in 2024, setting forth the reasons why the Alaska Supreme Court got the decision on **forward funding** legislation in HB 287 (2018) wrong, and why HB 287 (2018) provisions are correct. (Bolding provided for easy reference).

[In the Dark: State v. Alaska Legislative Council and Public-School Funding in the Face of the Dedicated Funds Clause | Alaska Law Review](#)

[In the Dark: State v. Alaska Legislative Council and Public-School Funding in the Face of the Dedicated Funds Clause](#)

A strong public school system, fully funded in a process to ensure recruitment and retention of the best educators for our public-school students is of paramount importance to every Alaskan.

The recurrent statement that the Legislature has always fully funded public schools is extraordinarily misleading. The Alaska Legislatures' increases for per-pupil since 2017 has failed to track with Alaska's simultaneous increase in cost of living for energy costs, insurance rate increases, etc., that all school districts face, exacerbated by the very high costs of teacher turnover. See: ['Slow strangulation': Alaska school districts face fiscal cliff with high inflation and flat funding - Anchorage Daily News](#)



'Slow strangulation': Alaska school districts face fiscal cliff with hig...

One-time federal funding is set to end, and administrators are trying to make the numbers add up.

The public-school funding failure since 2017 has economic impacts on every aspect of Alaska's economic structure.

As a very simple example, I'm always reminded that Alaska's public schools, adequately and realistically funded, are a vital part of Alaska's economic structure when I see any residence in Alaska for sale - the real estate listings for residential sales show the locations of nearby public schools. And it's not just real estate markets which benefit - mortgage lenders, insurance writers, utility providers, and providers of goods and services - the whole economy benefits from a strong and well-funded public school system.

Thank you for your efforts, and for your support for increasing Alaska's public school BSA.

Landa Baily
Homer, Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Rep. Ashley Carrick](#)
Subject: HB 69- Public Testimony
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:03:40 PM

Please support HB 69 to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in order to catch up with inflation. I am a parent of a 9th grade daughter at West Valley High School in Fairbanks. We moved here when she was 4 years old, so her entire public education has taken place here. Up until a few years ago, I felt so strongly that Fairbanks was the best place to raise a child. It was not what brought us up here, but definitely why I wanted to stay. I felt she had a quality education surrounded by a safe and welcoming community with lots of opportunities. I feel differently now. A decade of under funded schools have been doing their best to get by but the cuts have taken a toll and people started leaving. Then, schools started closing. Now 5 more schools are about to close. This will cause way too much instability and loose people's trust in this community. If we don't put kids' needs first and fund schools properly, we are going to keep driving people out of Alaska.

Thank you.

Alexis Rhynard
Fairbanks, AK

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69 Support from Rilke Schule Parent
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 9:58:13 AM

Hello,

I am the parent of a kindergartner and 3rd grader at Rilke Schule, the German immersion charter school in Anchorage. I strongly urge the legislature to pass HB 69 as quickly as possible.

Rilke has been cutting support staff and teaching roles without backfilling them, and anticipates losing more teachers over the next five years on our current funding trajectory.

This cutting with no reasoning will quickly knock down the rankings of the exact charter schools that Governor Dunleavy likes to tout as success stories. He makes no sense when he says that successful schools get funding, names schools he sees as successful and then continues to cut their funding.

Additionally, inadequate funding for schools removes a strong motivation for families to stay in the state. At some point as a parent it becomes unethical to keep your children in schools that shortchange their development, if you have any other places you can move to that do value children and their future. For parents I know we've passed that point with our schools in Alaska, for others we are heading that way rapidly unless changes are made to school funding now.

I urge you to stop the defunding of Alaska children's futures and support HB 69.

Thank you,

Grace Johnston

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69 Support
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:18:07 AM

Dear Legislators,

I am asking for your support of HB 69. As a product of Alaska's public schools, I benefited from a well-funded educational system. I attended UAA for my undergraduate education, and pursued a graduate degree outside of Alaska. I have been providing health care in Alaska now for the past 15 years to the Anchorage community.

My son is now a Kindergartener at Aquarian Charter School in Anchorage. I would like him to have the same opportunities that I had during his education. Please invest in our children, they are the future of our state. Give the teachers the resources they need to allow our kids to thrive. Create an environment that attracts talented educators to our state and keeps them here.

--

Rachel Crawford

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69 Testimony
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:47:56 AM

Dear Stakeholders,

As a teacher, I have seen firsthand how insufficient funding affects our schools. I strongly support HB 69, which addresses inflation and increases the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1,000 for FY26, with additional increases for FY27 and FY28. This funding is essential to maintaining programs, retaining educators, and providing students with the resources they need to succeed.

Without these adjustments, schools will continue to face tough choices, leading to fewer opportunities for students. This bill is a critical investment in Alaska's future, ensuring every child has access to a quality education while strengthening our communities and workforce.

I urge you to pass HB 69 to give our students the support they deserve. Thank you for your consideration and dedication to education.

Sincerely,

Tauga M. Shiery, M.Ed.

[REDACTED]

From:

Subject:

Date:

HB 69

Monday, January 27, 2025 9:10:11 AM

I support an increase in BSA education funding. I have been an educator for over 35 years in Alaska. Supporting Public Education will make our state stronger and enhance our future by educating our students to become active members of the community. By supporting Public Education we are supporting all public schools, which includes Charter Schools and Optional Programs. Please vote to increase funding and support our states, students, teachers and educational system.

Thank you,

Maryann Rowe

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#); [Rep. Ashley Carrick](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:23:19 AM

Hello,

I strongly support increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1808 over the next three years AND inflation-proofing the BSA.

The state of Alaska has a constitutional responsibility to provide public education for ALL Alaskans, not just those in charter, magnet, and home schools.

The state's continuing failure to adequately fund public education is actively and currently ripping Fairbanks communities apart AND fueling the outward migration of families all over the state.

I am an educated, active, and registered voter in Fairbanks, Alaska. I support paying more taxes and decreasing the PFD in favor of education, community, and the future of this state that I love.

Thank you,
Krista West
Fairbanks, AK

From:

Subject:

Date:

HB 69

Monday, January 27, 2025 11:33:02 AM

I am writing in regards to HB 69, increasing the BSA over the next 3 years. This is a terrible plan and I oppose it. Alaska already spends far more per child than most of the Lower 48, and yet our outcomes are abysmal. This is not a money problem. Private schools and charter schools throughout Alaska are reaping far better outcomes with less funding (private schools) or equal funding (charters). It is not a BSA increase that our schools need. Throwing more money at the problem without addressing WHY schools are failing our students is a mismanagement of our public funds and does nothing to increase accountability of our failing schools to improve outcomes.

I am the parent of 6 children. I agree that quality education is important. But this Bill does nothing to advance quality education in Alaska. We do not need more money to fix this problem; we need to free teachers to teach. We need to reign in administrative spending and bureaucratic red tape. We need real change, not more of our money going toward a subpar product.

Sincerely,
Danielle Witzak, Palmer, AK

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 11:28:01 AM

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 69, which proposes an increase to the base student allocation for Alaska's schools. As a parent of two children attending Aquarian Charter School, I cannot overstate the importance of adequate funding to support our children's education and their future.

Aquarian Charter School is a remarkable institution and one of only three schools in Alaska to receive the prestigious Blue Ribbon School designation this year. This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of its staff and the incredible opportunities they provide for students to thrive academically and personally. However, like many schools in Alaska, Aquarian is facing significant financial challenges due to inadequate funding.

If the base student allocation is not increased, Aquarian will be forced to use nearly one-third of its savings just to maintain current staffing levels next year. At this rate, the school's entire savings—or unallocated funds—will be depleted within three years. This is deeply concerning, as the current budget is not even sufficient to cover salaries and benefits for the hardworking and dedicated staff who make Aquarian the exceptional school it is. As a member of the PTO board and an active member of the Aquarian community I have witnessed first hand how these teachers go above and beyond to make this school the place it is.

These financial pressures threaten the quality of education that students like my child receive. The teachers and staff at Aquarian go above and beyond to ensure a supportive and enriching learning environment, and they deserve to be compensated fairly for their invaluable contributions.

I urge you to prioritize our children's education by passing House Bill 69 and increasing the base student allocation. Investing in education is an investment in Alaska's future. Without adequate funding, schools across our state will struggle to maintain the high standards our students deserve.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I hope you will join me in supporting the success of Alaska's students by ensuring that our schools are adequately funded.

Sincerely,

Jody Best

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 2:30:19 PM

Dear House Education Committee,

As a parent, and pediatrician in my community, I urge you to support House Bill 69 and ensure funding for education in our state.

In my role as a general pediatrician, I have met with thousands of families and have heard first hand the struggles families face when their children are in schools that can not provide the support their children need. Children need not only excellent teachers and adequate supplies, they also need smaller class sizes and in school therapies that support their education. They also need experiences in music, physical education, and art, all of which have been shown to improve academic performance and increase attendance rates.

The current education funding crisis in our state is shameful and unacceptable, and hurts those most at risk in our communities. Now is the time to prioritize the children in our communities and fulfill our obligation to provide a quality public education to every child in the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to reach out for more information.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:07:41 PM

Dear Representatives,
Please do all that you can to increase the Base Student Allocation statewide. We teachers have numerous mandates that we are trying to follow in the name of excellence and helping our students be ready for their futures. These efforts require funding. Please allocate as much money as possible to our school districts statewide.

Thank you,

Beverly Colapietro

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:18:11 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of House District 17 and am writing in strong support of HB 69. It's embarrassing to even have to write this email, but apparently the message has not yet been received by our state's government.

It is no mystery why we are hemorrhaging young people when we repeatedly choose not to invest in education, forcing schools to choose between devastating cuts now or digging into reserve funds in the hopes that legislators will come to their senses in the next couple of years. As a parent of young children, it's hard to see our current funding levels as anything other than a clear indication that the governor has lost his way on education, to the extent that he ever really had a grasp on how funding works.

Now is the time to act like responsible adults. Please vote in support of HB 69.

Thank you for your time,
Danny Mindlin

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:46:42 PM

Representatives of the Education Committee,

I oppose HB 69 and urge you to dramatically change the bill or vote it down.

While the BSA has been flat funded, millions of dollars in one time funding have flowed into the school districts in addition to those BSA funds. Yet with all the millions of dollars, the outcomes have remained largely the same-poor.

The major exception to that rule is related to the Reads Act which has actually produced great outcomes, dramatically improving student literacy rates (my own son benefitting from this program). The reason it was successful is because it was a reform. Money will not solve the problems in the education system, only reform can.

We have all heard the phrase: the definition of insanity is to continue doing the same thing you have always done (throw millions at the public education system with no accountability and no reform .

Please vote this waste of money down. We need the BSA tied to reform for the future of our children.
Thank you , Audri Jirak -mom in MSBSD

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 12:41:20 PM

I implore the Alaska Legislature to support HB 69 increasing the base student allocation (BSA) for school funding. This action is long overdue. Temporary stopgaps in school funding are not sufficient--they do not allow districts or schools to plan their own funding or staffing into the foreseeable future.

In my professional capacity, I work closely with schools and educators and know that they are stretched thin due to inaction on this issue. The state cannot throw public schools under the bus. Our brick and mortar schools are the lifeblood of our youth and our growing economy. Alaska cannot thrive without Alaska youth excelling and continuing to live in the state. Prove to students and educators that the state cares to invest in them.

Thank you
Scott Bartlett

--
Scott Bartlett
Executive Director

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 8:29:54 PM

Please support HB 69 regarding Education Funding. For too long we have flat funded public education in Alaska which has caused harm to our students and communities. We need to add more to the BSA and work towards inflation proofing it so we can help our children grow in learning.

I am a life-long Fairbanks resident. I am a teacher at Pearl Creek school that is facing closure. Yes, enrollment is down for a variety of reasons, yet we can gain families back if we really focus on funding the schools properly.

Let's make Alaska an attractive place to raise a family by taking the best care of our children by offering them all the advantages a solid education can provide.

I urge you to vote for and fight for HB 69.

Thank you,
Paula Addis
Fairbanks
99709

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Hb 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:15:09 AM

Your bill will bankrupt the state. We cannot continue to pull huge amounts of money out of the PFD and not hold school districts accountable for their mismanagement of funds. Enrollment is down and keeping schools open when there are opportunities to place students in a school close by. The 3 largest districts have options to rein in their spending and focus on teaching our students the basics of reading writing and math where they have failed miserably.

This bill does nothing but throw away our PFD and hurt smaller communities and low income families.

Money without accountability is what got last years bill vetoed. Sit down with fiscally responsible school districts that have preformed better than Anchorage and come up with a better solution. More money isn't going to solve the issue of our kids not knowing how to read. Get back to core subjects and trim the fluff in a classroom. Bring back accountability and quit taking on teaching what parents need to teach like life skills.

Responsibility and accountability should be the name of the game.

Quit hurting our small community's and low income families by spending the PFD that rightly belongs to us.

Respectfully,
Hannah Bengtson
Copper River Basin Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 69: "An Act relating to education funding; and providing for an effective date
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 2:01:23 PM

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 69**, a critical piece of legislation that seeks to improve education funding in Alaska by increasing the **Base Student Allocation (BSA)** to reflect inflationary adjustments and further augmenting it with additional resources over the next several years.

Alaska's future depends on the quality of its education system. By increasing the BSA in proportion to the **Consumer Price Index (CPI) for urban Alaska** and supplementing it with fixed-dollar increments, **HB 69** ensures that our schools have the necessary resources to address rising operational costs while providing a quality education for all students.

While it is just a step toward improvement in educational funding, it is a **step forward**—not backward or stagnation. This bill acknowledges the increasing demands placed on our schools and represents a meaningful commitment to providing students with the resources they deserve.

The specific measures outlined in HB 69, such as an initial \$1,000 increase in the BSA in 2025 and subsequent adjustments through 2027 and beyond, represent an essential investment in our children's future. These increases account for inflation, ensuring that funding keeps pace with the real costs of delivering educational services. Moreover, this legislation provides stability and predictability to school districts, allowing them to make long-term plans that directly benefit students, teachers, and communities.

Key reasons why HB 69 is vital for Alaska:

1. **Combatting Inflationary Pressures:** Rising costs of utilities, supplies, and transportation have strained school budgets across the state. Adjusting the BSA to reflect the average increase in CPI ensures our schools can maintain current standards of education without cutting programs or staff.
2. **Supporting Teachers and Staff:** Adequate funding allows districts to attract and retain qualified educators, who are the backbone of successful schools. Without competitive compensation, Alaska risks losing talented teachers to other states.
3. **Equity for All Students:** Every child in Alaska deserves access to a high-quality education, regardless of their location or socioeconomic background. Increased funding ensures that rural and urban schools alike can provide essential resources, modern facilities, and advanced learning opportunities.
4. **Strengthening Alaska's Economy:** Education is a long-term investment in Alaska's economic future. A strong K-12 system creates a skilled workforce, supports innovation, and attracts families to our state, bolstering local economies and communities.

HB 69 is not just an education bill—it is a statement of Alaska's commitment to its children and future generations. I urge you to support this legislation and prioritize education funding as a foundational pillar of our state's progress.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I welcome any opportunity to provide

additional input or testimony on this topic. Please feel free to contact me at

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended
recipient(s), please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original
message.

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Rep. Andi Story](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#)
Subject: HB69 & HB21
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 9:19:14 PM

I support HB 69 “**EDUCATION FUNDING: INCREASE BSA**”. **Our schools have not had enough funding for years.** Our children are the future leaders of Alaska. They **MUST** be well educated.

I have two grandchildren in the Juneau school system, so this legislation affects them.

I also support HB21 “VOTER PREREGISTRATION FOR MINORS”. We have too low of a turn out of voters. This may make younger people more interested in government and voting.

Please vote yes on these two bills.

Thank you.

Gary Miller
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB69- Do not vote in favor as is
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:05:57 AM

Representatives of the Education Committee,

I oppose HB 69 and urge you to dramatically change the bill or vote it down.

As a mother of children in Alaska and as a grandmotger, I have paid very close attention to the funding and outcomes in the public system. While the BSA has been flat funded, millions of dollars in one time funding have flowed into the school districts in addition to those BSA funds. Yet with all the millions of dollars, the outcomes have remained largely the same-poor.

The major exception to that rule is related to the Reads Act which has actually produced great outcomes, dramatically improving student literacy rates. The reason it was successful is because it was a reform. Money will not solve the problems in the education system, only reform can.

We have all heard the phrase: the definition of insanity is to continue doing the same thing you have always done (throw millions at the public education system with no accountability and no reform) and then expect a different result (better outcomes). We must require accountability and reform from our public education system if we want the roughly 70% of children who are failed by the system to have a chance. We must hold the system to the standard of good outcomes and not reward failures with funding. "

Michelle Dempsey
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Education](#); [House Education](#)
Subject: House Bill 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 11:58:15 AM

Good afternoon,

My name is Lorinda Jensen, I am a parent to a first grader and an incoming kindergartener in the Anchorage School District, as well as a previous elementary school teacher in the district. I am writing to urge you to pass and implement House Bill 69, which would introduce immediate inflation proofing and a \$1,000 increase to the BSA for FY26.

My children attend a charter school, which is very transparent about finances. I have listened to meeting after meeting this year where the Academic Policy Committee at the school tries to balance an impossible budget. With the current BSA, they are unable to fully fund their staff next year.

Budget cuts have had a major negative impact on the Anchorage School District year after year. Flat funding has resulted in school closures, increased class sizes, less access to athletics and activities, and more. By passing House Bill 69, we would be able to stop our downward trend and start improving the educational outcomes for Alaska's children.

Again, I urge you to put the children in our state first and increase funding in our schools by passing House Bill 69.

Thank you!
Lorinda Jensen
Anchorage, Ak

From:

Subject:

Date:

House Bill 69

Monday, January 27, 2025 5:11:32 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

As a parent to three children in the Anchorage School District and a community member that works with children and families I would like to see House Bill 69 supported. We need a clear path forward to funding our public schools now and in the future and House Bill 69 seems like the right step. Please support funding public education so that all may benefit. I believe public education, not privatization, will help our whole community grow together and all should be given the equal opportunity for an education. Providing an increase in the base allocation is a good start.

I support House Bill 69.

Thank you,

Heidi Clift

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: House Bill 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:05:58 PM

We are writing to ask you to pass House Bill 69. We have grandchildren and great grandchildren attending public schools here in Alaska as do the majority of students in our state. It is our understanding that the base student allocation has not been increased in several years while inflation has increased dramatically. We are concerned that this lack of funding is resulting in our grandchildren and great grandchildren not being afforded the quality education that our children received. We are counting on your doing the right thing and voting for HB 69.

William and Shannon Midkiff

Concerned Grandparents and Great grandparents living in Petersburg, Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: House Bill 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:02:13 AM

Dear House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill No. 69, which proposes a long-overdue increase to the base student allocation (BSA). As you are aware, funding Alaska's public school system is not only a moral imperative but a constitutional duty. The majority of Alaska's students rely on our public schools to receive the education they need and deserve. However, years of neglect and under-investment have created significant challenges that undermine the success of our students, families, and communities.

In our small rural district, the impacts of inadequate funding are stark and deeply felt. We have been forced to cut critical positions at both the district and school levels. This has drastically reduced our ability to offer comprehensive programs for students. Many of our classes are now conducted online through e-learning courses rather than being taught by a real teacher. Elective opportunities are nearly non-existent, and we struggle to purchase updated materials for core subjects like Health and Social Studies. These gaps in resources and programming leave our students at a significant disadvantage compared to their peers in other parts of the state and nation. Additionally, we are seeing a large number of high school students leave our district to attend boarding schools with more course options. This trend not only hurts our communities and the students who remain but also lowers our enrollment numbers, which directly reduces the funding we receive. This cycle of declining resources and opportunities perpetuates inequities and undermines the stability of our local schools.

The high cost of living in rural Alaska exacerbates these challenges. Salaries for educators and staff have not kept pace with inflation, making it increasingly difficult to attract and retain qualified professionals. This staffing instability further compromises the quality of education we can provide to our students, who are already facing obstacles unique to living in rural communities.

House Bill No. 69's proposed BSA increase is essential to address these challenges. This adjustment is not a luxury but a necessity to keep pace with inflation and ensure that every student, regardless of where they live, has access to a quality education. Investing in our public schools means investing in the future of Alaska—our students deserve equitable access to resources, opportunities, and the support they need to succeed.

By passing this bill, the Legislature will demonstrate its commitment to fulfilling its constitutional duty to fund public education adequately and equitably. This action will not only benefit our students but also strengthen our communities and ensure that Alaska remains a place where families can thrive.

Thank you for considering this critical piece of legislation. I urge you to support House Bill No. 69 and prioritize the needs of Alaska's students and schools.

Sincerely,

Emily Vanderpool

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Kuspuk School District

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Rep. Donna Mears](#)
Subject: I support HB 69 to increase the BSA
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 6:27:20 PM

Please support this critical legislation.
Don't balance the books on the backs of children!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: In support of HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 5:50:54 AM

To whom this may concern,

Please, I encourage you to support HB69. Our children will continue to suffer if our administrations do not have the funds available in order to support their learning.

-Jamie

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Increase Base Student Allotment
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:39:32 AM

As a retired teacher I am imploring you to increase the base student allotment. Our children are our investment in the future - our future! Our state constitution has specific directives regarding education and it's funding, that must, by law, be followed! Please pass the proposed increase in the BSA. Please do it in the very near future, well before this year's legislative session is out of time.

Sincerely, Sandra Trumbower

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Increase Funding
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:02:48 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am asking that HB 69 is passed as soon as possible. We have reached a point in our school district that we can no longer afford support personnel and substitutes. We have reached the point of pushing the classrooms together when a teacher gets sick and shortening school days as staff attendance goes below 60%. This has resulted in schedule changes and students being pushed in with older students, resulting in a loss of academic growth. Teachers are quickly beginning to burn out due to the need to handle the daily staffing crisis. While this is one reason to increase student base funding, there are others.

Firstly, the Alaska State Constitution makes it a duty to provide students with appropriate support to insure an appropriate public education. Underfunding public education puts Alaska families, communities and students at a disadvantage as they move into secondary schools and the job market. A minimum BSA of \$1808 is vital in order to compensate for inflation and bring standards back to pre-inflation levels. Additionally, a cost of living increase should be assured to the Alaskan students for the years to come.

Thank you for consideration,
Joanne Viner

--

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From:

Subject:

Date:

[REDACTED]

[Education](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Rep. Chuck Kopp](#)

Increase the BSA

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:44:24 AM

I support an increase to the BSA to bring us back to 2011 funding levels after accounting for inflation.

Teachers cannot teach effectively when they have 30, even sometimes 40 kids in a classroom.

The reason our education system is failing is because we don't have enough teachers. We need to bring the BSA back to 2011 levels, and then tie that funding to inflation.

I am totally opposed to tying school funding to Governor Dunleavy's policy proposals. The Governor is misinterpreting the Harvard study he cites. It compares charter schools across the country, and cannot be used to compare charter schools to regular public schools. Don't be fooled.

Scott Hayden

[REDACTED]

--Motivated Voter

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Increase the BSA
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:32:09 AM

Hello,

I am a parent and school district staff member in Ketchikan. Please consider passing the HB69 bill to increase the BSA. We have lost so many important classes at Ketchikan High School already. We have been known for having a very robust CTE program. In the last couple of years we have watched it dwindle down to the bare minimum. Without these vital options we have seen students lose interest in even coming to school. They have lost the ability to get the education needed for well paying jobs here in our community. Our community as a whole will feel this loss as we are unable to fill positions that literally keep this town moving.

Please vote to pass HB69.

Sincerely,

Becky Moody
Ketchikan High School Library

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Senate Education](#)
Subject: Increase to BSA
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 3:03:07 PM

Hello,

I am writing to encourage you to increase the BSA for our Alaskan children. Please do this because it is the right thing to do, it is long overdue, and not doing so directly impacts the future of our state. Our children receiving a quality education is essential to the future prosperity of this state.

Student funding increases are needed to keep up with inflation. How can a school continue to provide the same level of services, without consideration for improved services, without funding to match inflation? We should be ADDING newer and better services, activities, enrichment, not making cuts to these things. Children need enrichment through not only academics but also through sports, clubs, music, theater, leadership retreats, etc. These pursuits spark inquiry and deepen their classroom engagement further.

I have seen firsthand in my own family how cute to these extracurriculars have impacted our Kodiak family. Our son who was a very high achiever in school lost interest in staying in Kodiak due to cuts to gifted and talented programming, robotics, etc. Additionally, cuts to AP class offerings disappointed him further. These cuts made his decision to leave Alaska for higher education pursuits easy. However, it also made him feel that he had no interest in returning to the state to raise a family in the future.


Another son of ours felt very distressed over losing a long time track and field coach due to budget cuts. Runners were trying to raise money to keep the position available should it come to that. High school students should NOT be worrying about these things! They should be learning and growing and not absorbing the stress of financial decisions made by leaders of their state.

Please put the children first and increase the BSA. Thank you very much for your time and your focus on this critical step in preserving the future of our state.

Regards,

Stephanie Grimes
Kodiak Resident

[REDACTED]

From: 
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: increasing BSA/House bill 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 12:57:08 PM

I'm writing in support of permanently raising the BSA . The public schools in Alaska are facing a crisis in funding, which negatively impacts a number of aspects of good society. I know that skilled and talented workers are leaving the state due to fear of the demise of public education for their children. And I don't feel confident recruiting other skilled workers into the state when they ask me about the future of public education in the state of Alaska. If you want a strong Alaska, you need to support our future--our children, and the educators that dedicate their lives to teaching them.

Dr. Stephanie Chen

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Instead of an increase
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:46:57 AM

Instead of increasing by that much why don't we "follow the science" and take screens out of kids' hands. Take them completely away from elementary, then labs in secondary. It would be significantly easier to maintain, financially easier, and our kids may actually learn to read and develop appropriately. Unless of course Alaska wants to remain in the bottom 5 in the nation for education.

Throwing more money will not solve the problems in our system. I dare you to research the effect that screens have on kids' developing brains.

From:

Subject:

Date:

[REDACTED]
Invest in our Future by raising the BSA
Monday, January 27, 2025 10:34:41 AM

It is essential we make the decision to invest in the future of our community by raising the BSA to support education for all students: it is a decision that will impact all of us for generations to come. There is no higher priority than preparing today's youth to be the leaders and visionaries of tomorrow, to empower them to be dedicated, creative, responsible citizens able to respond to challenges and initiate change. Our public schools are cutting back too far to remain sustainable or effective while being asked to provide more and more to support the whole student, and our communities are suffering. It is critical that we decide to dedicate resources to giving every child the opportunity to learn for the benefit of all.

It is vital that we invest in our community's future by raising the BSA now.

--

Ann Froeschle

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Lower Yukon School District Resolution- Support for Key Educational Priorities
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 4:58:15 PM
Attachments: [Resolution_Support for Key Educational Priorities.pdf](#)

Good evening,

Thank you for your service and commitment to Alaskans. In September, our school district, Lower Yukon School District, submitted a resolution to the Alaska Association of School Boards highlighting our priorities. At our recent RSB meeting this month, we were also asked to share this resolution with you.

I've attached the resolution for your convenience. We hope this legislative session is productive and beneficial for Alaska's public education students, their families, and the dedicated educators who serve them.

Respectfully,

--

Susan R. Steele, Ed.S. – Director of *Special Projects*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

lysd.org



From: [REDACTED] [Senate Education](#)
Cc: [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#)
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 12:15:48 PM

Good morning,

I am writing in strong support of increasing state funding for K-12 education (HB 69). I have many strong feelings about this, some of which are summarized below.

Funding has fallen behind inflation for almost two decades, and our schools are really hurting. Our schools can't keep up with costs when their budgets have been virtually frozen.

Alaska used to have some of the best-paid teachers in the country, and now our teachers can barely afford housing and can't rely on a pension.

I am old enough to have friends who are retired teachers with a pension that provides them a liveable income. I also have younger friends who are actively teaching who cannot live comfortably on their income and are considering leaving Alaska for better opportunities in one of the other 49 states that provide teachers (and municipal workers) with a pension, or leaving the profession altogether for a job that pays more --- and is not subject to yearly legislative wrangling that leaves them wondering if they will have a job in the new school year. It has been hard to watch as these younger teachers have to crowdsource to pay for classroom materials, and there is so much anxiety about possible school closures.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Alaska's kids, their parents, their teachers, and our communities are counting on you to hear their voices and acknowledge the call to action.

Please enter my support of HB 69 into the public record. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Carroll, Juneau

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: No to HB69
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2025 8:17:52 PM

Joshua Titus

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AK 99901
[REDACTED]

House Education Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 69, which seeks to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Alaska's schools. While education is undoubtedly critical to the future of our state, raising the BSA is not the solution. The state's spending is already among the highest in the nation, and yet Alaska's educational outcomes remain deeply concerning. Increasing funding without addressing systemic inefficiencies and waste will only perpetuate poor results while straining our already fragile state budget.

Alaska's Spending is Already Excessive

Alaska is consistently among the top states in per-student spending. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Alaska spent \$17,726 per student in 2020, significantly higher than the national average of \$13,185. Despite this investment, our students' academic performance lags far behind other states.

At the same time, the state faces ongoing fiscal challenges. Our reliance on fluctuating oil revenues to fund the budget necessitates careful, sustainable financial planning. Raising the BSA would add unsustainable costs at a time when Alaska must focus on balancing its budget.

Increased Spending Does Not Improve Educational Outcomes

Studies repeatedly show that increased education funding does not guarantee improved student performance. A 2016 study by the Cato Institute demonstrated that higher spending on education has not resulted in better academic outcomes nationwide.

Alaska's own data further supports this conclusion.

Despite our high per-student spending:

- Only 28% of fourth graders scored proficient or above in reading on the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), compared to the national average of 32%.
- In math, just 26% of eighth graders achieved proficiency, well below the national average of 33%.

These outcomes highlight a systemic issue that cannot be solved by simply pouring more money into the current system.

Reform is the Real Solution

The focus should be on reforming Alaska's education system to eliminate waste, improve efficiency, and ensure resources are directed to areas that genuinely enhance student learning. Key areas for reform include:

1. Reducing Administrative Overhead:

Alaska's school districts have high administrative costs relative to instructional spending. Streamlining administrative roles and reallocating funds to classrooms would better serve students.

2. Focusing on Teacher Quality:

High-performing schools consistently emphasize hiring, training, and retaining quality teachers. Prioritizing teacher effectiveness would yield better outcomes than simply increasing budgets.

3. Accountability and Results:

The state must implement systems that tie funding to measurable outcomes, ensuring schools are held accountable for their performance and rewarded for improvement.

Conclusion

HB 69 may appear to be a step toward improving education, but it fails to address the root causes of Alaska's educational challenges. Increasing the BSA will only perpetuate inefficiency, waste, and poor results while placing additional strain on the state budget. Instead of increasing funding, the Legislature should focus on meaningful reforms that prioritize accountability, efficiency, and improved outcomes for Alaska's students.

I urge you to oppose HB 69 and advocate for a comprehensive approach to education reform that ensures every dollar spent truly benefits Alaska's children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joshua Titus
(417) 818-6693

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Oppose HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:42:45 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in opposition to HB69. An increase in the BSA does not extrapolate out to increase in student success. The KPBSD has too many instances of money being spent on Admin raises and bonuses and not in the classroom on students, or teachers. Our current Superintendent and School Board is not responsive to other solutions.

STATUS QUO HAS TO GO!

Donna Anderson
Recently retired KPBSD teacher
Moms for Liberty KPEN Chapter Chair

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Steve Kruse](#); [Mark Kruse](#); mike.t.kruse@gmail.com; [Brian P.](#); [Stacey Pike](#)
Subject: Oppose HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:59:00 AM

Representatives of the Education Committee,

I oppose HB 69 and urge you to dramatically change the bill or vote it down.

I am a mother of four young children in Alaska and have paid very close attention to the funding and outcomes in the public system. While the BSA has been flat funded, millions in one time funding has flowed into the school districts in addition to those BSA funds. Yet with all the millions of dollars that have been flowing, the outcomes have remained largely the same-poor.

The major exception to that rule is related to the Reads Act which has actually produced great outcomes, dramatically improving student literacy rates. The reason it was successful is because it was a reform. Money will not solve the problems in the education system, only reform can.

We have all heard the phrase: the definition of insanity is to continue doing the same thing you have always done (throw millions at the public education system with no accountability and no reform) and then expect a different result (better outcomes). We must require accountability and reform from our public education system if we want the roughly 70% of children who are failed by the system to have a chance. We must hold the system to the standard of good outcomes and not reward failures with funding.

Respectfully,
Kendal Kruse

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Parent testimony for HB69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:07:47 PM

I would like to submit a public testimony regarding HB 69.

I believe the budget cuts for the KPBSD are wrong. Our teachers are stretched thin as it is whether it be how much they are paid or their work load. Making things harder for them will negatively affect our kids and their education.

We live on the water so having the access to a pool where our kids can learn to swim and water safety is essential. Also theater is a huge part of our community here in Homer. That with the other extra curricular activities it would negatively affect would be heartbreaking for so many.

Please consider how much these kids are already struggling with the limited resources they have and don't make it harder on them.

Concerned parent
Sean Lowe

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From:

Subject:

Date:

PASS HB 69

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 11:27:47 AM

Dear members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Aldrin Torrejos, and I am an educator and advocate for public education in Ketchikan, Alaska. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 69, which would introduce immediate inflation-proofing and much-needed increases to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). This bill is a crucial step in addressing the growing financial strain on Alaska's public schools, including those in our community.

Education funding is not merely a line item in the state budget - it is a Constitutional obligation and an investment in the future of Alaska. In Ketchikan, like many other districts across the state, we are facing dire consequences from years of underfunding. Without immediate and significant investment in education, the opportunities available to our students and families will continue to diminish, leaving a lasting impact on our community.

Our district, like many others, has been forced to make difficult decisions in response to stagnant funding and inflation. Currently, Ketchikan schools are grappling with staff termination, budget cuts, and building specialization. The consequences of this underfunding are deeply felt:

- **Teacher, Paraprofessional, and Custodian Layoffs:** Many of our dedicated teachers, paraprofessionals, and custodians are facing needless terminations due to the financial shortfall. These individuals are the backbone of our schools, ensuring not only quality instruction but also safe and clean learning environments. Losing them will harm our students and diminish the support systems they rely on.
- **Program Cuts:** Vital programs such as arts, music, and physical education are at risk, limiting the opportunities for our students to explore their interests and develop well-rounded skills.
- **Teacher and Staff Shortages:** For those who remain, stagnant wages and unsustainable workloads make it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain high-quality educators and support staff.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Many of our schools are in need of repairs and updates to create safe and conducive learning environments, yet funding is insufficient to address these needs.

The proposed increase of \$1,000 in FY26, followed by an additional \$404 in FY27 and FY28, represents an essential step toward inflation-proofing Alaska's education system. However, even with these proposed changes, the BSA will still lag behind the true costs of educating students in today's economic climate. An increase of \$1,808 is needed to meet inflation-adjusted costs and to ensure every student has equitable access to quality education.

Ketchikan students deserve better. They deserve modern learning resources, safe and updated facilities, and educators who are supported and valued. We cannot afford to lose more programs, educators, paraprofessionals, or custodial staff due to lack of funding.

Investing in Alaska's schools is investing in Alaska's future. Our community cannot afford another year of staff reduction and budget cuts. I urge you to pass HB 69 and work toward additional measures to secure the future of public education in Alaska.

Thank you for your time, attention, and dedication to Alaska's students.

Sincerely,

Aldrin Torrejos
Intensive Special Education Teacher
Houghtaling Elementary, Ketchikan
[REDACTED]

From:

█

█

Cc:

[Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#)

Subject:

Please support Alaska's future: increase the Base Student Allocation

Date:

Sunday, January 26, 2025 7:17:05 PM

As a 70 year resident of Alaska, with many family members that have benefited, and will benefit from Alaskan schools, I urge you to raise the Base Student Allocation.

A good school system is critical for Alaska's future, including keeping younger people in the state. Increasing the base funding is one of the most important things the legislature can accomplish this session.

Thank you,

-Steve

Steve Behnke
Juneau

█

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Mia Costello](#)
Subject: Please support HB 69!
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:08:31 PM

I am a parent of an Anchorage School District student. As with most districts in the state, ASD is in crisis due to years of flat state funding. Alaskan youth are the future of this state. Those here without children reap benefits from strong school funding - neglecting our students only generates more problems in our communities. We are also seeing more people leaving the state and less moving here. Poor education systems deter growth on many levels.

Funding education must be a priority.

Please support increases to BSA and inflation proofing education funding in Alaska.

I support HB 69 and hope you will too.

Brooke Taylor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

Subject:

Date:

██████████
██████████
Please support HB 69

Saturday, January 25, 2025 2:20:55 PM

Dear Alaska Legislature,

I live in Anchorage and work in Fairbanks. I have three kids who have gone through the Alaska school system and I work in a role that supports teachers and students in high school doing projects in their communities as part of extracurricular STEM clubs. As part of that role, I meet regularly with teachers and administrators and have a first-hand view of what schools are going through. The impacts of our flat funding are significant.

I am writing to urge you to support HB 69. These are the three points I wish to make.

- Funding Alaska's public school system is a Constitutional duty. The majority of students in Alaska attend public schools.
- The continuous neglect and under-investment in our public schools must end for the benefit of our students, families, and communities.
- A BSA increase of **\$1,808** is necessary to keep pace with inflation and ensure that all students have access to quality education, resources, and opportunities that they rightfully deserve under our state constitution.

Thank you,
Adam Low

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Rep. Ashley Carrick](#)
Subject: Please support HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:42:19 AM

January 27, 2025

[REDACTED]

To the members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to speak in favor of HB69. I am a member of the Fairbanks community, and have been most of my life. I was educated in Fairbanks schools and so were my children. We have always been thankful for the excellent education we received. It seems that these days Fairbanks children are not getting that same quality education, and I know that things are similar in other parts of the state. When education is not funded appropriately, it is very hard for even the most dedicated teachers to bring children to the levels of excellence that they could achieve with adequate resources. The devaluation of education and the constant challenges are driving quality teachers out of the state, which further exacerbates the problem. I urge you to support HB 69 to not only give more adequate funding to our schools but also to inflation-proof the Base Student Allocation, so that we don't in the future end up sinking again into this sad state of underfunded, lower quality schools.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I will be watching the progress of this bill.

Sincerely,

Sarah Swift Masterman

--

Sarah Swift Masterman

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#); Senate.Education.Committee@akleg.gov
Cc: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#)
Subject: Please support HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 11:19:31 AM

Dear House Education Committee and Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support HB 69 to increase the Base Student Allocation to catch up with inflation. Without increased funding to our schools, our students, teachers, and community will suffer the consequences - staff layoffs, larger class sizes, and reduced activities and services.

As a former city council member in Cordova, I know firsthand that local governments and municipalities cannot keep up with inflation while also continuing to support their School Districts at the maximum allowed by State Statute. Even with maximum local support, school districts are facing budget deficits due to the ongoing lack of adequate State contribution for years.

Thank you for the hard work you do on behalf of Alaska.

Respectfully,
Anne Schaefer
Cordova, Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Please Support HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:07:35 AM

Dear Legislators,

I am asking for your support of HB 69. As a product of Alaska's public schools, I benefited from a well-funded educational system . With that foundation of education that I received in the Anchorage School District, I went on to pursue my graduate education outside. After completing my training, I returned to Alaska and have been providing health care for over 12 years to the community I grew up in.

My son is now a Kindergartener at Aquarian Charter School in Anchorage. I would like him to have the same opportunities that I had during his education. Please invest in our children, they are the future of our state. Give the teachers the resources they need to allow our kids to thrive. Create an environment that attracts talented educators to our state and keeps them here.

--

Benjamin Crawford O.D.
Anchorage, AK 99508

From:

Subject:

Date:

██████████
██████████
Please support HB 69

Friday, January 24, 2025 4:58:14 PM

Dear House Education Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 69 which will be taking public testimony on January 29th. I have read over the bill and I believe it provides a reasonable solution to the lack of funding for Alaskan schools and provides a path to a financially sustainable future. I encourage you to pass this bill.

My children have attended Fairbanks schools since Kindergarten. We have watched as class sizes have gotten larger each year due to lack of teachers, resources are unavailable, and there is considerable stress on the staff and teachers to continually perform more with less.

Although people say that money cannot cure all ills, the lack of having school budgets keep up with inflation, or even providing any real budget increase at all, has depleted our schools and our public education system is suffering.

Please approve H B 69. It is dearly needed if we want to have an educated workforce who can perform the jobs that Alaska needs and have a robust school system.

Thank you,
Lili Misel
Fairbanks

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: Please Support Passage of HB69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 11:12:55 AM
Attachments: [HB69 Support Letter.docx](#)

Elizabeth Serrano

[REDACTED]

1/28/25

Dear Alaska House Education Committee Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of House Bill 69 (HB69), which would increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for our public schools. As a concerned resident of the Anchorage School District, I urge you to prioritize this legislation in order to address the ongoing challenges our district and students face.

Over the last two years, our district has been forced to close elementary schools due to insufficient funding from the state. This has had a profound impact on the entire community. Families have had to adjust to longer commutes, overcrowded classrooms, and diminished access to vital educational resources. The closures have strained our teachers, staff, and students, creating a ripple effect that extends beyond the classroom. The lack of adequate funding has placed our children's education—and the future of our community—at risk.

Increasing the Base Student Allocation through HB69 is critical to reversing this trend. This bill will provide the necessary resources for our schools to maintain smaller class sizes, offer more comprehensive educational programs, and ensure that our children have the quality education they deserve. It will also help prevent further school closures and support the sustainability of our local schools.

I urge you to stand with our students, educators, and families by supporting HB69. Our children's education is the foundation upon which our community's future will be built, and this bill represents a crucial step toward strengthening that foundation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing of your support for HB69.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Serrano

Parent of a child in the Alaska school systems

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Public education success threatened
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 11:06:16 AM

Dear House Education Committee:

As a 65 year resident of Anchorage who completed grades 1-12 in the ASD, a parent of three successful K-12 graduates of the ASD and now a grandparent with a grandchild in the ASD (with more coming), I have been pleased with the public education we have all received **over the past 60 years.**

As a former educator, I know first-hand how our talented teachers have played a key role in this success. My former colleagues have never been more stressed as they are now as annual funding cuts have increased their class sizes and asked them to continually do more with decreased classroom supports.

I fervently ask your support for the increased BSA bill as proposed by Reps. Himschoot and Story. I am worried that this long history of good public education is reaching a breaking point after so many years of inadequate funding.

Sincerely,

Tam Agosti-Gisler

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)
Subject: Public Testimony for Funding
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:28:10 PM

Hi, my name is Katrina Anunciacion and I have a 1st grader that attends East Elementary in Kodiak, Alaska. As well as a almost 4 year old who will be attending school next school 2026-2027. I know many Alaska schools are facing very unfortunate news with the funding and budget we will not recieve next school year. With that being said, one of our elementary schools is having to shut down after this school year. While I am so upset by this, I am excited to see how stratifying will help next school year. My concern is that the 1 to 1 ratio between teachers and students may not be fair. 1 teacher to 25 students is not good mentally for teachers as well as students and I don't think this will support students in their education and cause burn out to our staff.

There are many other cuts that will be made specifically to teachers which I am worried about because we have AMAZING teachers that we cannot loose as well as other options our teachers can be used for. We may also loose activities due to staff cuts which is truly upsetting because Kodiak is already limited with not much activites for kids to attend. With the enrollments going down I am afraid that we will loose another elementary school leaving only two in Kodiak which is not feasible. Kids are our future and I know they deserve the best education they can be given. I appreciate your recognition on this issue and I know you all are doing what you can for the Alaska school district, families, students, staff, everyone! Thank you so much for your time and empathy for thinking of all of us. We truly need whatever budget we can receive and I'm willing to fight for my kids future as well as others and do what I can and want our voices heard for this families that Is afraid to speak up. This is only a few of my concerns but I know you will hear and see the other concerns many of us have in other comments and emails and I would hope that many people will reach out and support of our schools and voice their concerns but if they don't, I hope that you know that we desperately need the funding. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

All the best,
Katrina Anunciacion

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Testimony HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:31:34 PM

Good Evening,

I am writing in support of HB 69 to increase the BSA.

I realize increases like this require revenue and my family would not be adverse to a well-thought out state income tax, for example.

I appreciate all the hard work it will take to get an increase passed and to the Governor. I truly believe it will benefit the kids and the future our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Bezdecny

[REDACTED]

From:

■

Cc:

[Senate Education](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#)

Subject:

Public Testimony in Support of HB69

Date:

Monday, January 27, 2025 11:27:20 AM

Dear Chair Tobin, Co-Chairs Himschoot and Story, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mandy Lehm, and I am a parent of a first grader and a soon-to-be kindergartner in Alaska's public school system. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 69, which increases the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1,000 this year and an additional \$404 for the next two years. This funding is essential to ensuring our public schools can provide a high-quality education in a safe and effective learning environment.

Right now, our public schools are facing devastating budget shortfalls that could lead to school closures and class sizes nearing 35 students per classroom. This is not a conducive learning environment, especially for young children. Teachers are already stretched thin, and overcrowded classrooms mean less individualized attention, more behavioral challenges, and a decline in educational quality. If we want our children to thrive, we must give public schools the resources they need to succeed.

Alaska's future depends on a strong public education system. A well-funded public school system benefits not just students but also our communities and economy. It helps retain great teachers, supports working families, and ensures every child—regardless of their background—has access to the education they deserve.

I urge you to support HB 69 and make a meaningful commitment to Alaska's public schools. Our children's future depends on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mandy Lehm

Homer, Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Education](#); [House Education](#)
Subject: Public Testimony on HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:45:17 AM

Good tidings from Valdez, Alaska!

This may be of interest to you or it may not, depending upon your already made up minds. I hope that my words come to you in a way that you hear them instead of treating them like a snowflake on a 38 degree day.

Please, with all due respect, understand the realm of education has dwindled from a once prominent role in the United States. Educators once flocked north to teach in a vastly supportive and robust system that allowed for the current leadership structure to flourish and thrive. Most of your cities and homes here in Alaska have leadership who were taught in these same halls or public institutions. It's surprising to see the dereliction of duty year after year when it comes to funding those sources of our future!

I taught in Fairbanks for 8 years and attempted to supply our students with an authentic approach to learning. They were given the best of what I had to offer even when I received notice of non-retention due to "budget shortages". I'm not naive to think that this could very well be a scheme to squeeze more money out of a borough or city budget but it had such a vast effect on me that I decided to leave Alaska, for good!

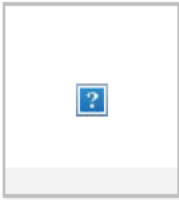
However, my heart and soul is the ol' 49'er and I had to come back to help alleviate the constant suffering of the professionals that brave that same path I walked not but a short time ago. I currently serve as an Administrator in Valdez City Schools. The primary purpose we have is to make sure we are offering a multifaceted approach to the "next step" in our students' journey. We find it supremely difficult to preach consistency and trust when we cannot enjoy that in our legislature and positions.

It is organically ingrained into each teacher's heart that they will be a greater sum of professionals tomorrow compared to today. They are reminded constantly about their performance either by the formative student check in or by the test scores and District administration. We want to be excellent, we want to have all students succeed but we do that at our own expense when we are not valued.

The legislature can make a grand step forward by passing this through both the AK House and AK Senate for approval from on high! It would be a hook to hang our hat on as a State that Cares! Comparatively, Alaska has easily been in the lowest 10% in [funding increases](#) and has some of the highest per pupil costs. It is embarrassing to you as Politicians to sit there and allow this to happen in a State that can be the beacon of support and trust.

I implore you to do what is right by your position and support those educators who stand at the front line with students battling for 21st Century resources against 18th Century thinking. We should come out on top together.

--



Peter Baksis III
Valdez High School
Principal



From: [REDACTED] [House Education](#)
Subject: RE: Tatsuda/Ketchikan - HB 69 Testimony
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 11:58:36 AM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:18 AM
To: House Education <House.Education@akleg.gov>
Subject: Tatsuda/Ketchikan - HB 69 Testimony

Dear committee members,
Thank you for the opportunity to testify for you today. Here is a written copy of my testimony for your records.

Thank you for all you do.

Respectfully,
Katherine Tatsuda

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [h](#)
To: [Senate Education](#); [House Education](#)
Subject: SB69
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 12:18:03 PM

Hello and thank you for your service,
I would like to ask you to please support SB69 and increase funding for our public schools AND account for inflation for the foreseeable future.

I have been in Alaska for more than 20 years and my children (14 and 11) have had very different educational experiences because of the increased lack of funding over the years. The loss of so many wonderful programs (art, band, orchestra and ELP, to name a few) has given my younger child less opportunities to grow and explore. And now the threat of school closures and consolidations is putting our whole community in an upheaval.

Please do everything you can to increase funding and keep great teachers in our community. I want to know that my kids are getting a great education but that's difficult when teachers don't have confidence that their job is guaranteed every year.

Thank you for your time and your hard work getting appropriate funding for education.

Marla Statscewich
FNSB resident

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)
Subject: School funding in Alaska
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:35:22 AM

Dear Members of Alaska Legislature:

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to urge your support for a critical increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Alaska's public schools. Specifically, I am requesting that the BSA be raised by \$1,808 per student, which is necessary simply to keep pace with inflation and maintain the quality of education that every child in Alaska deserves.

Without this essential funding increase, many districts, including ours, will face devastating choices that will significantly impact our students, educators, and communities. The rising costs of living and educating our children have made it increasingly difficult for schools to provide the resources, programs, and opportunities that ensure every student can succeed. This increase is not just a matter of balancing budgets; it is a matter of honoring the constitutional right of all Alaskan children to receive a quality education.

In our community, there are currently school-age children who depend on these vital services, and we **could see** an influx of young families who will need them in the coming years. If we do not act now to ensure sustainable funding, we risk undermining the future of our students and the long-term health of our schools.

I ask that you consider the importance of investing in the education of our children, and I strongly encourage you to support the proposed increase to the Base Student Allocation. It is an investment in Alaska's future—ensuring that all children, no matter their background or community, have access to the educational opportunities they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

[Linnea Lospenosochatel](#)
[ILC Secretary](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Senate Education](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#)
Subject: School Funding in Nome Alaska
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 2:00:45 PM

Good afternoon,

I am excited to see that on the docket this week is school funding. As an educator myself, and mother to two children in the school system, I wholeheartedly support HB 69 to increase the BSA as it has not changed in many years with inflation and has already impacted the Nome Public School system in a negative way. This includes inadequate teaching supplies, teachers leaving the profession for other more profitable positions, and the school district paying thousands in visas / housing to hire teachers from the Philippines.

One of the third grade teachers had dinner at my house a few weeks ago and commented on the magnet tiles my children had, how they wished their classroom had such wonderful tactile toys that inspire creative thinking. A classroom set does not cost more than \$200, but that one comment really spoke to me about lack of funding for student needs and how much teachers are paying out of pocket to enrich their own classrooms from their own salaries.

I urge you to think of the impact that increasing the allotment per student would have on our children's future and vote to increase this amount.

Thank you,

M. Naaktgeboren
Resident of Nome, Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)
Subject: School Funding
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:49:37 PM

Dear Members of the Alaska Legislature:

I am writing regarding the critical state of education funding in Alaska and its direct impact on our community in Tenakee Springs. The Chatham School District is considering closing our Distance Learning Program site due to budget constraints, which would devastate our rural community's educational access.

Funding Alaska's public school system is not just good policy – it is a Constitutional duty. With the vast majority of Alaska's students attending public schools, the continuous neglect and under-investment in our education system must end for the benefit of our students, families, and communities.

A Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase of \$1,808 is necessary simply to keep pace with inflation and ensure that all students have access to the quality education, resources, and opportunities they rightfully deserve under our state constitution. Without this critical funding increase, districts like ours face devastating choices. Our community currently has school-age children who depend on this program, with more young families whose children will need these services in coming years. The closure of our site would force some families to relocate, further diminishing our rural Alaska community.

While we understand the financial challenges facing our state, maintaining educational access in remote communities is essential to keeping rural Alaska viable. Our site's current staff are experienced education professionals, and the building serves as a vital community hub for multiple programs. The time for significant investment in Alaska's school system is NOW.

We urgently request:

1. Your support for increasing the BSA by at least \$1,808
2. Protection of rural education programs and distance learning sites
3. Fulfillment of the state's constitutional obligation to fund public education adequately

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter affecting not just Tenakee Springs and other rural communities, but the future of education across Alaska.

Sincerely, Darcie Ziel

--



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I was born & raised on the lands of the Lingít .
Learn more about the land you live on
at [Native Land](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: School funding
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:49:20 AM

Sent from my iPhonei urg

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [House Education](#); [Rep. Ky Holland](#)
Cc: claymhiser@gmail.com
Subject: Support for HB 69 - Edited
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:50:45 AM

Senator Giessel and Representative Holland, et al.:

This email is in support of Aquarian Charter School and the need for it to receive an increase in funding through HB 69. My daughter Grace is five years old and in Kindergarten at this school.

Words cannot express how incredible Aquarian is and how lucky Anchorage is to have a school of this caliber available for lottery. Aquarian teachers and staff are dedicated, educated, and passionate about teaching children. The school has mastered the art of meeting children where they're at- whether you're two grades ahead in math, or one grade below in reading, there is support for each child exactly where its needed. Aquarian has crafted small groups through soliciting volunteer parents and knows exactly where each kiddo is to meet their needs and boost their strengths.

Above all, what I admire most about this school is that it is teaching our children how to be happy. Each morning, I witness the kids at Aquarian line up out front of the school, dancing to the music blasting on the loud speakers. I even witness the kids countdown to 8:15 a.m. when they can come inside, and how excited they are to arrive each day at the school. My daughter is greeted each and every morning with a giant smile from Ms. Brittany (the principal), who is outside rain, snow, ice, or shine, dancing at the front door to the beat of the music.

Like most schools in the Anchorage School District, Aquarian makes due with the funds it has available. Without the additional funds from HB69, Aquarian will not be able to maintain the current staff salaries and benefits. This is unacceptable. The success of our future, as a whole community, depends on the success of our children. The way to ensure a bright future is to make sure our schools, especially the best schools, like Aquarian, have the most basic funding it needs to provide for its staff.

Please accept this letter in support of any and all funding to Aquarian Charter School, but particularly HB 69. Funding education simply must be the priority.

My address is 3244 E 144th Ave., and I've included my husband, Clay Hiser, for constituent reference. I am confident that your vote on this matter will impact our vote in the next election.

Sincerely,

Megan K. Hiser, Esq.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] additional funds from HB69, Aquarian will not be able to maintain the current staff salaries and benefits. This is unacceptable. The success of our

future, as a whole community, depends on the success of our children. The way to ensure a bright future is to make sure our schools, especially the best schools, like Aquarian, have the most basic funding it needs to provide for its staff.

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My address is 3244 E 144th Ave., and I've included my husband, Clay Hiser, for constituent reference. I am confident that your vote on this matter will impact our vote in the next election.

Sincerely,

Megan K. Hiser, Esq.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support for HB 69 and Increased Funding for Alaska's Public Schools
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:43:53 AM

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 69, which proposes immediate inflation proofing and an increase of \$1,000 to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for fiscal year 2026, with an additional \$404 increase for fiscal years 2027 and 2028. As an advocate for public education in Alaska, I believe it is crucial that we prioritize the needs of our students and the future of our communities through adequate and sustained funding for our public schools.

Alaska's public education system serves the vast majority of students in our state. Funding this system is not just an obligation but a constitutional duty. Under our state constitution, all students are guaranteed a right to quality education, and it is our responsibility to ensure that this right is upheld. Unfortunately, for too long, public education in Alaska has been subjected to neglect and under-investment. This has led to strained resources, outdated materials, and programs that are unable to meet the growing needs of our diverse student population.

The proposed increase in the BSA of \$1,808, when fully realized, is a necessary step to keep pace with inflation and to ensure that every student in Alaska has access to the quality education, resources, and opportunities they rightfully deserve. Without this investment, many of our schools will continue to face severe budget constraints, which will negatively impact students, educators, and communities across the state.

In my own district, we are facing a budget deficit. As a result, we are already faced with making difficult decisions, including potential cuts or changes to vital programs such as our afterschool program and a reduction in the number of teacher aides. These reductions will only further exacerbate the challenges our students and educators are facing. It is critical that we act now to provide the necessary funding to prevent further harm and ensure that our schools remain places where all students can thrive.

I urge you to support HB 69 and advocate for meaningful increases to the BSA. Alaska's future depends on the strength of our public education system, and the time to act is now.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Additionally, I would like to submit this testimony for the record and encourage others to do the same by emailing House.Education@akleg.gov.

Sincerely,
Julie Shotwell, Principal

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support for HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:28:02 AM
Attachments: [hb 69.docx](#)

Please see attached

Don May

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support for HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:53:41 AM

Good morning,

I am writing to voice my support for the URGENTLY NEEDED increase to the BSA proposed in House Bill 69.

Education in the state has been strangled by under-investment from the legislature for at least a decade. Even the \$1,000 increase proposed will not make our funding whole but it's a start.

In Fairbanks, we are looking at closing five elementary schools, after a decade or more of class-size increases, program cuts, and other measure to save money that directly impact students in a negative way.

I want to live in a state with an educated populace, where employers can hire a competent and intelligent work force, and our citizens can achieve the quality of life that we all deserve. I know you do to.

Thank you in advance for supporting a desperately needed increase to education funding.

Robin Feinman, Fairbanks

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support for HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:55:49 AM

I am a 4th grade teacher in Ketchikan, Alaska. I absolutely support HB 69.

At our current funding levels, we are not able to provide all the wonderful programs for students. The state of Alaska will not have successful students if the state doesn't increase the BSA. We also need this amount of money to increase to match inflation.

Other states have students who test well. We want to be able to fully support all of our students. We want our students to have every chance to also test well.

We want to be able to fully support our special education students, our English Language Learner students, our students with extra challenges, and our gifted students.

Vote yes on HB 69. Our Alaska education system needs it.

Sincerely,

Dawn Rauwolf

Mrs. Dawn R. Rauwolf, M.A.T.



I gratefully acknowledge that I am living and working on Lingít Aaní. I pay respect to the first peoples of this land - the Taant'á K̄wáan and the Sanyaa K̄wáan.



This message is intended solely for the use of the individual and entity to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable state and federal laws. If you are not the addressee, or are not

authorized to receive for the intended addressee, you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, distribute, or disclose to anyone this message or the information contained herein. If you have received this message in error, immediately advise the sender by reply email and destroy this message.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [House Education](#); [Rep. Ky Holland](#)
Cc: claymhiser@gmail.com
Subject: Support for HB 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:48:50 AM

Senator Giessel and Representative Holland, et al.:

This email is in support of Aquarian Charter School and the need for it to receive an increase in funding through HB 69. My daughter Grace is five years old and in Kindergarten at this school.

Words cannot express how incredible this Aquarian is and how lucky Anchorage is to have a school of this caliber available for lottery. Aquarian teachers and staff are dedicated, educated, and passionate about teaching children. The school has mastered the art of meeting children where they're at- whether you're two grades ahead in math, or one grade below in reading, there is support for each child exactly where its needed. Aquarian has crafted small groups through soliciting volunteer parents and knows exactly where each kiddo is to meet their needs and boost their strengths.

Above all, what I admire most about this school is that it is teaching our children how to be happy. Each morning, I witness the kids at Aquarian line up out front of the school, dancing to the music blasting on the loud speakers. I even witness the kids countdown to 8:15 a.m. when they can come inside, and how excited they are to arrive each day at the school. My daughter is greeted each and every morning with a giant smile from Ms. Brittany (the principal), who is outside rain, snow, ice, or shine, dancing at the front door to the beat of the music.

Like most schools in the Anchorage School District, Aquarian makes due with the funds it has available. Without the additional funds from HB69, Aquarian will not be able to maintain the current staff salaries and benefits. This is unacceptable. The success of our future, as a whole community, depends on the success of our children. The way to ensure a bright future is to make sure our schools, especially the best schools, like Aquarian, have the most basic funding it needs to provide for its staff.

Please accept this letter in support of any and all funding to Aquarian Charter School, but particularly HB 69. Funding education simply must be the priority.

My address is 3244 E 144th Ave., and I've included my husband, Clay Hiser, for constituent reference. I am confident that your vote on this matter will impact our vote in the next election.

Sincerely,

Megan K. Hiser, Esq.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for HB 69: Alaska's Education Funding Crisis
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:32:52 AM

Greetings!

My name is Margo Bellamy, and I am a member of the Anchorage School Board and a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Alaska School Boards(AASB). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 69.

I write to you with a heightened sense of urgency asking for your thoughtful consideration and immediate action to increase the BSA... not just for students in the Anchorage School District, but for every student in the State of Alaska ...all of whom deserves the best education possible from highly qualified teachers, in schools that are safe, clean, physically/emotionally warm, academically engaging and offer tremendous academic choices and opportunities.

Years of underfunding public education, compounded by years of unaddressed inflation, has lead to a critical and dire education funding crisis for Alaska's public schools. For ASD, this means that we are facing a \$111 million structural deficit for FY2026. To address this deficit, ASD is once again faced with draining its emergency reserves and implementing significant cuts to programs, services, and staff – choices that will impact student outcomes and undercut our current efforts to implement our goals and guardrails.

The impending cuts to staffing, programs and services will be devastating to our students and staff and we cannot consistently provide quality opportunities if we can't retain our current educators and support staff; if we are forced to increase our class sizes; or eliminate or reduce special programs and services such as gifted education, Language Immersion, and Art! I urge your swift action to pass and fund a permanent increase to the BSA....please pass HB 69!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)
Subject: Support for HB 69: Enhancing Alaska's Education Funding
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2025 8:35:17 AM

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature Education Committees,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 69, which aims to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Alaska's public education system. As a resident of Fairbanks and a parent of children attending Pearl Creek Elementary School, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges our schools face due to insufficient funding.

The current BSA has not kept pace with inflation and the rising costs of education, leading to larger class sizes, reduced programs, and the potential closure of neighborhood schools like Pearl Creek. Increasing the BSA is essential to provide our students with the quality education they deserve and to maintain the vitality of our communities.

Pearl Creek Elementary is a cornerstone of our community, known for its academic excellence, unique outdoor learning opportunities, and strong community involvement. The potential closure of such schools not only disrupts students' education but also diminishes the attractiveness of our community to prospective families and businesses.

By supporting HB 69, you will be investing in the future of Alaska's children and the overall well-being of our state. I urge you to prioritize this legislation and work towards its swift passage.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Muehlbauer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support for House Bill 69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:15:45 AM

I am a Juneau resident and a retired educator. I have seen personally how teachers struggle with both unpredictability of and lack of funding. Everyone should step into the shoes of a teacher for just one day and begin to understand what teachers are asked to do. They are on the front-line with our most valuable resource – our children, and should, at the very least, have the training and resources to meet the needs of every student. HB 69 increases the SBA, which should already be in place annually for inflation. Given that it should already be in place, supporting this bill is a no brainer. Because you are all on the Education Committee, I am confident you are championing our children and their needs and am thinking you will all support this bill. But we need to do much more; the BSA needs to be an ongoing increase and should not be up for discussion each year. For now, please support HB 69, we owe our children and educators this much. And thank you so much for your commitment to our Students and their education. I truly appreciate your service. Barbara Pastorino

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support for public education
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:16:31 AM

Greetings House Education Committee Members,

Thank you for introducing HB 69 and for your commitment to working on behalf of the future of Alaska.

I am writing to strongly express my support for fully funding public education in Alaska, as this is the best way to ensure we have a future as a state.

For many years I ran the Adult Basic Education program here in Kodiak which provided a GED option for those who had no high school diploma, and this job brought me into close contact with disadvantaged sections of our community. It made me see first hand how important it is that there are robust public schools for ALL, especially those who come from backgrounds without a lot of knowledge or support for education, some without a family who is able to advocate for them. I know charter schools have a lot of support but I am extremely concerned about the disadvantaged students from small towns and those whose parents may not be able to advocate for them. We need robust funding for public schools so that we have people able to do all the things we need as a state moving forward.

I am not a parent, but I am a lifelong Alaskan who went through public school in Kodiak, and I have 3 nieces in public school there as well as a sister who is a public school educator in Kodiak. I am writing on their behalf but also more broadly on behalf of my community.

I can't think of anything more visionary and impactful to the future of our state than providing for amazing and robust public education, not just the endless scrape and struggle that the public schools currently have to go through every year.

Thank you again, so much, for your work on this and for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Adelia Myrick
Kodiak resident
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support HB 69
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 6:42:20 PM

Dear House Education Committee Members,

My daughter is a student at the Anchorage School District's Aquarian Charter School.

I respectfully ask you to support HB 69 as funding our children's education is a top priority, and funding increments proposed by HB 69 are vitally necessary as currently allotted budget is not even enough to cover salaries and benefits for our dedicated staff at Aquarian Charter School.

Sincerely,

Zoya Ratner
Anchorage resident since 2000

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support HB 69
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2025 4:48:58 PM

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my support of HB 69! Increasing the Base Student Allocation is long overdue. My district is looking at very drastic cuts if there is no increase in the BSA. We need to stand together as Alaskans to fund our schools and public education. Our future literally depends on it!

Thank you,

Edelweiss Muench

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support HB69
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 1:57:30 PM

Members of the Alaska Legislature,

I support HB69 in correcting the funding to catch up with inflation and am in hopes that you will see fit to pass it for our children and the future of Alaska.

Thank you
Greg George
Sitka, AK.

From: [REDACTED] [Senate Education](#)
Subject: Supporting SB 69 Funding Education
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2025 9:40:15 PM

Greetings,

I am asking for you to support the new education bill to raise the BSA for our schools! I can assure you that all of the cuts across so many years are not helping teachers or students reach their full potential.

I love my job but I am tired of being consistently asked to do more with less. This idea that "throwing money at the problem hasn't helped increase test scores or learning" is a false narrative. What money!!? It has been nothing but cuts cuts cuts year after year. (By the way, the test scores at our school ARE increasing despite the heavy lift being asked of teachers. AND, we are in danger of being closed - there is a large effort in place to make Pearl Creek Elementary School in Fairbanks a magnet school, which we could use your support on as well.)

Good schools are part of a good economy. We need to support the education of our youth and inspire them to want to stay in Alaska to raise their families. To have good jobs, they need a good education.

Supporting education by raising the BSA is an easy start to rebuilding robust, vibrant, and effective schools for our children. Raising the BSA will also go a long way in letting our teachers know that they are valued and that what they do every day for all their students is valued.

Moral is low. Our schools feel like they are imploding and that is NOT good for Alaska. We NEED to attract the best and brightest, we need a diverse workforce and economy. Schools are closing, lives are in turmoil over it, and people are leaving Alaska and leaving our district.

An increase to the BSA is imperative. Support the bill to increase the BSA.

Thank you for your time,

--

Every day we are with children we should be focusing on intention, agency, kindness, play, and reflection

Kristi Downing (she/her)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Tatsuda/Ketchikan - HB 69 Testimony
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:23:20 AM
Attachments: [House Education Committee Testimony.docx](#)

Dear committee members,
Thank you for the opportunity to testify for you today. Here is a written copy of my testimony for your records.

Thank you for all you do.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Testimony HB 69 Education Funding: Increase BSA
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:09:47 AM

I am a constituent from Homer and I would like to voice my support for HB 69. Our schools, administrators, and teachers should never have to worry so consistently about their jobs and funding. I am also a parent who is concerned that my children's school will be underfunded and/or closed. I can't express how much I cherish my children's school and the community it has created and supports. Losing incredible teachers due to lack of job security or, worse yet, to closing the schools is a stain on our state's reputation for greatness. We should strive to be the example of outstanding public education opportunities as well as parental choice in education. My heartfelt plea is that you please consider supporting BSA and school funding increases above all else. No dollar spent on a child's education is wasted. Thank you.

Allison Galbraith

From:

Subject:

Date:

██████████
██████████
Testimony in Support of HB 69

Monday, January 27, 2025 7:23:56 PM

To The House of Education Committee,

I am writing to you to express my full support of HB 69. HB 69 ensures that the State of Alaska fulfills the obligation to provide a free public education. We have seen the impact of flat funding for over the last decade. The impact goes well beyond below proficiency on state testing. It has been a significant factor in the loss of confidence of our school systems and government. The loss of confidence has turned into a crisis on all levels. Families are leaving the state. Teachers, paras, and administrators are leaving the state.

The BSA is the best way to increase education funding because it supports all forms of public education in Alaska, including neighborhood schools, charter schools, and correspondence programs. We don't have time to show a drastic improvement in testing scores before the BSA is raised. My family chooses to live in Alaska and a big part of our life is our children's education. Please choose to support this historic investment in public education by raising the BSA based on HB 69 three-year plan.

Thank you,
Lisa DeLaet
Ketchikan, AK

From:

Subject:

Date:

thoughts on education

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 6:25:18 AM

These are my thoughts on my time, and sent from me as a person.

My current thoughts on education in Alaska. From the Hammond report we know how important pre-preschool to the 2nd grade is. We know having one long summer break creates the need for make up time, only we are not providing that make up time in school days.

My suggestion is to utilize school buildings the public already has with associated school framework to encourage school districts to provide pre-pre, pre-school, 1st, and 2nd grade classes on a part-time year round base. Utilizing a semester system with 4 breaks in the year.

To create an affordable and sustainable classroom State of Alaska, Dept of Education can provide an Early Child development specialist with appropriate staff to help create a focus on an inclusive for most students with how tos for students with differing learning styles. Best is to teach to the majority learning style and supplement for those with other learning styles.

Dept of Education can also provide a framework for an online accessible program for a back to work or learn new skill program with first learning to be a certified teacher aid, then adding skills every year and if they like become a certified teacher.

Balance for the budget and understanding paying for programs that are failing our young students needs to be addressed.

On a plane ride I meet a front line teacher who shared how they felt about use of funds, after that chat I would NEVER give any funds to any school district without clear directions and accountability on how those funds are spent.

Thanks for reading.
Michelle

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#)
Subject: urgent: increase the Base Student Allocation
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 5:23:16 PM

Greetings:

Please increase the Base Student Allocation during this session, using whatever means are available.

Though many needs in Alaska call out to be addressed, nothing is more urgent than adequately funding the education of our children, our most precious resource. This has been woefully underfunded, and this lack must be rectified!

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

Larri Irene Spengler

[REDACTED]

From:

Subject:

Date:

Written Testimony for HB 69

Monday, January 27, 2025 3:32:00 PM

Please support HB69 and an increase of the BSA. I teach in Ketchikan where I was born and raised. Last year, due to budget issues I was rified and then eventually rehired but force transferred from my position in kindergarten, which I loved, to a position in high school science. While I have found joy in my new position the fear and stress that we face again due to more budget cuts has me wondering if I will still have a position and what it may be. Last year we lost wonderful teachers because they couldn't wait to see if the Governor would pass his one time funding again so they could be rehired. This year we face this again as well as a major overhaul in our district that is still to be decided. Both options our school board is currently weighing result in a decreased educational experience for students. Neither is good for kids. Neither is good for educators. We cannot provide quality education without an increase to the BSA. More teachers are to be cut, more programs are to be cut. Families are threatening to homeschool or to leave our community. It is heartbreaking as an educator to not have the means to provide the education that students and families deserve. Please support this increase to the BSA!

Anne Schuerger

[Redacted signature block]

From:

Subject:

Date:

Written testimony for hb 69

Saturday, January 25, 2025 7:33:23 PM

Here's a comprehensive and updated summary that includes the current state of education funding, rankings, teacher pay, graduation rates, bullying rates, superintendent pay, elementary and high school sizes in Alaska, comparisons to other top states, the national average elementary school size, teacher pay in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, the number of schools in Ketchikan, Alaska, the operational cost for schools in Ketchikan, salary details, the cost for instructional materials, facilities operational costs, food services costs, a breakdown of the Ketchikan school district budget, transportation costs, the total miles of road in Ketchikan, the funding for sports in Ketchikan,

1. **Proposed Increase in School Funding**:

- A bill proposes raising the **Base Student Allocation (BSA)** by **\$1,808**, bringing it to **\$7,768** per student to match inflation rates since 2011.

2. **Current Per-Pupil Spending**:

- Alaska spends **\$18,392 per student**, ranking it **6th highest** in the nation for education funding.

- Massachusetts ranks **5th**, spending approximately **\$19,193 per student**.

- New Jersey ranks **2nd**, spending approximately **\$21,334 per student**.

- Connecticut ranks **3rd**, spending approximately **\$21,146 per student**.

- Vermont ranks **4th**, spending approximately **\$21,219 per student**.

- New Hampshire ranks **17th**, spending approximately **\$17,456 per student**.

3. **Comparison to Other States**:

- Alaska's per-pupil spending is among the highest in the nation, with only a few states like New York, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Vermont spending more.

4. **Overall Education Rank**:

- Alaska ranks **35th** in the nation for education.

- Massachusetts ranks **1st** in the nation for education, reflecting its strong overall education system.

- New Jersey ranks **2nd** in the nation, also boasting a top-performing education system.

- Connecticut ranks **3rd** in the nation.

- Vermont ranks **4th** in the nation.
- New Hampshire ranks **21st** in the nation.
- Lower-ranked states include Louisiana (49th), Nevada (48th), Alabama (46th), and South Carolina (45th).

5. **Teacher Pay**:

- Alaska ranks highly for teacher pay in the United States, with average salaries of **\$75,860** for elementary school teachers and **\$77,920** for secondary school teachers.
- Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Vermont also offer competitive teacher salaries, contributing to their high education rankings.
- In New York, the average teacher salary is approximately **\$91,097** per year, with starting salaries in New York City around **\$64,789** per year and in Albany around **\$56,007** per year.
- In New Jersey, the average teacher salary is approximately **\$101,474** per year, with starting salaries around **\$54,053** per year and in some districts up to **\$120,000** per year.
- In Connecticut, the average teacher salary is approximately **\$101,474** per year, with starting salaries around **\$48,784** per year.
- In Vermont, the average teacher salary is approximately **\$62,483** per year, with starting salaries around **\$55,500** per year.

6. **Graduation Rate**:

- Alaska's high school graduation rate is approximately **78.2%**, placing it around the middle to lower end of national rankings.
- Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Vermont have higher graduation rates, contributing to their top rankings in education.

7. **Bullying Rate**:

- According to the 2019 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), **25.5%** of high school students reported being bullied on school property, and **19.4%** experienced electronic bullying. **12.3%** of students reported missing school at least once in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe.
- Alaska has one of the highest rates of bullying on campus in the United States, highlighting the need for continued efforts to address and prevent bullying.

8. **Superintendent Pay**:

- The average salary for a school superintendent in Alaska is **\$132,158** per year, with variations depending on the district. For example, in the Anchorage School District,

superintendents can earn up to **\$250,000** per year.

9. **Elementary School Size**:

- The average public elementary school in Alaska has approximately **233 students**, which is smaller than the national average of **512 students**.

10. **High School Size**:

- The average public high school in Alaska has approximately **229 students**, which is relatively small compared to many other states. The largest public high school in Alaska, Interior Distance Education of Alaska (IDEA), has about **6,899 students**.

11. **Number of Schools in Ketchikan, Alaska**:

- Ketchikan, Alaska, is served by the **Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District**, which includes **9 schools** catering to approximately **2,074 students**.

12. **Operational Cost for Schools in Ketchikan**:

- The operational cost for the **Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District** for the **2025-2026 school year** is approximately **\$40,116,178**. This budget covers various expenses, including salaries, benefits, instructional materials, facilities maintenance, and other operational costs.

13. **Salaries in Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District**:

- **Superintendent**: Approximately **\$145,000** per year
- **Assistant Superintendent**: Around **\$82,882** per year
- **Principals**: Generally earn between **\$82,882** and **\$145,000** per year, depending on experience and responsibilities
- **Teachers**: Average salary is **\$82,882** per year, with special education teachers earning similar amounts
- **Office Assistants and Administrative Assistants**: Typically earn between **\$30,000** and **\$40,000** per year

14. **Cost for Instructional Materials in Ketchikan**:

- The operational cost for instructional materials in the **Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District** for the **2025-2026 school year** is approximately **\$2,000,000**. This budget covers expenses for textbooks, digital resources, classroom supplies, and other instructional materials needed to support student learning.

15. **Facilities Operational Costs in Ketchikan**:

- The operational cost for facilities, including electricity and heating, in the **Ketchikan**

Gateway Borough School District** for the **2025-2026 school year** is approximately **\$2,500,000**. This budget covers expenses for utilities, maintenance, and repairs to ensure that the school facilities are safe and comfortable for students and staff.

16. **Cost for Food Services in Ketchikan**:

- The operational cost for food services in the **Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District** for the **2025-2026 school year** is approximately **\$1,200,000**. This budget covers expenses for school breakfasts, lunches, and other nutritional programs to ensure students receive healthy meals.

17. **Transportation Costs in Ketchikan**:

- The operational cost for transportation services in the **Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District** for the **2025-2026 school year** is approximately **\$2,500,000**. This budget covers expenses related to school bus operations, fuel, maintenance, and other transportation-related needs.

18. **Sports Funding in Ketchikan**:

- The Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District has allocated approximately **\$700,000** for athletics and other activities for the **2025-2026 school year**. This funding supports various sports teams, equipment, uniforms, travel expenses, and other related costs.

19. **Breakdown of Ketchikan School District Budget**:

- **Total Budget**: **\$40,116,178**
- **Salaries and Benefits**:
 - **Superintendent**: Approximately **\$145,000** per year
 - **Assistant Superintendent**: Around **\$82,882** per year
 - **Principals**: Generally earn between **\$82,882** and **\$145,000** per year, depending on experience and responsibilities
 - **Teachers**: Average salary is **\$82,882** per year, with special education teachers earning similar amounts
 - **Office Assistants and Administrative Assistants**: Typically earn between **\$30,000** and **\$40,000** per year
- **Instructional Materials**: Approximately **\$2,000,000**
- **Facilities Operational Costs**: Approximately **\$2,500,000**
- **Food Services**: Approximately **\$1,200,000**
- **Transportation Costs**: Approximately **\$2,500,000**
- **Sports Funding**: Approximately **\$700,000** for athletics and other activities
- **Other Operational Costs**: The remaining budget covers expenses such as

utilities, maintenance, repairs, and other operational needs.

20. **Total Miles of Road in Ketchikan, Alaska**:

- Ketchikan, Alaska, has approximately **85 miles of road**. This includes roads within the city and some connecting routes.

Here's a concise summary of the school funding situation in Ketchikan:

- **Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**: The Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District has a proposed budget of **\$45,739,134**, including **\$38,491,312** for the Operating Fund and **\$7,247,822** for the Special Revenue Fund.

- **Recent Funding Approval**: The borough assembly approved about **\$2.4 million** for hiring teachers, special education paraprofessionals, and supporting athletics and activities programs, despite a potential veto threat over an accounting concern.

- **Tobacco Excise Tax**: Revenue from this tax, established in 2016, is fully included in the **Local Education Fund**, directly supporting the school district.

- **Property Tax**: Property tax revenue also contributes significantly to school funding, with the rate recently set at **\$5.20 per \$1,000 of assessed property value**.

Overall, Ketchikan's school funding comes from the operating and special revenue funds, tobacco excise tax, and property taxes, ensuring support for educational programs and school needs.

While increasing funding for Ketchikan's schools is essential, simply injecting more money into the system may not address the root problems. An audit of the existing funds is necessary to ensure that the money is being used effectively and efficiently. By examining how current funds are allocated and spent, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District can identify areas where resources may be misused or where there are opportunities for cost savings. An audit will provide transparency and accountability, helping to uncover any inefficiencies and ensure that the existing budget is maximized to benefit students and educators.

In summary, a thorough audit of the Ketchikan school district's finances is crucial for identifying and addressing potential issues, ensuring that current and future funds are utilized in the most effective manner. While increased funding for schools generally has positive effects, there can be potential drawbacks or negative impacts as well. Here are a few:

1. **Misallocation of Funds**: If the additional money is not spent wisely or efficiently, it

may not lead to significant improvements in education. Mismanagement or corruption can lead to wasted resources.

2. **Dependency on Funding**: Schools may become overly reliant on external funding, which can create issues if the funding source dries up or decreases. This can lead to instability and uncertainty in planning and operations.

3. **Inequitable Distribution**: If the additional funds are not distributed equitably, it can exacerbate existing inequalities. Wealthier schools may receive more funding, while underfunded schools continue to struggle.

4. **Increased Administrative Costs**: More money can sometimes lead to increased bureaucracy and administrative costs, which may divert resources away from direct student support.

5. **Complacency**: In some cases, an influx of money might reduce the drive for innovative and efficient solutions to problems, leading to complacency among administrators and educators.

While it's important to recognize these potential negative impacts, careful planning, transparent management, and equitable distribution can help mitigate these issues and ensure that the additional funding truly benefits students. Sincerely a concerned citizen

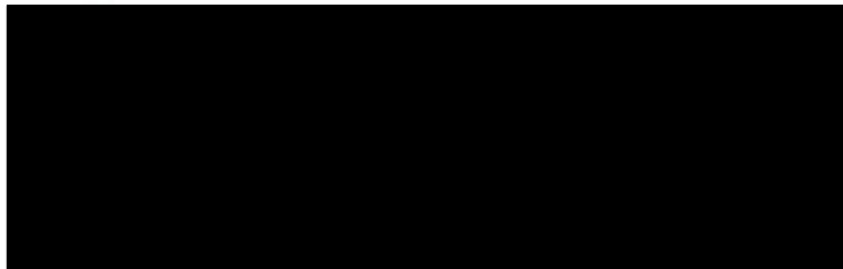
of Ketchikan Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for the Record: HB 69
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:07:13 AM

Funding Alaska's public school system is a **Constitutional duty**. The vast majority of students in Alaska attend public schools, making it essential to provide them with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. Public schools are the foundation of our communities, shaping the future of our state by preparing students to become productive, informed, and engaged citizens. Ensuring adequate funding for education is not only an investment in our children but also in the long-term prosperity and well-being of Alaska as a whole. **By supporting our public schools, we honor our Constitutional responsibility and demonstrate our commitment to the success of every student.**

Tammy Hershman, Principal



From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Jada Kahl](#)
Subject: Written Testimony supporting HB 69-Education Funding
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:25:34 PM

Hello my name is Jada Kahl and I am a mother of 3 children who attend public school here in Juneau. I also work as an Occupational Therapist in the Juneau School District. As an Occupational Therapist I work with some of our most vulnerable students, all of which, not unlike all children, have very individualized needs.

Just like being a good parent, being a good educator requires resources. In order to support students with their learning they require access to a variety of resources. These resources vary from tangible objects, such as books, paper, pencils, rulers, and assistive devices to hold or manipulate their materials

Equipment resources such as high low mat tables, gait belts, mechanical or hydraulic lifts, computers, eye gaze boards or Augmentative Communication devices.

The resource of space. Space to store their adaptive equipment, space to safely maneuver around the environment, space to safely and adequately participate in toileting or other hygiene routines. Space to be able to take a reset when the rigor of the overcrowded classrooms becomes to great.

Most importantly our student require the resource of adequate staffing. Highly trained and educated staff who are able to support their needs. The staff need the time to work together, to collaborate to meet the needs of the individuals that each student is. They need the time and the resources to support each student's learning, differentiating the instruction to meet their needs.

Now you tell me how are any of these resources possible without FUNDING? How are we supposed to pay for the tangible supplies without funding?

How are we supposed to maintain our buildings, which supply the space for learning without funding?

How are we supposed to compensate our staff without funding?

We CAN'T

I urge you to support HB69 and secure the much needed funding for Education. Lets end the constant fight for education funding with an inflation proof increase to the Base Student Allocation.

Our future deserves it. Thank you for your time

Jada Kahl

[REDACTED]