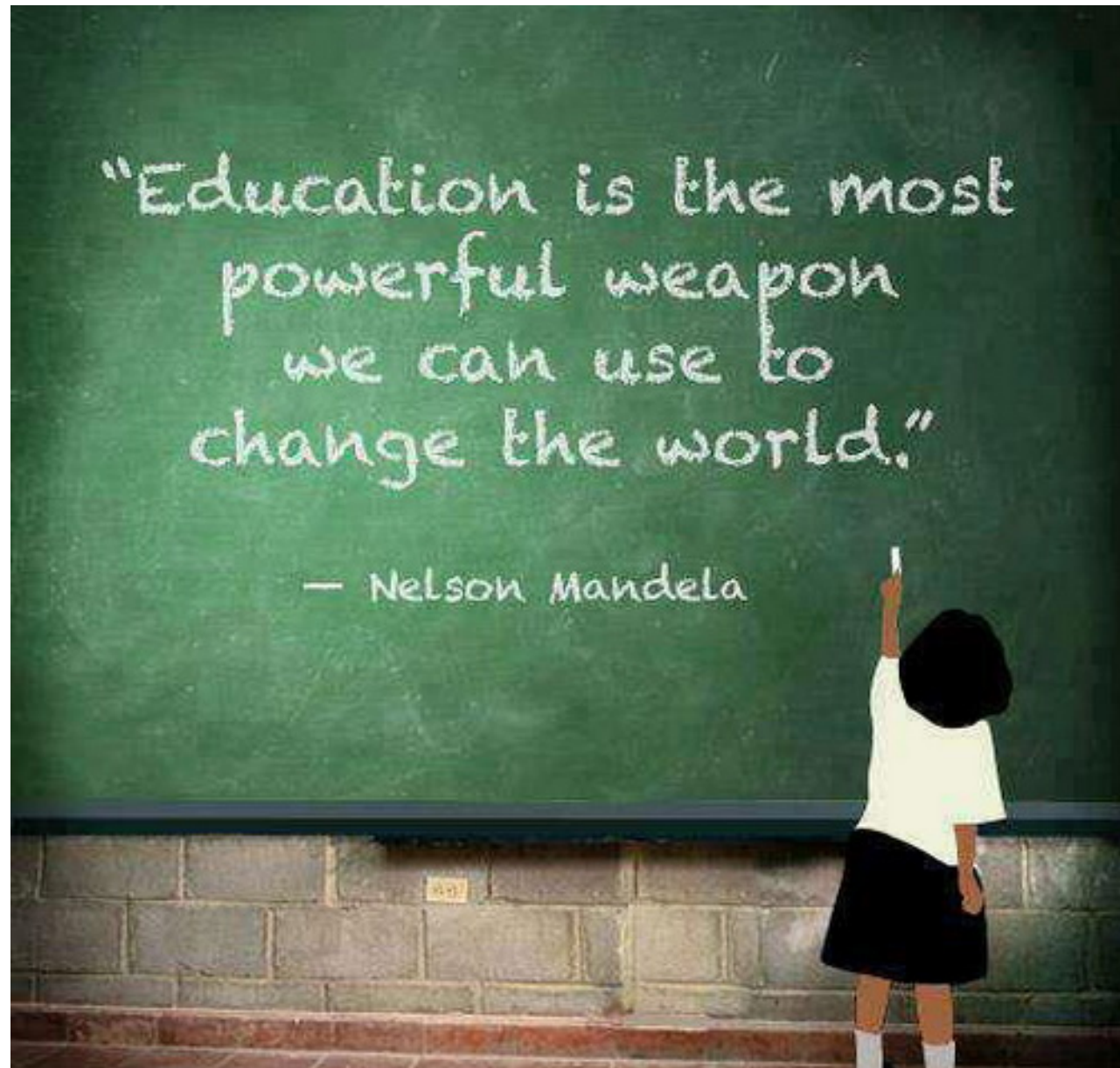


Education Matters:

IT'S TIME TO INCREASE THE BSA

"Education is the most
powerful weapon
we can use to
change the world."

— Nelson Mandela



Lost Opportunity: Lost Forever

Students can not come back to repeat the 4th grade
. . . once we fix the budget crisis.

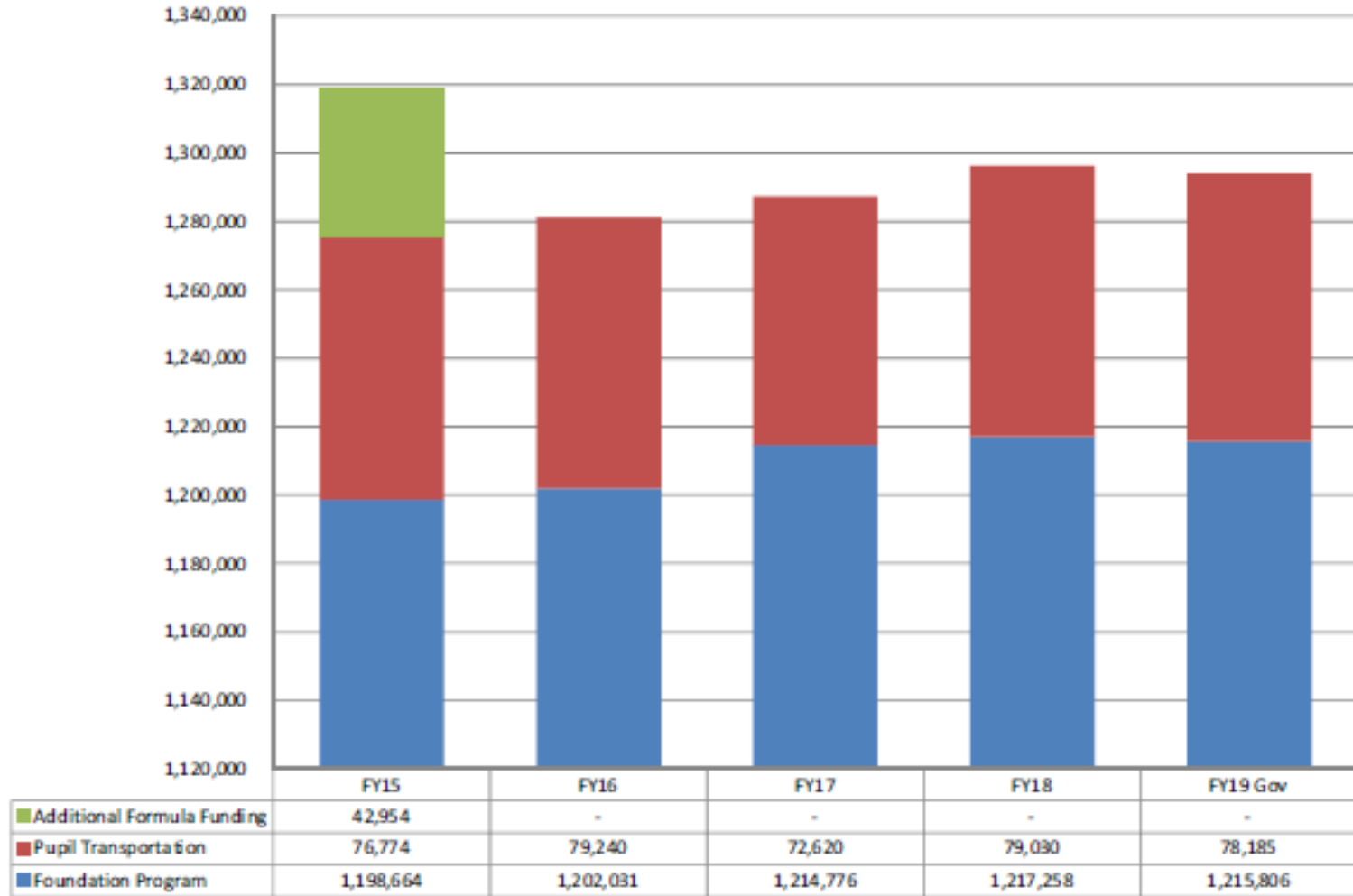
HB 339: A Modest Increase

This bill would increase the BSA by \$100. It is co-sponsored by Education Chair Drummond and Reps. Spohnholz, Kawasaki, Tuck, Josephson, and Parish.

Juneau Superintendent Dr. Mark Miller Put it Well

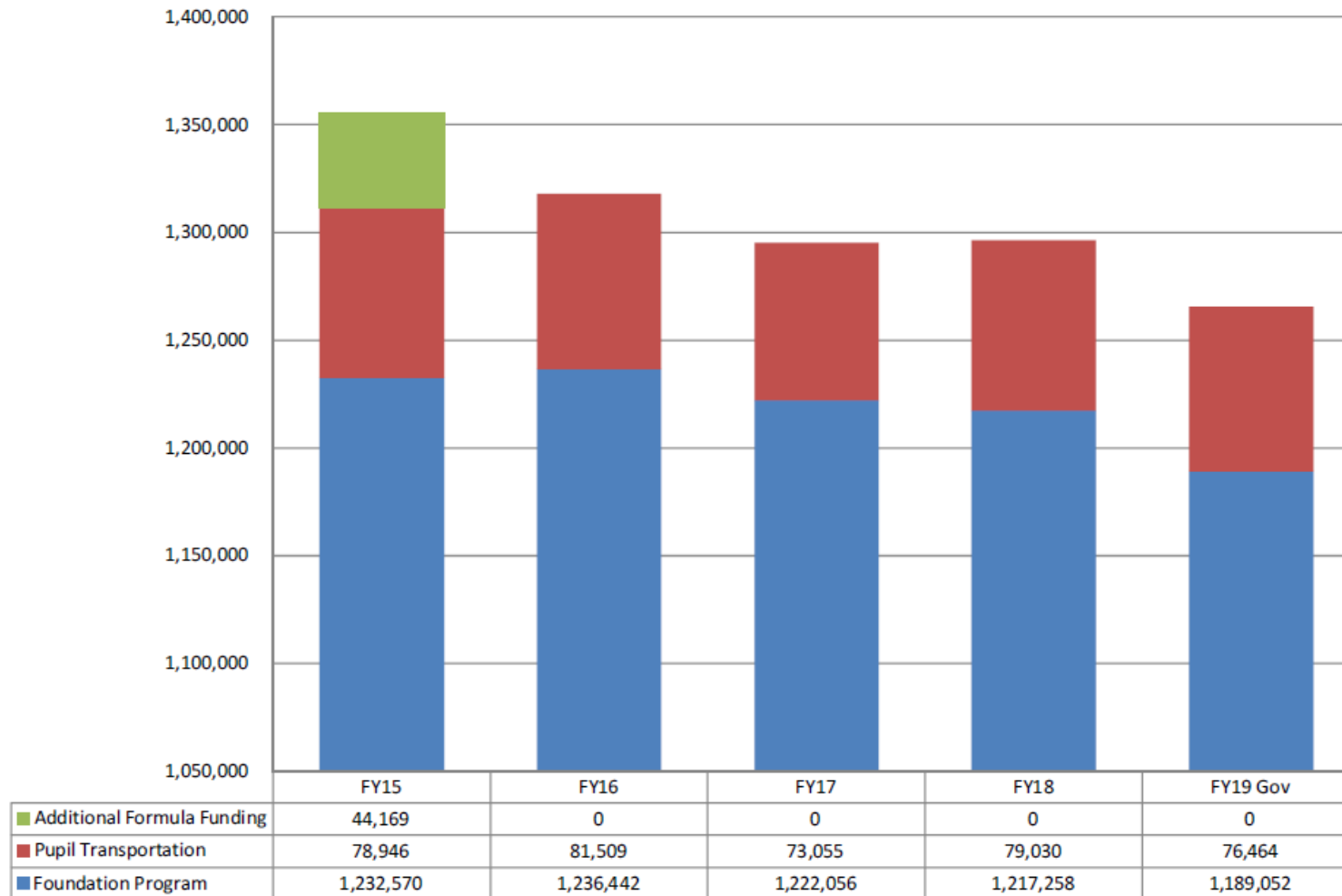
“Over the past five years, the BSA has been nearly flat. Over that same time, my operating expenses from the general fund have increased nearly 10% . . . We have used our general fund balance to survive the last couple of years ... we are now being forced to consider severe cuts to try to fill a \$3 million hole ... A \$100 BSA student increase would not solve this problem, but it would go a long way to help.”

K-12 Formula Funding, FY15-19 (Nominal dollars)



**The Loss is Greater
When You Consider Inflation:
\$90 Million**

K-12 Formula Funding, FY15-19 (In FY18 Dollars)



What are We Learning from Parents, Students and Educators?

Cuts Have Hit Students Across the State

In Anchorage, since 2013:

- 394 FTE positions have been cut (a 9.3% reduction)
- 216 of these were teachers
- The remaining were mostly teacher assistants
- Classroom sizes have increased and will continue to

At The Same Time in Anchorage. . .

- Special education enrollment is up 3.2%
- Intensive needs enrollment is up 8.6%
- Preschool enrollment is up 34%
- And many fixed costs, such as health care, have skyrocketed.

Mat-Su Faces Similar Cuts

- Cut \$8.4 million in FY 18, resulting in the loss of 87 FTE positions
- Expects to face an \$8 million deficit in FY 19
- The district has cut 247 FTE teachers, classrooms aides and classroom assistants since 2013, a 9.3% cut
- Also cut roughly 8 special education instructors

Eagle River High School Student

Annual pink slips cause her mother, a teacher, to think about leaving Alaska. This is a teacher who has won a Milliken Educator Award.

Anchorage Student at Stellar

Her brother at Romig Middle School feels with 30 students in his biology class, he'd be disruptive if he asked all his questions.

Anchorage School Board Member

To avoid additional teacher cuts, the district has taken away course planning periods for teachers.

Estimated cuts from future flat funding (budgets have not yet been adopted):

- 91 more FTE teacher losses in FY 19
- 107 more FTE teacher losses in FY20

Admin and support already cut by 28.5%, includes teacher training.

Wrangell High School Student

School no longer provides 3 years of foreign language, which is required by many colleges. Consequently, needs to take non-interactive, on-line courses and watch videos.

No teacher engagement.

15-year-old JDHS student

Class sizes are increasing.

Hears people and peers talk about leaving Alaska.

Is discouraged.

Juneau School District Rep

Flat funding means recent losses of:

- nurses
- Tlingit language teachers
- classroom and special ed teachers

It is threatening burn-out of the best teachers.

Class choice is down. Classes sizes are up.

Juneau School Board Member

- District has cut 92 teacher and other positions
- Facing continued cuts without inflation-adjusted funding
- Cut Middle School counselors for 100 students from 2 - 1
- Want to train to higher standards but “administration” cuts includes cuts to teacher instructional coaches.

Cordova High School Student

- Wonders whether to come back to Alaska as an educator
- Doesn't see a commitment to education

Anchorage School District CFO

- Class sizes are up
- Eliminated funds for teacher professional training
- Cut 122 positions last year
- Cutting support for gifted students
- Have focused past cuts outside the classroom as much as possible
- Future cuts will hit the classroom harder.

AEA Rep and Teacher

- At schools without high income parents, cuts hit harder
- Combining ESL and IEP students in same classes

Kenai Peninsula School District

- No music taught in many schools now
- Have tried not to cut teachers, have cut elsewhere
- Future cuts WILL hit teachers

Cordova

- Spreading teachers too thin
- No nurses
- Chemistry not offered every year. This affects college applications.
- One student could not fit chemistry in schedule last, can't take chemistry this year, will have to wait another year.
- Can't realistically teach ESL students with only 1 teacher

Seward High School and Soldotna Prep

- 1 music teacher for combined middle and high school in Seward
- Soldotna Prep - no choir or band, or art classes.

Let's not make this mistake



A child miseducated is a child lost.

John F. Kennedy

Thank You

Thank you for your commitment to Alaska's youth.