



# Anchorage School District

## Education Center

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February 26, 2024

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy  
Governor of Alaska  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK. 99501  
FAX (907) 269-7463

### **RE: SB 240-HB 343: School District Medical Assistance – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Dunleavy and The Alaska Senate and House Members,

On behalf of Anchorage School District (District), I am writing in support of *Senate Bill 240-HB 343: School District Medical Assistance*. SB 240-HB 343 would improve access to school-based Medicaid services for Medicaid-eligible children. The bill removes statutory requirements that school-based services are only Medicaid reimbursable if a child receiving services is diagnosed with a disability and the services are included in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).

Children come to school daily suffering from medical and mental health issues that seriously impact their ability to succeed. Schools are a critical partner in providing health services to students. For many students, schools play a critical role in managing services, providing screenings, enrolling in health coverage, and referring to follow-up health care. This bill supports our school district in providing services to Medicaid-eligible children by removing statutory barriers that limit access to school-based services. SB 240-HB 343 promotes efficient use of District resources and increases the potential to leverage federal matching funds by enabling school districts to seek Medicaid reimbursement for services provided.

School-based services play an important role in the health of students and provide an opportunity to meet children where they are and deliver services in a setting where they spend much of their time. Simplifying the eligibility requirements for school-based services will support families in obtaining services needed by our students.

Thank you for supporting SB 240-HB 343 and school-based health services for children across our state.

Respectfully,

Jharrett Bryant  
Superintendent, Anchorage School District

*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

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