

2.1 URGING THE TIMELY, PREDICTABLE, EQUITABLE, AND ADEQUATE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

The timely, predictable, equitable, and adequate funding of public education is of the highest concern to Alaska's citizenry, the parents of its public school students, and its current, past, and future students. To align with the intent of [Article VII, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution](#), which states that the Legislature "shall maintain a system of public schools open to all the children of the State," and because the last increase to the Base Student Allocation to account for inflation occurred in FY 11 (effective July 1, 2010), the Association of Alaska School Boards strongly supports the following:

- Enact annual legislation establishing the BSA within 45 days of the start of the legislative session so that school districts are able to effectively and efficiently utilize funding for the subsequent school year.
- Enact legislation that adjusts and maintains the BSA for inflation since FY 11, based on analysis by the Legislative Finance Division.
- Enact legislation which provides an adequate level of resources to all students, in which all students have an equal opportunity to achieve the state's curriculum and performance standards.
- Require that the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development complies with [AS 14.17.460](#) by monitoring the District Cost Factor and preparing and submitting proposed district cost factors to the Legislature by January 15 of every other fiscal year.
- Fully fund the Public Education Fund ([AS 14.17.300](#)) for the subsequent year to ensure education funding will be in place prior to the school district date required for submittal of district budgets to DEED.

Rationale. To comply with the [Alaska State Constitution, Article 7, Section 1](#), the Alaska State legislature is required to fund public schools in accordance with [AS 14.17](#). Alaska's 131,000 public school students in 502 schools are dependent on this funding to provide them with an education that prepares graduates to sustain the future of the 49th state. When there is confusion, delay, and doubts over the amount of funding, it places undue stress on the 7,500 teachers responsible for the instruction of Alaska's public school students exacerbating the recruitment and retention of highly qualified staff. Today's educational requirements are many, including traditional core subjects, career & technical education, technology, cultural understanding, physical and mental health, extracurricular activities, music, creative arts, and a myriad of other topics. A quality education requires highly qualified teachers and a robust instructional program to deliver the education that will prepare students to propel Alaska into the future. That education is only obtainable through sustained, early, adequate, equitable, and predictable funding.

Adopted 2024

(Sunsets 2029)

Association of Alaska School Boards

2.2 ENSURING EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR ALASKA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to take the following actions:

- a. Revise the hold-harmless threshold from 5% to 2.5% for reductions in average daily membership.
- b. Adopt a new three-year hold-harmless provision for school districts that consolidate existing facilities to increase efficiency.
- c. Provide temporary funding assistance for up to two years for schools with fewer than the minimum number of students.
- d. Provide partial foundation funding for small, rural schools with 7-9 students at the following rates for up to two years:

Seven (7) students = 70% funding

Eight (8) students = 80% funding

Nine (9) students = 90% funding

- e. Maintain the current minimum student count of 10 students as the base level of funding for school building in the Public School Funding Program formula.^a

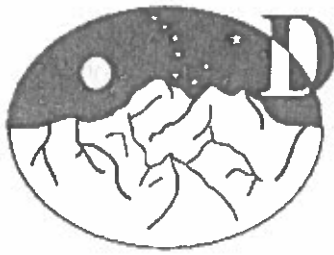
Rationale. Passage of HB 273 by the 25th Alaska Legislature included a provision that if a school district's ADM adjusted for school size decreases by 5 percent or more from one fiscal year to the next, the school district may use the last fiscal year before the decrease as a base fiscal year to offset the decrease. The provision includes a step-down clause holding districts harmless for a portion of the ADM decrease during the next three fiscal years if the 5 percent enrollment decline continues and none of the decline is attributable to a loss of students caused by a boundary change under [AS 29](#).

Under [AS 14.17.250](#), school districts that experience enrollment declines of anywhere between 2 and 5 percent would be impacted severely because they would not qualify for the step-down provision.

During the 2014-2015 school year, there were 65 schools identified with student counts between 10 and 24 students. If the minimum count were raised to 25, all of these schools would not be funded at the minimum level.

Under [Article VII, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution](#), the state has a duty to establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children in the state. A legal opinion for the Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children notes that closing small schools would result in disparate treatment of children in two ways: "First, the overall amount of funding available and the educational resources available to provide these children with an adequate education will be reduced. Second, there will be dramatic disparities in the educational opportunities available to these students who will be deprived of the educational resources of the school environment, classroom supports, and a classroom teacher. The evidence-based scientific research supports the need for students to be educated with their peers in a classroom with a qualified teacher. The state will be unable to point to any scientific, research-based alternative as a substitute for educating children in a school with a qualified teacher and administrative support. Without such an alternative, the proposed legislation will violate the State Constitution."

Adopted 2024, (Sunsets 2029)



Denali Borough School District

P.O. Box 280 • Healy, Alaska 99743 • (907) 683-2278 • FAX (907) 683-2514

Resolution 24-03

A Resolution by the Denali Borough School District Establishing District's Legislative Priorities for the First Session of the 34th Legislature of the State of Alaska

WHEREAS, providing an adequate, appropriate, and equitable education for all children in Alaska regardless of where they live is a constitutional requirement;

WHEREAS, Alaskan's deserve the provision of essential public services including public safety, education, and health services and the State requires additional, reliable streams of revenue to provide these services;

WHEREAS, well-funded schools promote student achievement, lead to higher individual lifetime earnings, and promote healthy choices in life;

WHEREAS, investments in education pay dividends in other areas such as increases to economic development, reduced costs for public safety and public health care, and build strong Alaskan communities;

WHEREAS, funding from the State of Alaska that predictably keeps pace with inflation would allow districts to proactively plan and allocate resources to maximize student learning;

WHEREAS, retaining and recruiting high quality teachers is becoming harder and harder in Alaska and the nation,

WHEREAS, the most effective delivery of education is accomplished at the local level;

WHEREAS, the current education funding formula appropriately balances many considerations of varying costs and efficiencies across our state;

WHEREAS, significant issues relating to the unfunded liability within the state managed PERS/TRS retirement programs were resolved through a 2008 agreement wherein all participants agreed to a 22% employer contribution cap for PERS and 12.56% for TRS;

Mission Statement

Working together to nurture, empower, and inspire today's student to positively shape tomorrow's world

WHEREAS, capital projects for facilities owned, operated, and maintained by Alaska's municipalities and school districts relieve the State of ongoing costs associated with these essential community improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Denali Borough School District respectfully requests the Alaska State Legislature to favorably consider:

- Increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to compensate for lost purchasing power over the past nine years and to inflation proof the BSA against future inflation,
- Increasing the per pupil transportation award to cover the full cost of pupil transportation services and to inflation proof this calculation,
- Fully funding the requirements to implement the supports and interventions in the Alaska Reads Act.
- Increasing efforts to recruit and retain teachers in Alaska, such as returning teachers and other employees to a defined benefit retirement system.
- Maintaining the current foundation formula including the minimum school funding size of 10 students,
- Providing forward funding to K-12 public education,
- Supporting a new broad-based revenue for the State, such as a statewide income or sales tax, to support public education, in order to de-couple education funding from the price of oil.
- Opposing any cost shifts from the state to school districts or municipalities including any attempts to increase the employer contributions for the PERS/TRS retirement systems,
- Supporting the current local control of school districts and opposing any change to the current procedure for approving charter schools.
- Opposing the imposition of any unfunded mandates from the State to the school districts, and
- Providing adequate funding for both the Major School Maintenance Grant Fund and the Grants to Municipalities.

Dawn Adams, Board Chair
Denali Borough School District

Jenna Hamm, Board Secretary
Denali Borough School District

Date

Date

The foregoing Resolution was PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Denali Borough School District Board of Education this 17th day of October 2024

DENALI BOROUGH

PO Box 480 – Healy AK 99743

Phone (907) 683-1330 – Fax (907) 683-1340

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www.denaliborough.org



DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA RESOLUTION NO. 25-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE INCREASE THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION AND PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FORMULA FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, it is the State of Alaska's constitutional obligation to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, as part of the funding formula designed by the State, a minimum local contribution of 2.65 mils (or equivalent) is required with an additional allowable amount up to 23% of basic need; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough recognizes its partnership role with the Denali Borough School District in ensuring a healthy and sustainable primary and secondary education for all students in the District; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough has consistently maximized local contributions, which means the Borough must make tough decisions to prioritize and maintain our financial support to our schools; and

WHEREAS, education is THE largest budget item for the Denali Borough; and

WHEREAS, the State has not made a meaningful Base Student Allocation increase since Fiscal Year 2016; and

WHEREAS the State's failure to fund public schools in pace with inflation and increased costs jeopardizes the health, quality, and sustainability of our local schools; and

WHEREAS, continuing to flat-fund our public school system while expenses continue to increase will force schools to reduce offerings and, in some cases, close schools altogether; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough is made up of small, rural, separate communities with the Denali Borough School District currently having three brick and mortar school facilities in three rural and separate communities and a home school correspondence program; and

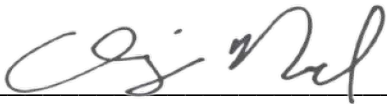
WHEREAS, the Denali Borough already maximizes our local contribution, yet because of the increase in expenses without a corresponding increase to the Base Student Allocation, the Denali Borough School District has been forced to consider closing two of our three brick and mortar school facilities in recent years; and

WHEREAS, all Alaskans understand the vital role the local school has as the heart and hum of the entire community and that the closure of a school in a small, rural community is devastating beyond measure for that community and surrounding area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Denali Borough Assembly states proudly that we are doing our part to support the public education in our borough to the maximum amount allowable and supports, encourages, and pleads for the Alaska Legislature to significantly increase the Base Student Allocation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Denali Borough Assembly urges the Alaska Legislature to implement a statute for automatic inflation adjustments and to reinstate forward funding for education.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this 8th day of January, 2025.



MAYOR CHRIS NOEL

ATTEST:



AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK

VOTE: unanimous



Serial No. 2025-01

A Resolution of the Juneau School District Board of Education Opposing the Proposed Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Regulation regarding Local Contributions.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution requires the establishment and maintenance of public schools for all children in Alaska.

WHEREAS, the State is responsible for appropriating adequate funding for schools through the foundation formula and base student allocation;

WHEREAS, the State's near flat-funding of the base student allocation since **FY 2011** has significantly impacted many districts, including the Juneau School District;

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau has supported the Juneau School District by providing the maximum local contribution while separately supporting non-instructional and community services;

WHEREAS, in early October 2024 the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) released a draft proposed regulation which would expand the definition of "local contribution;"

WHEREAS, the proposed regulation would represent a major shift in how "local contribution" is defined and would directly conflict with guidance given by DEED in 2016;

WHEREAS, the proposed regulation would directly conflict with federal guidance on transportation funding in Alaska;

WHEREAS, the proposed regulations would directly conflict with DEED's 2021 testimony on the disparate student transportation need in Alaska;

WHEREAS, Alaska passed the FY 2024 disparity test and is passing the FY 2025 disparity test by the widest **margin** in almost a decade;

WHEREAS, the Federal Impact Aid Program has stated that it neither asked nor recommended that DEED change its state regulations;

WHEREAS, the Federal Impact Aid Program has stated that "State regulations are not within the Impact Aid Program's interest or purview";

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has refused to comply with the known federal requirement for Maintenance of Equity payments (including \$90,148 to the Juneau School District);

WHEREAS, the proposed regulations would impact, and possibly eliminate, funding for high school and middle school activities in the Juneau School District, and impact the District's ability to provide funding for student transportation and student food services;

WHEREAS, the proposed regulations would impact, and possibly eliminate, the Juneau School District's ability to provide for early childhood programs;

WHEREAS, the proposed regulations would represent a loss of approximately \$1.7-2.3 million dollars in funding for the Juneau School District;

WHEREAS, the proposed regulations would immediately, directly, and negatively impact **Alaska's** students;

The Board of Education strongly opposes the draft regulation and directs the Superintendent to submit this public comment on behalf of the Board of Education reflecting this opposition.

This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon approval by the Juneau Board of Education. Adopted this 12th day of November, at Juneau, Alaska.

JUNEAU BOARD OF EDUCATION



Deedie Sorensen, Board President

Elizabeth Siddon
Brittney Cioni-Haywood
Emil Mackey

Will Muldoon
Amber Frommherz
David Noon

2025 Nome Public Schools Board of Education
Legislative Priorities

2025 State Legislative Priorities

The Nome Public Schools Board of Education has chosen the following priority areas for the 2024-2025 Legislative Session. We will focus our advocacy efforts with the Alaska Legislature around the following:

- Retaining and Attracting Quality Educators and Administrators

Alaska students deserve knowledgeable, stable, and committed teachers, principals and support staff, who are culturally grounded in their local communities. Turnover of less than 10% annually is critical to allow programmatic changes to take hold and produce desired results in the long term. Programs and professional development to grow equity leadership are crucial in making changes to a system we acknowledge has not always served our children well. Alaska's salaries and retirement system are no longer competitive or attractive to teachers from the lower 48, and we are currently utilizing non-traditional teachers, which often require additional support from colleagues and administrators. Equitable and inflation-responsive funding of school districts to provide competitive salaries and wages in response to the high cost of living in many areas in the State, rising costs and decreasing availability of housing options, control of health care costs, follow through on commitments to the TRS/PERS pension systems, and high quality teacher preparation programs through the University system are all key to developing Alaska's teacher workforce.

Reducing the barriers to international teacher candidates in Alaska is also crucial, given the rapidly shrinking pool of US-based educators. Repealing the requirement for a Social Security Number to receive an Alaska Teaching Certificate would allow these candidates to receive their certification early in the visa application process, shortening the length of time for this process and increasing their chances for receiving a full-length visa.

- Early, Predictable and Full Funding for a High Quality Education

The Board supports full and predictable funding for a high quality education for all students, which should provide revenue to cover the actual cost of education in all districts, allows for inflation and increasing costs, and includes all initiatives, laws and mandates that require additional costs and services, such as the Alaska Reads Act. In addition, early notification of funding is crucial to allow for recruitment and retention of quality educators and administrators in today's challenging job market. The Base Student Allocation should be adjusted to in order to keep up with the inflation rate since 2011, inflation-proofed, and therefore provide competitive salaries, keep up with the costs of energy and supplies, and allow for any increases in the cost of health insurance and other employee benefits. Nome Public Schools would also support a regular review and recommendation for changes in the District Cost Factor in the foundation formula.

- Culturally Responsive Education and Language Revitalization

Culturally responsive classrooms and school settings are foundational and fundamental to any school with a high percentage of Alaska Native students. Our students deserve to see their culture, language and knowledge as an integral part of everyday instruction. It is crucial to the achievement of Alaska Native students when identity is validated through content and methods, and they are motivated and successful when they see themselves reflected in their classrooms and schools. Curriculum which reflects students' cultural identity is often lacking in schools, as textbooks and supplemental materials reflect Western views and values. Modifying curriculum and supplemental materials requires additional time and funding, but results in students who feel engaged and connected to their schools.

- Funding of School Capital/Major Maintenance Projects

Nome Public Schools currently has well over \$6 million dollars in needed capital improvement projects, due to aging facilities and systems for buildings, several of which were opened in the mid-1960's. Reinstatement of school bond reimbursements and full funding of projects submitted through the Capital Improvement Program are crucial to ensuring our school facilities are safe and providing the best possible environment for learning. The Capital Improvement Program scoring system should also be revamped to recognize the cost of continually updating the applications to remain competitive which places an undue burden on smaller districts.

The Major Maintenance Fund should also be allowed as a funding mechanism for repairs to teacher housing for those Districts who must provide and maintain housing in rural areas where few or no other options exist for teaching staff; while the School Construction Fund should be allowed as a funding mechanism for building new teacher housing projects in rural areas where few other housing options exist, and where the cost often exceeds the available funding through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Teaching/Healthcare/Public Safety Housing grant program.

- Social, Emotional and Mental Health of Children

The long-term impact of the pandemic on the social, emotional and mental health of our children has turned the spotlight on the need for support and funding for school counselors, social workers, and school psychologists, as well as professional development for educators and families in trauma-sensitive and trauma-preventative practices. Schools must now assist children in regulating emotions, developing coping skills, and forming strong positive relationships with adults. Recent efforts focused on the social/emotional learning of students must be continued and expanded, especially those based in community partnerships.

Nome Public Schools also embraces the concept of wellness and a whole child approach. Children who are taught to connect their mind, body and spirit through grounding in cultural beliefs and practices have healthy attitudes and make healthy life choices. We support instruction and curriculum that promote these practices.

- Career and Workforce Development

Nome Public Schools recognizes that the Alaskan and U.S. workforce is undergoing a unprecedented shift and schools must be poised to prepare students for rapidly changing needs, including growth in jobs in infrastructure. The need for qualified individuals with technical skills to meet the needs for general maintenance of Nome and the surrounding rural communities, building projects, and potential new industrial expansions will mean our schools must deepen and expand our existing partnerships with local employers and the University of Alaska's Northwest Campus to create more formalized school-to-work pathways including apprenticeships and internships. The Northwest Arctic Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) is a pivotal linchpin in ensuring students from Nome and the Bering Strait Region are prepared to fill these positions and keep economic growth tightly centered and benefiting their home communities.

2025 Federal Legislative Priorities

The Nome Public Schools Board of Education has chosen the following priority areas for the 2025 Legislative Session. We will focus our advocacy efforts with the Federal Legislature around the following:

- Increasing the reimbursement for Alaska Rural/Remote communities under the National School Lunch Program to better reflect the costs of employee wages, foodstuffs and shipping costs
- Legislation that supports and/or coordinates with our State Priorities
- Removal of limitations and/or barriers to access federal funds, especially those designed to meet the educational needs of Alaska Native students
- Tribal consultation support from the Office of Indian Education to State Education Agencies to better support individual districts with appropriate guidance



POLARIS K-12 SCHOOL

6200 Ashwood Street, Anchorage, AK 99507-1911
Dr. Tia Clay, Principal
(907) 742-8700 fax: (907) 742-8777

February 1, 2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Senator Dan Sullivan
510 L Street
Suite 750
Anchorage, AK 99501

Senator Lisa Murkowski
510 L Street
Suite 600
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Governor Dunleavy, Senator Sullivan, Senator Murkowski, and Esteemed Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I am writing today with an urgent request that you raise the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for public education in Alaska. Over the past decade, the state's investment in our children's futures has stagnated. The last significant increase in funding came in 2017, but since then, state funding has flat-lined. The result is that Alaska's public schools are now underfunded by nearly \$2,000 per student simply to match inflation, and this gap is being felt in districts across the state, including the Anchorage School District (ASD), which faces a \$111 million deficit for the 2025-2026 school year.

While my letter is written in the broader context of advocating for equitable education funding, it is also deeply personal. I am writing because my school—**Polaris K-12**—is facing dire consequences due to these funding shortfalls, and I fear that if we don't act now, we will lose what makes our school unique and vital to the community.

Polaris K-12 is more than just a school; it is a community center that has served nearly 500 students, spanning from kindergarten to 12th grade for 30 years. It is a school of choice—where every individual, from students to staff, has actively chosen to be here every day. It is a place where education transcends textbooks; where real-world, problem-based learning empowers students to drive their own educational outcomes and develop their own educational pathways. Our school is designed to meet the diverse needs of families who are looking for a more personalized and meaningful educational experience for their children.

However, the proposed budget cuts threaten everything we stand for. On January 31, 2025, it was announced that Polaris K-12 would face a **7.6% reduction in teaching staff**, which amounts to **3.4 full-time teachers**. In addition, there is a **15% reduction in Student Activity Funds** and a **+4 increase in the pupil-to-teacher ratio (PTR)**. This would significantly raise class sizes, stretching our already limited resources even thinner.

The **reduction in teaching staff** is the most concerning impact. This will directly compromise our ability to provide the individualized, hands-on instruction that sets Polaris apart. In elementary grades, this cut will reduce the number of classes from 8 to 7—well below the program's design and will force us to close another entire classroom. As Polaris is a full-lottery school, this would have a

cascading effect. While current families will not be immediately impacted, our ability to accept new families or siblings of students currently enrolled would be severely limited. I have already processed over **50 applications** for the spring lottery within **12 hours** of opening applications to the public for the 2025/26 school year, and last year, we received more than **1,000 applications** from families seeking a seat in our program.

In our secondary education program, the cuts would be equally, if not more, devastating. The proposed reductions would affect the very core of our program. We would likely be unable to continue offering **Advanced Placement (AP) classes**, and our **World Language Program** would be substantially diminished. Core courses like English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies would be required to serve a larger spectrum of students moving from 7th/8th-grade classes to 6th/7th/8th—further widening the span of ability levels and readiness our teachers are serving in one class simultaneously. Furthermore, we would likely be forced to resort to online courses to fill instructional gaps in our master schedule, as the number of secondary teachers would drop from **13.4 to 11**—which translates to **12 total classes missing from next year's schedule**. This would not only diminish the quality of education but could also render our program unrecognizable.

The proposed cut to our Student Activity Fund is also significantly concerning. These funds currently support essential before-school and during-school enrichment programs, including zero-hour courses, intervention groups, and activities like open gym during secondary lunch period. These funds have allowed us to be creative and resourceful, making it possible for us to continue providing a robust educational experience despite ongoing budget cuts. **A 15% reduction in these funds** would further cripple our ability to support our students in these essential areas.

The impact of these cuts is not just about numbers—it is about real people. It's about the passionate teachers who have devoted their lives to education, and who are now at risk of losing their positions at our School of Choice. It's about the students who rely on our program for more than just academics, but for a sense of community, purpose, and a path to success in life beyond school.

Governor Dunleavy and members of the Alaska Legislature, I urge you to prioritize our children's future by **raising the Base Student Allocation**. The current funding levels are not enough to support the educational needs of Alaska's students, and the proposed cuts will have a far-reaching and devastating impact on our schools and communities. We cannot afford to continue down this path of underfunding education, and we must act now to secure a brighter future for all Alaskans.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue. I trust that you will make the necessary decisions to support public education in Alaska and ensure that schools like Polaris K-12 can continue to serve our students and families with the excellence they deserve.

With care, kindness, and compassion,



Dr. Tia Clay, Ed.D.
Proud Principal of Polaris K-12



Newhalen Tribal Council

Phone: (907) 571-1410 • Fax: (907) 571-1537 • Email: joannewassillie@newhalentribal.com

Address: P.O. Box 207 • Newhalen, Alaska 99606

Resolution 2025-005

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PRIORITY FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION TO ENSURE TIMELY, RELIABLE, AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR ALASKA SCHOOLS, EDUCATORS, AND STUDENTS

WHEREAS, The Newhalen Tribal Council is a tribal organization in Alaska and its membership includes 326. We contract with federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Newhalen Tribal Council is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voices of our Alaska Native Community; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is constitutionally mandated to maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State; and

WHEREAS, Early notification and predictable funding are essential for sound financial management, maintain a high educational standard, and recruiting and retaining highly skilled educators; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Legislature prioritized education funding, but in the wake of the administration's veto coupled with prolonged flat funding, rising inflation, and escalating cost in healthcare, transportation, operations, and maintenance, has eroded school district's purchasing power, making it increasingly difficult to streamline high level students achievement; and

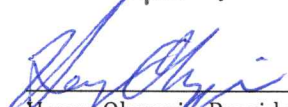
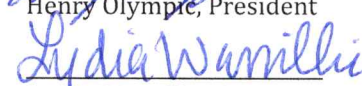
WHEREAS, It imperative that the State invest in education to reverse the ongoing out-migration and economic decline in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Shifting state expenditures responsibilities onto local government undermines municipalities' ability to fund vital programs such as community services and transportation, which is vital to the well-being of students and families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Newhalen Tribal Council urges the State of Alaska to raise the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1,526 to account for inflation and to inflation proof the BSA annually, to restore the purchasing power schools have lost since FY17, ensuring all schools can meet the educational needs of their students.

CERTIFICATION:

This resolution was duly considered and adopted at the general meeting of the Newhalen Tribal Council, Alaska on 11 day of Feb 2025 by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 against 0 abstained.


Henry Olympic, President

Lydia Wassillie, Secretary

President: Henry Olympic • Vice President: Denise Nickoli • Secretary Treasurer: : Lydia Wassillie

Members: John Jay Tretikoff, • Terry Wassillie Elder Advisor: Elena Balluta

Tribal Administrator: Joanne Wassillie

Alaska Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street Rm3
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 7, 2025

Subject: House Bill 69: *"An Act relating to education funding; and providing for an effective date."*

Dear Honorable Legislature Member,

The Homer High School Site Council is writing to formally express our unanimous support for the proposed House Bill 69 and we respectfully request your support to pass this bill as well. The base student allocation over the last decade has been significantly underfunded and every school district is now subjected to make classroom sizes much larger, close down community centered schools and lose many quality educators and staff.

In the Homer area, we are currently reviewing the possibility of closing 4 out of 9 local brick and mortar schools. As you can image this is quite a daunting and difficult task for the community especially for the students. This proposed bill would substantially increase the amount of funding per student for the next few years and we respectfully request your much needed support to passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Homer High School Site Council
600 E Fairview Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Chair Kyle Schneider (staff)
Juliann Techie (student)
Deb Curtis (staff)
Alicia Phillips (staff)
Jeanette Schafer (parent)
Ken Goldman (parent)
Casey Eberle (parent)
Amy Sundheim (parent)

Vice Chair Mike Illg (parent)
McKenna Black (student)
Eric Simondsen (staff)
Sara Richardson (parent)
Julie Gauthier (staff)
Erica Marley (parent)
Lia Calhoun (community member)



Yakutat School District

429 Forest Hwy.
P.O. Box 429
Yakutat, Alaska 99689

District Office (907) 784-3317
High School (907) 784-3317
Fax (907) 784-3446

Yakutat School District Board of Education Resolution No. 2025-1

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska recognizes the critical role that education plays in the development and well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, funding for education is a vital component in ensuring the success and future of Alaska's students; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 69 (HB 69) seeks to address the base student allocation in Alaska by introducing structured annual increases, directly benefiting the educational system statewide; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments to AS 14.17.470 aim to adjust the base student allocation annually in alignment with inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index for urban Alaska, along with additional specified increases; and

WHEREAS, the structured increases outlined in HB 69 will provide needed financial stability and predictability for school districts across Alaska, ensuring they can maintain and improve the quality of education offered to students; and

WHEREAS, the base student allocation increases proposed for July 1, 2025, July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, and subsequent years are intended to address inflationary pressures on the cost of education, helping schools meet the growing demands of the student population; and

WHEREAS, supporting education through stable and sufficient funding is a fundamental duty of government to ensure that Alaska's children receive a high-quality education that prepares them for future success; and

WHEREAS, HB 69 will help sustain and strengthen educational programs across the state, benefiting students, educators, and the broader Alaskan community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned do hereby express their strong support for Alaska House Bill 69 and urge its passage by the Legislature of the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Yakutat School Board recognizes the importance of investing in education and commit to continuing efforts to support policies that ensure a robust and thriving educational system for all Alaskan students.

Passed and adopted on this February 17, 2025.

Reine Pavlik
School Board President

Steve Kaufman
School Board Member

Stacy Halvorsen
School Board Clerk

Jennethan Kaufman
School Board Member

Rachel Fraker
School Board Treasurer

Alaska Chapter

Incorporated in Alaska

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



February 20, 2025

President

Anna Ogena, MD, FAAP

Vice President

Jody Butto, MD, FAAP

Secretary-Treasurer

Past President

Lily J. Lou, MD, FAAP

Executive Director

Dale Knutsen
PO Box 110573
Anchorage, AK 99511
(907) 317-1397
aapalaskachapter@gmail.com

Website

www.aapalaska.com

Dear House Education Committee,

We are writing today as Pediatricians that are members of Alaska's largest pediatric organization. Today, we are urging you to support House Bill 69 and ensure funding for education in our state.

Most Alaskan children receive care through a pediatrician. We see firsthand the struggles families face when their children attend schools that cannot provide necessary daily health related services or services that allow a child to return to school after illness/injury. Schools need to be able to provide in-house nursing services to allow these children to remain in school. As you know missed school days are detrimental to learning and the goal is to keep children in the classroom. For example, a child with diabetes, asthma or daily medications needs daily monitoring by the school nurse. Children with feeding tubes or tracheostomies also require daily nursing care to remain in school.

The current Anchorage School District proposed budget is showing a loss of 13 school nurse positions for the next school year. This would mean that some schools would move to a part time nurse position or to a nurse who is split between schools. This leaves the care of children to a designated adult in those schools. These adults are school personnel who volunteer to administer medications and "cover" the nurse's office but they are lay-people. They are usually Assistant Principals, Administrative Assistants, or others. These folks do not have the training to care for many of these in-school medical needs. Children may be sent home, or forced to transfer to the hospital by ambulance because their school is missing the skilled care of a nurse.

Aside from the school health issues, our children also need and deserve excellent teachers and adequate supplies. They also need smaller class sizes and in school therapies that support their education. These adjunct therapies like speech and occupational therapy allow children with unique needs to thrive at school.

The current education funding crisis in our state is shameful 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 and also considers the needs of the children with medical issues.

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

Sincerely,

Anna Ogena, MD, FAAP

Patricia Clay, MD, FAAP

Jody Butto, MD, FAAP

Wesley Gifford, MD, FAAP

Benjamin Westley, MD, FACP, FIDSA

Daniel Brown, MD

Emily Davis, MD, FAAP

Jennifer Austin, APRN

Introduced by:	Assembly, Mayor
Date:	02/25/25
Action:	Adopted as Amended
Vote:	8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2025-014**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO IMPLEMENT A
SUSTAINABLE INCREASE TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION
(BSA) AND INVEST IN STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC
EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, as per AS 29.35.160, the Kenai Peninsula Borough is required to form a borough school district and to establish, maintain, and operate a system of public schools on an areawide basis; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.17.470 currently stipulates that the base student allocation (BSA) provided by the State is \$5,960; and

WHEREAS, the State is currently providing about 58% of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District education funding and local, Kenai Peninsula Borough contributions make up a majority of the outstanding balance; and

WHEREAS, the KPB consistently funds over 95% of the allowable maximum local contribution which is significantly greater than comparable municipalities across the State, KPB's local contribution has kept pace with or exceeded inflation while State funding has not; and

WHEREAS, education is the single largest budgetary item for the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, without a BSA increase, one-time funding, or a mix of both the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District will be facing a budget deficit of just under \$17 million for FY26 which will require consolidating schools, increasing class size, and eliminating programs important to our students and community members; and

WHEREAS, a stagnant BSA amount coupled with a constant upward inflationary trend has eroded the effectiveness of the formulated Basic Need amount; and

- WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough has consistently worked to increase local contributions in response to rising costs and is now considering allocating the maximum amount permitted by the State; however, even with this commitment, additional funding will be necessary to sustain essential educational programs and opportunities for students in the upcoming fiscal year; and
- WHEREAS,** the base student allocation (BSA) not only determines the level of State funding for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District but also directly impacts the Borough's ability to provide local contributions in support of education; and
- WHEREAS,** the most recent substantial increase to the BSA took place between fiscal years 2015-2017, raising the amount by \$250 per student, with the Alaska Reads Act providing an additional \$30 increase in fiscal year 2024; and
- WHEREAS,** the State has provided valuable one-time funding to Alaska's schools in recent years, offering important short-term relief for budgetary challenges; and
- WHEREAS,** while one-time funds have provided temporary budget relief, a long-term solution is necessary to ensure financial stability and continuity in educational programs for future years ; and
- WHEREAS,** on February 28, 2023, the Legislative Finance Division Director stated to the House Finance Committee that "today, the base student allocation is the lowest it's been in the last 20 years — adjusted for inflation"; and
- WHEREAS,** the FY12 value of the BSA in today's dollars would be approximately \$1800 more than Alaska school districts are currently receiving; and
- WHEREAS,** an inflationary increase matching this amount would ensure Alaska school districts could continue current educational programs with no anticipated cuts; and
- WHEREAS,** last session Alaska State Senate and House members passed SB 140 which permanently increased the BSA to \$6,640 per student; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 14, 2024 Governor Dunleavy vetoed SB 140 stating that he could not support the bill because Alaska legislators failed to address teacher recruitment and retention and enhancing charter school opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** the 33rd Alaska State Legislature failed to override the veto of SB 140 by one vote; and
- WHEREAS,** the 34th Alaska State Legislature will now have the opportunity to consider a BSA increase in HB 69 and Governor Dunleavy's education priorities in HB 76 and SB 82; and

WHEREAS, any long-term education package must provide both stable, predictable funding increases and strategic improvements in student achievement and school operations; and

WHEREAS, if HB 69 is passed by the legislature, Governor Dunleavy will be in the position to accept or veto the proposed increases to the base student allocation; and

WHEREAS, a compromise that combines elements of HB 69, HB 76, and SB 82 appears necessary for any meaningful increase in BSA to occur.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Assembly requests that the State Legislature and Governor Dunleavy pass a balanced education package that includes a permanent and sustainable increase to the base student allocation—indexed to inflation—as well as strategic investments in teacher retention, student literacy, and public school choice options as part of a comprehensive education plan that incorporates responsible reforms to strengthen student achievement.

SECTION 2. That the Assembly urges the Alaska Legislature and Governor Dunleavy to prioritize a long-term, bipartisan solution for FY26 and beyond, providing school districts with predictable funding levels while incorporating policy measures that enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Alaska’s education system.

SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Dunleavy, the Kenai Peninsula legislative delegation, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, all members of the Alaska State Senate, and all members of the Alaska House of Representatives.

SECTION 4. That copies of this resolution also be sent to all Kenai Peninsula Borough incorporated cities.

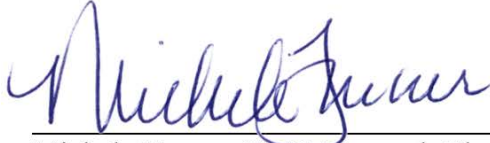
SECTION 5. That this resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

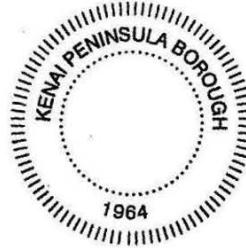


Peter Ribbens, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes:	Baisden, Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Ribbens
No:	None
Absent:	Dunne

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

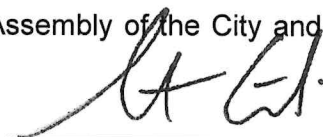
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 69 AN ACT RELATED TO EDUCATION FUNDING**

- WHEREAS,** funding Alaska's public school system is a Constitutional duty and the far majority of students in Alaska attend public schools; and
- WHEREAS,** the continuous neglect and under-investment in our public schools must end for the benefit of our students, families, and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** a Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase of \$1,808 is necessary to keep pace with inflation to FY '25 and \$1,963 is necessary to keep pace with inflation to FY '26; and
- WHEREAS,** it is our duty as a duly elected Assembly to ensure that all students have access to quality education, resources, and opportunities that they rightfully deserve under our state constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** a significant investment in Alaska's school system is needed NOW. Without an increase to the BSA, the Sitka School District (SSD) is facing a budget deficit of \$3,709,816 and, as a result, will have to cut 17% of the budget; and
- WHEREAS,** in FY '25, the SSD reduced their budget by 12%, which included eighteen (18) certified and six (6) classified staff; and
- WHEREAS,** the SSD needs a District wide technology refresh which would add approximately \$400,000 to the deficit; and
- WHEREAS,** the SSD has not completed a comprehensive curriculum review since 2012 which would add approximately \$400,000 to the deficit; and
- WHEREAS,** an implementation of HB 69 statewide would greatly benefit the SSD's budget deficit, allowing the District to retain teachers and opportunities for their students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka strongly urges the passage of House Bill 69 by the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska this 25th day of February.



Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading: 2/25/2025

Sponsors: Carlson / Ystad / Mosher

Introduced By:
Date:
Action:
Vote:

Chilson, Hutchings
February 26, 2025
Adopted
6 Yes, 0 No

CITY OF SOLDOTNA
RESOLUTION 2025-006

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA MAKE A MEANINGFUL
INCREASE TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION (BSA) FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, as per AS 29.35.160, the Kenai Peninsula Borough is required to constitute a borough school district and establish, maintain, and operate a system of public schools on an areawide basis; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.17.470 currently states that the base student allocation, provided by the State, is \$5,960; and

WHEREAS, the State is currently providing about 58% of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District education funding and local, Kenai Peninsula Borough contributions make up a majority of the outstanding balance; and

WHEREAS, education is the single largest budgetary item for the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, the base student allocation amount per student has slowly degraded due to an upward inflationary trend in the cost of student education; and

WHEREAS, requiring the Kenai Peninsula Borough to continually increase local contributions to keep pace with rising costs resulting in decreased spending on other essential programs; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is facing a budget deficit of just under \$17 million for FY26 which will likely lead to consolidation of schools, significant increases in class sizes, and elimination of programs important to our students and community members; and

WHEREAS, a stagnant BSA amount coupled with a constant upward inflationary trend has eroded away the effectiveness of the formulated Basic Need amount; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough has continually increased local contributions to keep pace with these rising costs and has reached the maximum allowable amount resulting in a need to decrease school district spending on programs essential to our students' growth for this upcoming fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the dollar amount of the BSA directly affects, not only, how much the State will fund the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, but how much the Kenai Peninsula Borough is allowed to contribute as well; and

WHEREAS, the State has not made meaningful base student allocation increases since fiscal years 2015 through 2017 totaling an additional amount per student of \$250 per student, with the Alaska Reads Act providing an additional \$30 increase in fiscal year 2024; and

WHEREAS, the State has given, much needed one-time funding to Alaska's schools for the past several years which has provided short-term relief, but impedes the ability of school districts to effectively develop annual budgets due to year-to-year funding uncertainties; and

WHEREAS, these one-time funds do truly help relieve budget deficits for a current year, they in no way contribute to a permanent solution, effectively "kicking the can down the road" to be discussed again each year; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2023, the Legislative Finance Division Director stated to the House Finance Committee that "today, the base student allocation is the lowest it's been in the last 20 years — adjusted for inflation"; and

WHEREAS, the FY12 value of the BSA in today's dollars would be approximately \$1,800 more than Alaska school districts are currently receiving; and

WHEREAS, an inflationary increase matching this amount would ensure Alaska school districts could continue current educational programs with no anticipated cuts; and

WHEREAS, last legislative session the Alaska State Senate and House members proposed bills to begin addressing this inflationary deficit with increases to the BSA; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2024 Governor Dunleavy vetoed SB 140 stating that he could not support the bill because Alaska legislators failed to address teacher recruitment and retention and enhancing charter school opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the 33rd Alaska State Legislature failed to override the veto of SB 140 by one vote; and

WHEREAS, the 34th Alaska State Legislature will now have the opportunity to consider a BSA increase in HB 69 and Governor Dunleavy's education priorities in HB 76 and SB 82; and

WHEREAS, any long-term education package must provide both stable, predictable funding increases and strategic improvements in student achievement and school operations; and

WHEREAS, if passed by the legislature, Governor Dunleavy will be in the position to accept or veto the proposed increases to the base student allocation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Council requests a meaningful increase to the base student allocation for Alaskan students in an effort to bridge the fiscal gap created by a lack of inflationary increases to the BSA over the last several years. Additionally, the BSA will be adjusted every year in an amount equivalent to the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Alaska (CPI) for the December ending previous to the fiscal funding year.

Section 2. That the Council petitions Governor Dunleavy to implement a permanent increase to the base student allocation, to include an annual inflationary adjustment, as brought forth by the Alaska Legislature with no vetoes exercised that would reduce or eliminate the State budget funds needed to successfully make the increase a reality.

Section 2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Dunleavy and the Kenai Peninsula legislative delegation, the President and all members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, the President and all members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, all members of the Alaska State Senate and all members of the Alaska House of Representatives.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, City Clerk


Paul J. Whitney, Mayor

Yes: Carey, Chilson, Hutchings, Nelson, Parker, Wackler
No: None



Resolution 2025-02-27

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PRIORITY FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION TO ENSURE TIMELY, RELIABLE, AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR ALASKA SCHOOLS, EDUCATORS, AND STUDENTS

WHEREAS: The Kokhanok Village Council is the governing body for the community of Kokhanok, Alaska, representing the interests and well-being of tribal members and residents, including students and educators; and

WHEREAS: The mission of the Kokhanok Village Council is to strengthen and support our community, acting as a unified voice to enhance social, economic, cultural, and educational opportunities for all residents and tribal members; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska is constitutionally mandated to maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State; and

WHEREAS: Early notification and predictable funding are essential for sound financial management, maintain a high educational standard, and recruiting and retaining highly skilled educators; and

WHEREAS: In 2024, the Legislature prioritized education funding, but in the wake of the administration's veto coupled with prolonged flat funding, rising inflation, and escalating costs in healthcare, transportation, operations, and maintenance, has eroded school district's purchasing power, making it increasingly difficult to streamline high level student achievement; and

WHEREAS: It is imperative that the State invest in education to reverse the ongoing outmigration and economic decline in the State of Alaska; and



WHEREAS: Shifting state expenditure responsibilities onto local governments undermines municipalities' ability to fund vital programs such as community services and transportation, which is vital to the well-being of students and families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kokhanok Village Council urge the State of Alaska to raise the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1,526 to account for inflation and to inflation proof the BSA annually, to restore the purchasing power schools have lost since FY17, ensuring all schools can meet the educational need of their students.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Kokhanok Village Council this 27th day of February 2025.



Nathan Hill, Tribal President

ATTEST:



Sharolyn Chocknok, Tribal Secretary