

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Alaska Legislature HB-69- 1/29/25 Hearing  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:19:47 PM

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1/29/25

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

RE: HB 69

Dear Alaska State House Education Committee,

We are writing in support of HB 69. The BSA has not been changed in many years. We were present in the Stanford Library when one of the authors was doing research on school funding. He asked us to apply to teach in the FNSBSD as many of their teachers were leaving as they were affiliated with the military and were rotating out of Alaska. He was trying to find a way to build a more stable educational environment in which highly qualified educators could work. We applied and have been here since 1970.

Don and I have joined professional educational organizations , National Council for the Social Studies and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, worked on curriculum committees and Don served on the State Board of Education. Don was able to meet with educators through the National School Boards of Education during his tenure. I have worked on State Educational Standards for Social Studies and Foreign/World Languages. Our high schools had classes preparing them for college and other careers. These standards require skills in critical thinking and essential skills and prepare them for the first year of post-secondary education. Following standards makes them ready to apply their knowledge to extend their learning and gain technical and job related skills, to quote the Alaska State Standards.

HB 69 would increase the Base Student Allocation by \$1000 this year, \$404 in the following two years, and tie an annual increase to inflation every year after that. We need to catch up. We need a strong public school system to be able to meet all standards. Reading is only one tool. Comprehension is needed as well in the fields of English, mathematics, science, social studies, Alaska culture, Arts, Computer Science and Digital Literacy, CTE, Early Childhood, Library and information Standards, Physical Education and Health and World Languages. Public, Home Schooling and Correspondence students must also demonstrate achievement in required State and National Standards.

While addressing the BSA, we also need to fund the position of Standards and Assessment Administrator for the Alaska DEED Office. We have very diverse geography and cultures and residents all have already taken part in developing these existing Standards. Let's support them by providing the funds needed through the BSA formula in this Bill.. 1/

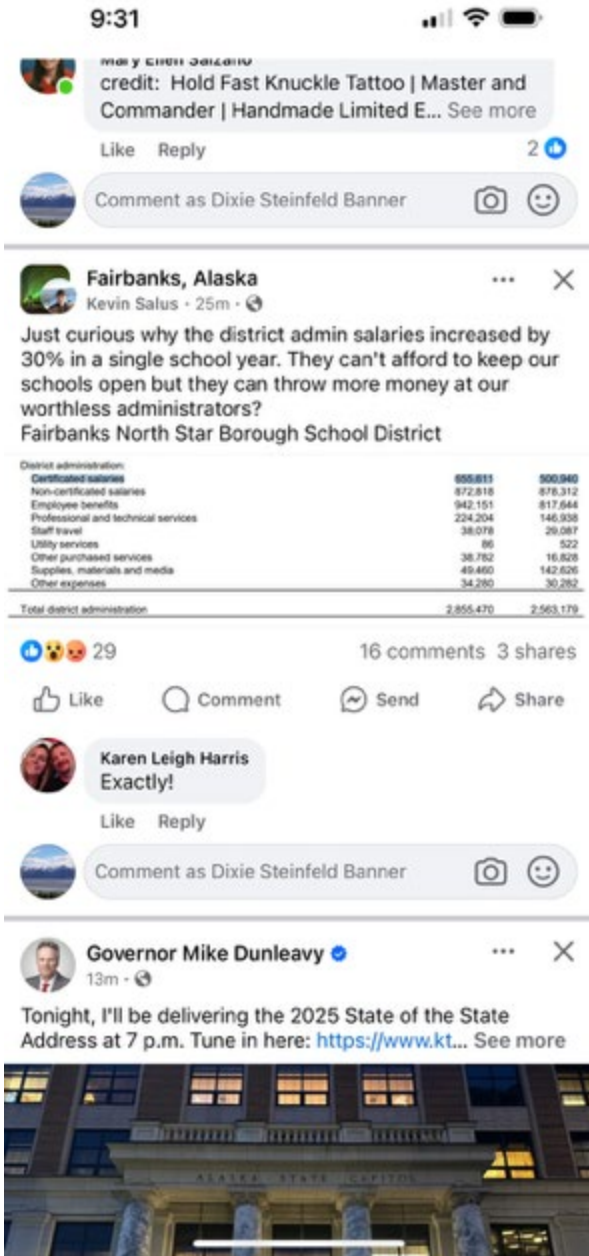
Thanks for considering the incremental nature of the solution presented in this bill.

Carolyn and Don Gray  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** An issue all cross the state  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:05:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_4609.PNG](#)

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Time to clean up this issue of miss management



Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Aquarian Charter  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:28:54 PM

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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](#); [Senate Education](#)  
**Subject:** Base funds  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:47:05 PM

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Hello-

I am writing to urge you to fund a base amount for Alaskan schools! Although I have no students, this is very important to the Fairbanks community.

Children are the future residents of Alaska and we need them to be logical and knowledgeable. Their parents consider “good schools” when deciding to remain in Alaska. Young adults, and their financial strength, have been leaving the state.


There is a local contribution to schools and if the state contribution is lacking or unstable, other local services are affected negatively.

I understand that it is difficult during times of inflation when everyone’s money does not go far. Even though it will require legislators to compromise and negotiate with each other, it is imperative that you pull it together on base funds for schools.

Thank you-

Mary Sackinger

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Claire Fordyce](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Bridget Smith Support HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:43:18 PM  
**Attachments:** 

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Bridget Smith's public testimony in person, HEDC 1.29.25

Claire Fordyce  
Legislative Aide/Education Committee  
Rep. Rebecca Himschoot  
District 2  
907.465.6848

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** BSA Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:11:51 PM

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to implore you to not only increase the BSA for this year, but to also inflation proof the BSA for future years.

By not doing both of these, you place our state's school districts in a no win situation. How are school districts supposed to keep up with the continually rising costs of goods, utilities, as well as being able to attract and retain excellent employees?

Alaska used to attract families to move here because we had excellent public schools. We attracted top notch teachers because we offered ideal public school environments, along with great pay and benefits.

If we want businesses and families to move and invest in our state then we must both invest and adequately fund our schools and make Alaska great again!

Respectfully,

Tami S Trotter

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** BSA Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 9:17:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Billeen Carlson, and I am here today as both an educator and a witness to the dire consequences of Alaska's ongoing education funding crisis. I have had to step in as a *foster teacher*—not for one, but for two schools—both left without teachers due to the growing shortage. This teacher shortage is not just a statistic; it is a daily reality for our students, our families, and those of us who remain in the classroom doing everything we can to keep learning happening.

The global teacher shortage is hitting Alaska particularly hard. Our inability to offer competitive contracts until late in the year has made it even more difficult to recruit and retain educators, leaving some schools with no permanent teachers at all. Because of this, I have been flying into rural, remote communities once a week to provide in-person instruction to students who would otherwise have no access to a certified teacher. After I leave, these students are left under the supervision of local aides, doing their best to support them as they attempt to finish their coursework online. These aides, while dedicated and invaluable, are not certified teachers. They cannot provide the same level of instruction, intervention, or academic support that a trained educator would.

This is not a sustainable or acceptable solution for Alaska's students. They deserve better.

We cannot ignore the fact that funding Alaska's public schools is a constitutional duty—not a luxury, not an afterthought, but a fundamental responsibility. The vast majority of students in Alaska attend public schools, and yet, year after year, we are forced to do more with less. The continued neglect and underinvestment in our public schools must end.

A BSA increase of \$1,808 is not just a request; it is a necessity. Inflation has driven up the cost of everything—salaries, supplies, utilities, and transportation. Without this increase, we are failing to provide students with the education, resources, and opportunities they are constitutionally entitled to.

The consequences of inaction are not abstract—they are devastating and immediate. Our district faces a \$17 million budget deficit, and without urgent investment, we will be forced to make impossible choices. This means cuts or drastic changes to:

- Sports and extracurricular activities,
- Class sizes and course offerings,
- Co-curricular opportunities that enrich student learning,
- Special education services and supports.

These cuts do not just affect numbers on a spreadsheet; they impact students' futures. They take away the programs that keep students engaged, the support systems that help them succeed, and the quality education they deserve.

This is not a partisan issue. It is not about politics. It is about ensuring that every child in Alaska has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. We need a significant investment in Alaska's schools now.

I urge you to fulfill your constitutional obligation and fully fund our public schools. Our students, our families, and our communities cannot afford to wait.

Thank you for your time.



Come see me at Homer Middle School in The Tower

[Book an appointment with me at this link!](#)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:12:00 PM

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You need to up the BSA per child for the future of OUR children, and the future of ALASKA.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Education  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 6:07:48 AM

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I have been in Alaska since 1976. As long as I can remember, people have been asking, “why are all our young people leaving Alaska?” It’s because of education. Why do we only have one decent vocational school in this state. For my vocational needs, I go to Ogden, Utah. We need 3 colleges like Ogden tech in this state. As far as K-12, we ARE FAILING OUR KIDS!! I lived in Juneau for decades. When I put my car in the shop and rode the bus to work, I was shocked to see how many young, able-bodied adults lived in low-income housing. Prison need assessments are often determined by the reading level of a third grader! What is the problem!!! As a society, we will pay for education deficit one way or another!! Let’s talk about front loading! Young children do not need the expense of computers! They need people and a lot of them! Let’s teach them to read so they can read to learn. And, let’s create opportunities for life-skills, job skills while they’re in high school. Ogden tech does this. For the little ones, why don’t we work with universities. Teachers could divide children into groups by their need for help. College students could come into the classroom and work with these groups. College students could earn free college credits for their time and schools could obtain free help. It could be a win-win!!! It the meantime, LETS FUND EDUCATION!!!

Thanks for reading!

Sonia

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Education Funding Bill  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:11:40 PM

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Dear Education committee members,

Thanks for taking the time to read my comments about the pressing need for increased BSA funding for Education. I am a special education teacher in the FNSBSD. I teach reading and math at Anne Wien Elementary School. The previous school I taught at, Joy Elementary school was shut down as part of the Districts efforts to address budgeting shortfalls. I want to remind all involved that funding Alaska's public school system is a constitutional duty. The far 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 to avoid an exodus of families from our state. 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. We need to meet these needs to ensure Alaska remains a place where families want to live, and teachers can afford to live in. A significant investment in Alaska's school system is needed NOW. Our district FNSBSD is facing a budget deficit of [16 million dollars](#), and as a result, we are in the midst of shutting down 5 schools in an attempt to make ends meet.

Thankyou for listening to my comments and for all your efforts to make these changes in funding happen.

Sincerely,

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Joseph Rueter (he/him/his)  
MAT Special Education  
Intermediate Resource  
Anne Wien Elementary  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Education funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:14:55 PM

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To whom this may concern.

I ask that you please take a moment to ask what are parents pulling their children from public schools and choosing to homeschool. This is not a funding issue this steams much deeper. I promise as a full time working mother choosing to pull all 3 children out of public school and homeschooling them is not easy, but the only choice there is at this point. I work an 8 to 10 hour day then start my second job as a teacher. It is hard and trying but so worth it by knowing my child is no longer exposed to certain ideology. My children will never participate in the hive mind programming and exposure to critical race theory, ridiculous math concepts, the erasing of history, the promotion of violence, sex, and body mutilation. If I have any say neither will my grandchildren. Public school has completely overstepped and this is the consequence. Again this goes further than funding.

Also

There is millions of dollars that the taxpayers paid that are going to dog parks, unsafe extremely complicated ugly intersections, and horribly small roundabouts. These cost citizens more and would never have been requested by us.

Do better.

Thank you  
Jenifer Yamamoto

Sent from my Galaxy

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Education funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:01:49 PM

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I support the regular increase in funding for Alaska schools.

With so many programs that provide basic supports for children and families being questioned in the United States right now, it is imperative that we keep up with funding our public schools and providing our children with their legally required public education.

Thank you

Jane Dunn  
Homer, Alaska resident for 20+ years

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Education testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:38:17 PM

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Hello,

My name is Jamie Miller. I am a mother of 4, residing on the Kenai Peninsula. Our children attend a top ranking charter school and we see a need for additional education funding. The one-time funding is not substantial enough and truly the best option is increasing the BSA. If our top performing school didn't have reserve funds to float us through, we would have had to close our doors a few years ago. We always have wait lists and would like to expand through high school grades however funding and facilities remain an issue.

Please listen to parents and community members. Our children deserve an excellent education. This will not be possible if funding continually under paces the cost of living. Our family is happy to relocate back to Montana for the high school years if the state of Alaska doesn't fix the gaping hole that exists currently in education. This is fixable. Please do the right thing and fund education.

Thank you, Jamie Miller

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Follow up NOT supporting the BSA Increase - Please review Metcalf v. State (attached)  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:08:13 PM

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Thank you for allowing public testimony today; I wanted to follow up with the following in writing:

I'm Cindy Roque, a mother who raised my family in rural Alaska and experienced firsthand the challenges families face—especially when it comes to education and opportunity.

In 2007, before the buzz words of Charter Schools, I made the difficult decision to move my daughter to Washington so she could access better opportunities. She attended an Aviation High School there because Dillingham's district lacked strong math, science, and STEM programs, prioritizing sports over academics. That move changed her life—today, she's an engineer. Every child in Alaska deserves the same opportunities to succeed right here at home. Yet, despite having the smallest population in the nation, our public education system is failing.

Our test scores rank among the lowest in the country. **This isn't just about funding—raising the BSA won't fix the deeper issues. Until we address the root causes, no amount of money will make a difference. Throwing more funding into a flawed system without accountability is not a solution.**

**I understand there's a bill this session that could save school districts millions by consolidating them under the same medical insurance provider—an initiative previously worked on by Rep. Carpenter and, I believe, Senator Hughes. So why hasn't this been implemented? Why aren't we pooling resources to save the money we desperately need?**

We also need greater transparency from local governments and school districts requesting additional funds. Where is this money going? Are we spending it to fly kids all over the state to play sports and not paying attention to what is actually being taught in the schools?

**Furthermore, with the push to fully fund Defined Benefits, I urge you to review the Supreme Court ruling in *Metcalf v. State of Alaska*. This decision allows former employees to rejoin an already debt-ridden retirement system. Repeating past mistakes will only deepen the financial crisis.**

Let's follow the money—because without accountability, nothing will change.

You'll hear plenty of testimonies today, but I ask you to set politics aside and focus on what's best for Alaska. I've done my homework, and there's no excuse for making decisions without all the facts.



**Attached is the *Metcalf v. State* Supreme Court opinion. Please review it—passing a Defined Benefits bill without fully understanding its consequences is like loading a gun aimed at Alaska’s future**

**[METCALFE v. STATE \(2021\) | FindLaw](#)**

	<p><b>METCALFE v. STATE (2021)   FindLaw</b></p> <p>Supreme Court of Alaska. Peter METCALFE, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Appellant, v. STATE of Alaska, Appellee. Supreme Court No. S-17157</p> <p><u><a href="https://caselaw.findlaw.com">caselaw.findlaw.com</a></u></p>
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Thank you for all you do.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Homer Education](#)  
**Subject:** Fully funded public school  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:08:26 PM

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Thank you for your work in the Alaska legislature.

I am writing to you from Homer asking for you to fully fund and forward fund AK Public Schools education. I support raising the BSA -base student allocation. I support paying teachers well. I support Alaskan public school educators and kkids.

as a long time Alaskan, I was born and raised on the Kenai Peninsula and got an excellent public school education in Homer. I raised my kids here and they got an excellent education- I want to support our teachers, para professionals, school nurses, counselors etc and pay them a good living wage with good benefits.

I hate to see our school funding being cut & our class sizes going up And our teacher is not being able to afford to live in the community that we love. Please support public schools and fully fund public school education. Our kids need it. Thank you.

Shannon McBride-Morin

[REDACTED]  
Homer AK, 99603

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Shannon McBride-Morin  
Co-Owner & Operator

Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge  
China Poot Bay & Homer, Alaska  
[www.AlaskaWildernessLodge.com](http://www.AlaskaWildernessLodge.com) 

Please read our [reviews](#) on



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Fund education in Alaska  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 3:18:41 PM

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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](#)  
**Subject:** Fund schools  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:35:48 PM

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I support full funding for schools. I support HB69.  
Please pass this bill.  
Thank you.  
Susan Drathman  
Homer, AK

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Rep. Kevin McCabe](#)  
**Subject:** Funding Education  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:02:33 PM

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I would like you to know I am against raising the BSA or any monies toward education until there is legislation requiring the Districts in AK to be accountable where every \$ goes. No more compromises!!

I would also like to see legislation to consolidate districts. It's crazy we have so many districts! The University system should have only 1 District, 1 Superintendent, etc. If technology is good enough for our students (during COVID) then surely all these administrations can use technology. It's outrageous the amount of money that is paid to administrations throughout AK.

I also want legislation for backpack funding, the money to go with the student!

Any District holding on to past monies, savings, etc.; some should be used to fund Education and stop asking for more until the outcomes are significantly better and AK is not at the bottom of the Nationwide list! The University system should be selling lands if they require more money!! Aren't they a land grant system?

Respectfully,

*Linda Breiner, District 30  
Talkeetna, AK*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Funding Education  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:04:11 PM

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**Greetings House Legislators,**

**Student education should most definitely be handled by Vouchers going to the families of each student - PERIOD!**

**The objective is to EDUCATE our children, not build fancy buildings, endless sports, and hire a million administrators!**

**Sincerely,**

**Stan and Nikki Welles**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Funding for Education  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:15:11 PM

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I am a retired teacher. I want our schools in Fairbanks to be fully funded! Not all students have the luxury of going to charter schools! Fortunately my son makes enough money to allow my daughter in law to drive my grandchildren to their charter school. Parent involvement is mandatory to have students in this school. As a teacher for 30 years, I had students without parental involvement. Some parents both had to work out of the home and others choose not to be involved in their children's school life. Why "punish" these students by not fully funding schools? We need not only good teachers, but extra dedicated people to help students without competent skills.

Joyce Furnival

Retired Math teacher

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Rep. Maxine Dibert](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: HB 69: Education Funding - Increase BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:08:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [HB 69 Commentary Dibert.pdf](#)

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See attached for committee.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Cindi Lagoudakis <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:02 PM  
**To:** Rep. Maxine Dibert <Rep.Maxine.Dibert@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 69: Education Funding - Increase BSA

Please see the attached letter for commentary on this proposed legislation.

Thank you,  
Cynthia Lagoudakis  
Petersburg, AK



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:00:16 PM

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Please consider my daughter's testimony.  
Thank you.

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

**From:** Lucca Lowe <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**To:** Amanda Smith <[REDACTED]>

To whom it may concern, my name is Lucca and I'm a middle schooler in Homer Alaska. I am in support of HB 69 and here's why.

To start, I know many people including myself who favor musical and theater classes over any others. Plus, the teachers that teach choir/band in homer are people that the students love and trust as a good person to talk to, and without them some of us would not be where we are right now. Also, without theatrics and musical presentation, there wouldn't be half as many amazing productions in our district.

Athletic activities provided by the school are some of the best things about school. It gives kids motivation to keep their grades up, and without sports there would be a serious lack of motivation to even try to pass in school. Adding to that, without sports, plenty of kids would not be In Good health or wouldn't be able to get in shape in any other way, seeing as there are limited sport options outside of school. One of my very close friends has severe stomach problems and needs to have physical activity outside of P.E.

In conclusion, these are the reasons that we need more funding for the schools all over the district. The kids mental and physical health is on the line. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Lucca

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

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----- 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](mailto: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

--

Owner & Lead Designer  
Gardenwild Floral  
"wildly elegant florals"  
[www.gardenwildfloral.com](http://www.gardenwildfloral.com)

Mindset Coach for the Woman Entrepreneur  
[www.gretalewanski.com](http://www.gretalewanski.com)

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

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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](#); [Senate Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Ky Holland](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Hazel Czarnecki testimony supporting HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:05:03 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity for my daughter, Hazel Czarnecki, to testify verbally in support of House Bill 69 this evening. We're also sharing her written testimony below.

Sincerely,  
Hazel's parents, Amy Pocewicz and Nick Czarnecki

My name is Hazel Czarnecki. I live in Anchorage and am in second grade at Bear Valley Elementary School. I'm asking you to increase base student funding. I'm really proud that my school won the national blue ribbon. But things are getting harder at school. Last year there were 20 kids in my class when I was in first grade. This year there are 26 kids in my class. A lot of the time I have to wait in line to get help from my teacher. He's too busy to spend enough time with everyone. In my class all the students come together to sit on the rug, to listen and learn what to do for our next assignment. It's the calm place. Now that my class is so big there's not room for everyone on the rug. Some kids sit on the floor and it can be hard to hear instructions. With a smaller class, I would be able to ask more questions. I would get more help with finishing my reading and skills assignments. Please support House Bill 69.

**From:**   
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69 - Education Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:34:49 PM

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Dear members of the House Education Committee,

I am a life-long Alaskan, aunt of five public school students and a 22-year Alaska public school educator. For the past ten years the flat funding of education, which has resulted in a steady increase in class sizes, has continually eroded what teachers like myself have been able to do for our students. To make the greatest growth in learning, students who have their basic needs met need excellent teachers and small class sizes. I can tell in my own middle school classroom that since class sizes have gone over 30 students in a classroom there has been a reduction in the individualized attention and feedback on assignments that I am able to provide to students to aid in their learning. Teachers aren't the only ones noticing the lack of education funding. Highly skilled professionals are choosing not to move to Alaska because they're hearing that our state has not consistently increased funding for education to at least keep up with inflation, which creates the appearance that Alaska minimizes the importance of providing a high quality education for Alaskan children.

HB 69 would provide desperately needed funds to school districts, improve Alaska's reputation as a state that values education and make a significant investment in Alaska's future workforce. Let's make our state a place people want to move their families to once again.

Please support HB 69.

Thank you,  
Leah Meyring

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

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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**  
*Art Educator & Sketch Artist*  
[discoverybysketch.com](http://discoverybysketch.com)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69 - Support  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:23:31 PM

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Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I'm a parent of two children under five in Juneau and am writing to provide support for HB 69. As has been well documented and discussed in previous sessions, the current inadequate funding levels are negatively impacting students, teachers, and our communities.

My family moved from Washington back to my husband's hometown of Juneau because of the community and promise of a better quality of life. Now we find ourselves faced with the difficult decision of potentially leaving Alaska for a state more favorable toward funding education.

In the event the bill passes and the Governor chooses to yet again veto, I call on you to vote to override and do the right thing for your constituents and their families.

Please act now to raise the BSA, include inflation-proofing, and secure Alaska's future.

Thank you,  
Katelyn Flynn (99824)

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**Kate Flynn, MPH**  
she/her/hers

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:38:08 PM

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I support a substantial increase in BSA. This is a high priority this year.

Thank you,  
Lisa Alexia, PA-C  
Mother of 2

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69 doesn't help ALL students  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 8:35:53 AM

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Hello Education Committee,

I am a mother of 3 Alaska children in the correspondence program in the Matsu Borough. I am emailing because I want you to understand my kids needs. The HB 69 bill you are proposing will not go to helping my children whatsoever. Please step back and ask the question, are all Alaskan children being treated fairly in a way you can control? What you can control is the money allotted to each child. The best way to make it all fair is for each child getting them same amount of funding. No one group of kids is above another. Please consider school choice and allowing parents to choose. You are steam rolling over our individual rights as parents to choose what is best for our kids. There is no form of education that is "better" than another. I am here to defend the public, private, charter, and correspondence kids. They deserve fairness for all. Make a voucher system. Allow the parents/kids to "walk" their allotment to where they want to be educated.

I have a dream...that one day to be fair to all children, no matter how their parents choose to educate they will be given the same amount of money from the government.

Thank you for reading,  
Elizabeth Kiddle

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

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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.

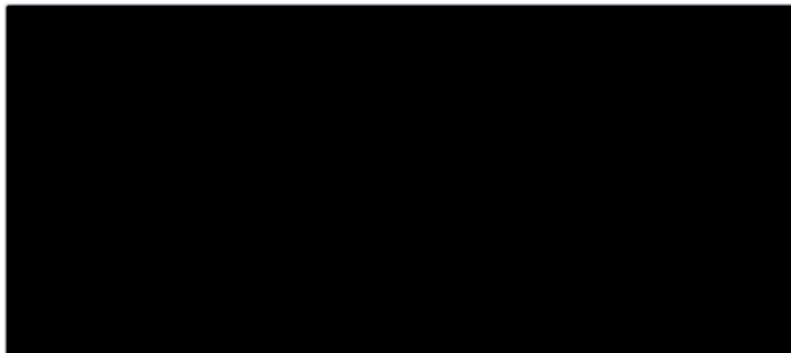
Please see the two links below, to an Alaska Law Review article, published in 2024, setting forth the reasons why the Alaska Supreme Court got the decision on **forward funding** legislation in HB 287 (2018) wrong, and why HB 287 (2018) provisions are correct. (Bolding provided for easy reference).

[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](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69 public testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:05:48 PM

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Kendall Brehm  
Salcha

While HB 69 is what we desperately need, the real question is how to we fund this measure .

Alaska needs to have a sustainable tax structure that taxes all that work in Alaska.  
Unfortunately, an income tax would do this. We currently tax EVERY Alaskan regardless of age through seizing the PFD. Even children pay this tax even though they don't have a vote. This is taxation without representation.  
As a patriotic American, you should be very concerned about this tax on children.

I propose a state income tax to cover the amount needed to fund the government with a FULL PFD .

This can be viewed as a tax refund for state income taxes paid for the people that live here. Also, raise the barrier to obtain a PFD for everyone that's not born in Alaska. TO Increase requirement for new arrivals to the state that they live here for at least 3 full years to qualify including the military. To treat everyone fairly that moves here.

So please stop rewarding those that work here and leave while you punish children and families that live in Alaska with underfunded schools.

Solve the problem for the long term so we can all move forward with a well funded state government.

Vote yes on HB 69 and also solve the funding problem without taxing children.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69 Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 8:02:48 AM

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Ladies and Gentlemen of the House Education Committee,

I'll say what many others have likely already said. For too long, educators in Alaska have watched the value of an education funding dollar dwindle before their eyes. Funding for our public schools has stagnated as the costs of doing business have continued to rise. These increases are compounded in remote areas. I have watched so much go away over the last 10 years. Staff positions have been cut, class sizes have grown, and extracurricular offerings have diminished. Meanwhile, more and more is asked of our staff who already give so much of themselves. The governor says he wants to see policy changes to accompany funding increases, but this is a non sequitur. Policy changes over the years have not come coupled with the funding to see them through. While inflation and too-little-too-late one-time funding measures have taken their toll and barely kept our schools afloat, the governor and his supporters can point to what appear to be languishing schools and claim that they do not deserve the dollars they get as if these conditions were not premeditated to give credence to the school choice movement. As an educator, I will always praise the many successes of our education system, even if they would never be measured by a standardized test. We have students who feel comfort and peace within our walls. We have students get to have two meals here every weekday. We help students make progress in their social, emotional, and citizenship skills to prepare them for the challenges of the world at large. These go beyond our curricular charge, but they are nonetheless important. Dunleavy et al. seek to deny us the funding we need to carry out our many missions all while trying to siphon away the funding we have to private and religious entities that have no oversight nor serve a public good. Our rural schools serve many public purposes as the hub for gathering and activity. We must fund and preserve them to keep our communities strong.

Members of the House Education Committee, I urge you to strongly support HB 69 through its full passage in the legislature and unite to swiftly override the governor's impending veto of it.

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Corey Shepherd

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69 Written Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:20:11 PM

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My name is Jen Gunderson, and I reside in Fairbanks. I have two children who attend neighborhood schools.

Our interior schools are facing a sharp decline in quality due to a sustained lack of funding. In the past 3 years, our district has closed four schools. This year, we will likely close an additional five schools. Our class sizes have steadily increased (see data on elementary class sizes [here](#)). Notably, 18% of our kindergarten classes are over the target PTR, with class sizes up to 29 without aides. Imagine trying to manage and educate 29 5-year-olds. It's an impossible task. We have buildings with tens of millions of dollars of deferred maintenance. We no longer have band and orchestra in elementary. We no longer have art in elementary. Even if we close five schools this year, our district will still have a \$6 million deficit. What is left to cut? And what will happen in the next few years if we continue to have enormous deficits? How will we remain solvent?

You have a constitutional duty to fund public schools. It is the law. Please do your jobs and increase our funding permanently. Give our school district stability and the resources it needs to provide an excellent, equitable education that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,  
Jen Gunderson

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 10:25:40 PM

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Again education is already monopolizing the budget process, holding it hostage like they did last year, blocking other needed bills from being heard. The union is trying to force Alaskans to neglect other important issues and to just pass education funding in multiple ways. None of it helps the children of our state. First of all, less children are being born, and our population is aging. Second, children have been essentially teaching themselves and each other, because teachers are more involved in pushing their social experiments and social agendas without parental consent and knowledge than teaching even basic skills like reading and math. Third, the whole school system is extremely bloated and top heavy, including multiple Vice Principals, Education office buildings that could be located in the schools and more educators actually teaching. Fourth, the public school system bullies everyone for money and if they don't get what they want, they cut the schools or programs they know the public supports. Fifth, Charter schools, home schoolers, private schools, all have better outcomes. Alaska spends more per student than any other state and they are almost last in outcomes. This state needs a school choice system, a voucher system. Give each parent the allocated amount for that student and let the family decide where their child will get educated the best. Competition and outcomes should sort the mess out. Not another dime because they do not deserve it. It is not going to the students, but to the teachers union. They don't even teach them practical things specific to Alaska, like survival in the wilderness for elementary school students, or how to drive or apply for a job in high school. Need more hands-on programs, multisensory programs, interactive programs where teachers are actively teaching. Need more Vocational Schools, More Residential Treatment schools for drugs/alcohol, mental illness. Need Woke, DEI, CRT and foreign funded programs out of the schools. Schools should be a merit based system with less teaching of entitlement mentality and enabling behaviors. Teachers need to be better screened for their own mental stability and biases and closer monitored on how they are brainwashing our children to hate our country, and themselves if they are not another sex or political view. Our children are perfect the way they were created and teachers are entrusted with OUR CHILDREN to teach them the basic skills to be able to go to college, vocational school, military, or work. PERIOD. They are not their parents, they work in conjunction with the parents to develop the child's intellect, self esteem, and positive problem solving skills to be able to accomplish their goals. A first shot at that will be for education to do that yourself. Figure out how you can accomplish what charter schools are already accomplishing. Because public schools suck in Alaska.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Houston, AK 99694  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 10:24:14 PM

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Hello House Education Committee,

I am against HB 69, because what we desperately need is accountability in Education Funding for the sake of our children and our future. I am not against a BSA increase, if you address our needs too:

Throwing more money at the Base Student Allocation (BSA) won't fix our schools. We need real policy changes to hold districts accountable and make sure funds are used wisely.

By addressing the root causes, we can achieve better educational outcomes for Alaska's students.

Parents deserve options. Backing school choice and correspondence schools gives families the power to do what's best for their kids.

To keep and recruit great teachers, we need strong incentives and better support. Without quality educators, nothing else matters.

Please consider the root cause of our education difficulties and address them.

*Carol Carman*  
*D29 Secretary*

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:53:05 PM

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Hello Congress Members,

Please do NOT support HB69. This song and dance is getting way too old. Every year, it's the same cry: You increase the SBA, and we get the same poor ranking on the national education report card. More money does not equal a better education. It's amazing that after all these years, the legislators are still doing the same thing and getting the same disappointing results.

The issue is the mass exodus from the state. Lower our local taxes and make it affordable to live in Alaska, and the population will increase.

Do communities have to close schools? Of course. That's ok. Some people get very emotional when change happens. That's ok, too. They can be emotional. You legislators don't need to react to that. When the population goes back up, the school will open again. Sometimes teachers have to be pink-slipped, and people will get emotional about that, too. Let them. You are elected to make the best fiscal choices, not emotional choices.

Please vote no on HB 69 and instead do what you can to encourage the DEED to adjust their sails so districts can raise their standards without additional bureaucracy.

Thank you for considering my opinion,

Constance Jensen,  
Kodiak Island.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:34:06 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

The State of Alaska spends more money per student in terms of education than any other state in the nation, and yet we rank 47<sup>th</sup> on the list in terms of how stupid these kids end up. Throwing more money at this problem will NOT solve the issue. Giving out more money inevitably leads to more corruption at all levels, with absolutely NO accountability whatsoever. Our state education system is an utter failure, and I do not want any more of my tax dollars (or the PFD) going to further fund such a lost cause when you cannot even be responsible for the money you are currently receiving. Sadly, Alaska is the same as any other state: Education complains that they need more money, and no matter how much taxpayers give them, it is never enough, and the end results are still the same: Lousy.

Please vote NO to HB 69.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:51:38 PM

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My name is Brian Felts, I have two children in the Anchorage School District.


On HB 69, where will we find the funds, and what is the return on investment.

Alaska is facing a \$2 billion deficit. With no state income tax and reliance on declining oil revenues, adding hundreds of millions to the education budget through HB 69 would exacerbate our financial challenges.

In our district, we spend an alarming \$17,485 per student, which places us among the highest spenders in the nation per pupil. Despite this high expenditure, our educational outcomes are disappointing. Recent assessments show that over 60% of our students are not proficient in English Language Arts.

Any increase in funding should be tied to clear, measurable outcomes. We need to implement strict accountability measures to track where and how the money is spent, ensuring it goes towards proven methods that boost student proficiency.


Thank you.

**From:**   
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:43:54 PM

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Please consider this as my support for HB 69. The BSA needs to be increased and I am wholly disappointed in elected officials that seek to cut or underfund education. For the record; I also am against private school vouchers.

Paul Warner  
Sterling Alaska

**From:**   
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:33:48 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to oppose the the proposed increase in the Base Student Allocation for Alaska K-12 schools.

Firstly, we must acknowledge the inefficiency in how education actionable funds are currently utilized. Despite Alaska ranking high in per-student spending, our educational outcomes do not reflect this investment. increasing the BSA without corresponding reforms won't guarantee improved student performance. We need accountability measures to insure that additional funds directly enhance classroom learning and teacher effectiveness.

Secondly, historical data shows us that simply increasing funding hasn't led to better educational outcomes in Alaska. We consistently rank near the bottom in national proficiency assessments, suggesting that the issue is not merely a lack of funds but how these funds are applied.

We must consider reforms that will make our educational system more efficient, like supporting innovative teaching methods, reducing the @dministrative overheard, or expanding successful educational models like charter schools, which achieve better results with less.

Moreover, the states financial situation cannot be overlooked.we must consider the broader financial implications for the state overall.

Lastly, it's important to recognize that the BSA formula already adjusts for Alaska's high cost of living to some extent. Any increase must be tied to specific educational reforms or outcomes, not a blanket adjustment for inflation, which is already part of current calculations.

Education is critical, simply increasing the BSA without addressing the structural inefficiency of the system will not solve the problem. We must ensure funding is tied to a comprehensive strategy aimed at genuine educational reform.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Miller Swope

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:24:56 PM

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Dear Governor Dunleavy,

If HB 69 is increasing the BSA WITHOUT FIRST REFORMING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, then I oppose it.

Currently,

"The base student allocation (BSA) for Alaska schools is \$5,960 per student for the 2024–2025 school year. This is the amount of funding the state gives to each school district. "

We not only have the HIGHEST BSA in the nation, but we have one of the worst educational rankings in the nation at 48th for Pre K-12.

I support funding for education and outstanding teachers, provided there is a clear, positive return on investment. In most businesses, employees who failed to produce results are not kept on the payroll – resources are allocated efficiently. Unfortunately, those managing educational funds often fail to be responsible stewards, resulting in money not reaching students or their dedicated teachers who make a real impact.

We need meaningful educational reform to ensure resources are used effectively and directly benefit Students and high performing teachers. Increased funding alone isn't enough – without accountability and strategic allocation, money gets mismanaged.

Just as in any other field, administrators should be held to high standards, ensuring that investments and education lead to real, measurable improvements.

We cannot say that is currently true for Alaska. We are measured and ranked currently at 48th in the nation.

This is NOT a positive return on our investment.

Tammy Hogge

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:16:46 PM

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To Members of the House Finance Committee:

I strongly support HB 69, especially the stated purpose:

“The bill aims to ensure that education funding keeps pace with inflation and the cost of living in urban Alaska, thereby supporting the financial needs of the education system”

For many years now, School Districts throughout Alaska have been stressed by inadequate funding because the BSA has not kept up with inflation. I know that in his state of the state address yesterday, Governor Dunleavy said that increased funding should be tied to increase accomplishments and he has repeatedly touted accomplishments by charter schools. I do not feel that lower school test scores can be raised by the de facto reduction of school funding. I am a retired federal employee and many government workers have faced the challenge of doing more with less, but the level of inadequate funding of public education is appalling. I am sure that many people have told you that our children are our future. These children are going to be facing many challenges in our increasingly changing world—the least we can do is provide schools with adequate funding so that all children can learn in a clean and safe environment and their teachers will feel valued and eager to meet the challenge of preparing students to meet our challenging future.

Patricia Petrivelli

[REDACTED]

Anchorage AK 99508

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Education](#); [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:56:50 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 69. With flat funding from the state for the last decade, our schools are in desperate need of an increase in the BSA in order to be able to plan for the future. While I appreciate the extra one time funds that the legislature has provided the last few years, without a change to the BSA, districts cannot plan ahead and are stuck making last minute changes. I was dismayed by the release of the NAEP test results today, and the only way to reverse this trend in our children's education is by adequately funding education, as is your constitutional mandate. Many will argue that throwing money at it will not help with results, but as we learned from No Child Left Behind, punishing struggling schools with less funding does not bring results, it only makes the problem worse. The best education systems in the country are the ones that provide adequate funding to their schools. As a lifelong Alaskan with two children currently in our public school system and a teacher myself I am fully aware of the struggles we are facing and we cannot improve the system without more funding. Please pass HB 69 and fully support the future of our state. Thank you.

Alyssa Logan

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:52:44 PM

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We need school choice, absolutely. Especially in Alaska. Including Homeschooling and Charter schools.

Need accountability for spending. Top heavy in some areas. What is being taught and how. School lunches are horrible. Shameful.

Identify needs of students and teach accordingly.

Kim Nall

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:45:57 PM

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I am here to ask that you don't support HB 69 without having reforms put into place first. Just increasing the base student allocation without any type of accountability isn't providing a better education for the students. Alaska ranks very low nationwide thus proving adding money isn't going to increase the quality without accountability and other reforms. I live in Anchorage and watching the decisions that the school district is making shows that district and teacher union is more concerned about the money they can get vs what is best for students. You need to think about Alaska, and our students are the future, and they deserve the best education. Parents should be allowed to make educational decisions for their families. One of the ways this can be done is through school choice. Parents should be able to make the best educational decisions for their families, whether it be through public school, private school, charter school, or home school. They are taxpayers also, so their allotments should be used at the school of their choice and not just giving to the local school district.

Thank you for your time.

**LORIE STOORZA**

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:30:24 PM

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My name is Kathleen Williams. I am an RN here in Alaska. I have grandchildren that attend public schools in the Valley.

I would like to ask that you vote against HB 69. Unfortunately, Alaskan students rate very low in academic achievement even though we have a very high BSA. Throwing more money at the situation will not make things better. There needs to be accountability for all Alaska school districts to see that monies are spent wisely.

I also believe that parents should be able to choose what type of schooling (correspondence, Charter schools, or home school) their children receive. All schools should be held accountable for their student's educational outcomes as well.

Please look at education holistically. Funding is only one part of helping our kids get the best education possible.

Thank you for your time,

Kathleen Williams RN

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [senate.education.committee@akleg.gov](mailto:senate.education.committee@akleg.gov); [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:35:01 PM


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The schools in rural Alaska are the hub of an immense amount of activity. It's not just learning, it's nutrition, social emotional learning, physical wellbeing. Prices have skyrocketed. Our children deserve a chance to learn.

Thank you!

Tracey Schaeffer, OTR/L  
Trauma Informed Occupational Therapist and Certified Yoga Instructor  
Arctic OT Services, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Want to be trauma aware? Connect before you correct and get curious, not furious!

**From:**   
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:30:31 PM

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Testimony from Kathy Simpler, educator in Kodiak

Thank you House Education Committee, Co-Chair Story and Co-Chair Himschoot for the opportunity to share my statement.

I'm excited to speak about HB 69 because if passed, this could be a game changer for Alaska.

My name is Kathy Simpler, and I am a career educator from Kodiak, Alaska. I knew over 40 years ago that I wanted to be an educator. I am a child of the 70s. My dad was the main bread winner. I know that I am lucky that he had a job that he loved as a special education teacher that came with benefits to support his family of four. He commercial fished on my grandparents seine boat in the summer to supplement our family's simple middle-class life. Still today, most educators, no matter their position in Alaska schools, work in the summer to make up for lost wages in their primary education job due to extremely low salary increases over time.

My brother became an architect and now works as a project manager in a world known company. He negotiates his salary increase and over the years has consistently earned a yearly bonus, making a reasonable 6 digit figure after 30 years in his field. The dollar amount doesn't matter, but I think it's important to note that as a professional he has been compensated much more than I have. He doesn't have anywhere near the education that I have to maintain my license as an educator. I am a UAF graduate, attained my Master's degree and have nearly 90 college graduate level credits beyond that to maintain my licensure and skill level- most of those classes have been taken in the UA system. AND I am currently enrolled in another graduate program at UAA, after 30 years of being an educator in the classroom. His profession doesn't require the continued education training.

However, one of the attractions of becoming an educator is knowing what your pay is going to be year to year. It helps with planning and budgeting. If I know my salary will increase a bit, then I can save a bit more for what I choose. Not knowing my salary causes me undue stress. It's the same for our school districts. Not knowing what the funding will be year to year, has caused undue stress for everyone in our state. People outside our state are watching. Potential educator candidates and families who might be considering a move up here are watching. Public education belongs to everyone, and we should send the message loud and clear that we VALUE public education and our youth and show the nation by passing HB 69.

When I came to Alaska in 1996 Kodiak had a doubling salary index and a school

budget of about 20 million dollars.

Fast forward about 30 years, now our school budget is about 50 million dollars and because of contract negotiations, our salary index is no longer double. If it were, I'd be making about 110k a year in Kodiak. My salary next year won't break 6 figures. My salary has not kept up with the rise of inflation, while everything else around me has. The cost of doing business has increased and our students, our workforce, our whole state has been affected by the consistent flat education funding. School districts are competing against each other to find the best candidates for their positions, while figuring out who is going to maintain their buildings, what do they cut that will have the least impact on students to pay for it, and do they put the AP math students in the library again because there isn't an adult available to be at the head of the class today? Alaska is in and has been in a crises.

I am excited about this bill because like I said, it could be the game changer we need for Alaska. Alaska is the land of promise, adventure, and opportunity. We want people to become part of our communities. We want our communities to thrive. That begins with healthy public schools where opportunities are supported, and school districts are able to offer competitive and attractive salary and benefit packages that stabilize our staff, which leads to student achievement. Our students deserve the best. It's time to put this education funding issue to rest and pass HB 69. Thank you.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:27:08 PM

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Please support HB 69 to prioritize the education of Alaska's children. Education must be one of our state's top priorities – it's quite literally the key to our state's future success.

HB 69 ties the BSA to inflation. This should have been done years ago, but at least we can now support this common-sense measure. The costs to properly educate our students are not insulated from inflation, and it honestly is a government inefficiency to be debating this topic every year. Let's please agree that education funding per student should increase proportionally with inflation so that the legislature can focus on other important topics.

Some of our government leaders are also trying to tie this discussion to charter school expansion. Charter schools are an unhealthy way of addressing problems in our education system – the end vision of having charter schools is a two-tiered society in which there are the "haves" and the "have not"s. Charter schools siphon engaged families out of our neighborhood schools and leave the neighborhood schools with fewer resources, fewer active advocates, and fewer parent volunteers. This fundamentally moves us toward more socially and economically stratified communities – that isn't a healthy society. We must prioritize opportunity for every child in our state, which means prioritizing the funding of neighborhood public schools.

To keep it simple: please support HB 69.

Thank you,

Brian Smith

Petersburg, AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:43:30 PM

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Dear Representative House Education Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to fund HB 69. As a community member of Kodiak, our School Board just voted to close one of our elementary schools. Its true enrollment has been on the decline for several years, however the cost of education has not declined. The KIBSD is now challenged with, in addition to closing a school, to cut more personnel and programs to balance the budget. Since funding has not been a priority of the Governor for over the past several years, there are no (safe and extra) savings to be had to use towards the already compromised budget restraints with our educational programs. Our Kodiak and ALL Alaskan students deserve better!

Please vote favorably on HB 69 and fully fund the Public Schools of Alaska.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Kreta



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:39:59 PM

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To Whom it hopefully Concerns,  
Some type of increase is necessary to accommodate inflation regarding Alaska's BSA. Please invest in our future, the future of our children.

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Thanks,  
A voting Alaskan citizen for 12.5 years.

Nikole Leininger

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Rep. Ky Holland](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:30:02 PM

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Members of the State of Alaska House Education Committee,

Please enter my strong support in the record for HB 69, which will provide an increase in the Base Student Allocation for Alaskan public schools by \$1,808 spread over the next three years (\$1,000 FY 2026, \$404 FYs 2027 and 2028). This increase is far, far overdue. Over the last decade or more we have witnessed the negative impacts of school funding that has not kept up with inflation. The result? Trained teachers fleeing the profession (especially since they no longer get defined benefit pensions, which will also hopefully be addressed in this year's session) overcrowded classrooms, and outmigration as families seek communities that provide better educational and other services for their children.

As a former educator in the Anchorage School District, I'm so distressed to see the effects of underfunding for schools on students and school staff. This is a critical moment to turn these negative trends around and rebuild our communities. Please do everything in your power to ensure a veto proof passage of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Janice A. Banta  
Anchorage, AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:03:58 PM

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Please vote NO on this bill. My Husband has worked in education for over 40 years and the more money schools get, the worse the schools got. Get the Federal Government out of our schools with THEIR mandates of what the teacher must teach, or risk funding..... The state of Alaska is a remote state and should offer more options due to our diversity in Native populations and distance. Get the WOKE ideology OUT of our school system and return it back to basic education. Get Rid of ALL teachers who would promote this kind of perversion, get rid of all the LBGT+ flags in our classrooms and proudly hang the American flag again, along with the pledge.

More money will not fix this issue of our failing schools. The NEA will not fix the problem.... They want more money in dues. All teachers will automatically get a \$300-\$400 dollar raise per month to OPT OUT of the union..... many teachers don't even know that they have the option to do so under the Janus Act.

Last but not least, the disrespect students show for their education and to the teachers is terrible....beyond terrible! When students are not grateful or appreciative of their "free" education, they do not and will not learn. Unplug them all during school hours and do face to face teaching again.

Thank you for time,  
Elizabeth Chase  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:48:41 PM

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 69, which proposes a significant increase in per-student funding for Alaska's public schools over the next three years. While I understand the need for adequate educational funding, I have several concerns regarding the implications of this bill:

1. **Financial Sustainability:** The proposed increase, amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars over three years, raises questions about the long-term financial sustainability for the state of Alaska. Given our reliance on volatile revenue sources like oil, committing to such a sharp increase in spending could strain our state's budget, potentially leading to cuts in other essential services or future tax increases.
2. **Inflation Adjustments:** While adjusting for inflation is a commendable goal, the bill does not provide a clear mechanism for how these adjustments will be funded in the future. This could lead to unpredictable budgeting, especially if economic conditions change.
3. **Accountability and Transparency:** There's a lack of detailed accountability measures in HB 69 to ensure that the increased funds will directly benefit student outcomes. Without specific metrics or oversight, there's a risk that the additional funding might not translate into educational improvements.
4. **Alternative Approaches:** I believe there are alternative approaches to enhancing education that should be considered. Focusing on educational policy reforms, such as teacher training, curriculum development, or infrastructure improvements, might yield better results without the immediate need for such a substantial financial commitment.
5. **Community and Local Control:** This bill could centralize educational funding decisions at the state level, potentially reducing local control over how education dollars are spent. Communities vary widely in their needs, and a one-size-fits-all increase might not serve all districts equally well.

I urge you to reconsider the passage of HB 69 in its current form. Perhaps a more measured approach, one that balances the need for educational funding with the state's fiscal health and includes clear accountability measures, would be more appropriate. Appropriate steps need to be taken to ensure outcomes in our education system. Claims that the state costs are higher are not valid. We're top three in costs and bottom of the barrel in outcomes. The programs offered in the states with similar per pupil spend are astronomically superior to Alaska. I would appreciate if you could share this perspective with your colleagues on the committee and consider amendments or alternatives that address these concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing how you plan to proceed on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Woods

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Rep. Ashley Carrick](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:11:26 PM

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Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

Over the past several years, I have written countless emails urging an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

Today, I am writing to you not just as a concerned parent, but as someone who is begging for action. When my family arrived in Alaska in 2013, I was filled with excitement and hope for my sons' education. It felt like a bright, promising future. But over the past decade, I have watched that promise wither. The once-strong education system has crumbled due to a lack of consistent funding, and I fear for what remains for my elementary-aged sons and their peers.

Please, I urge you—invest in our children's future. Increase the BSA. Our children are our future, and more and more families are going to leave Alaska if we can't see a future for our families here.

Sincerely,

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

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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]  
Homer Council on the Arts  
[REDACTED]  
Homer, AK 99603  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69. Support communication  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:30:50 PM

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My name is Patti Truesdell . I am contacting you in support of HB 69

I am a retired teacher and KPBSD School Board Member District #1.

My children and grandchildren have attended the Peninsula schools.. Sadly, because of funding cuts, my grandchildren are not receiving the outstanding education my older children received! That is unacceptable to me.

Our schools need help and support. The Kenai Schools are anticipating a 17 million dollar deficit and I do not look forward to the future of our 43 schools without an increase in the BSA.

At our next Board meeting will be looking at a freeze on hiring and closing several of our small schools. Our students and families deserve better!

I volunteer three days a week in two of our elementary schools.

Here are the facts:

One elementary school in Kenai has 30 students in a fourth grade class!! Fact That is not acceptable!

Another elementary school in my district with 350 students and has no music/band program! Three years now.. when my children attended the school, there was a full music programs including band!! Several parents have complained about not having a music program. At least one of those families has ultimately removed their students to a local private school where they have a music program.. I hate that we are losing because we can't get staff and programs to best meet the needs of our students.

Our school board is already working on a list of employees and non-certified who will not have contracts next year. These losses will impact many different programs throughout the District !

Wrapping up.. we need your help! Please support our , staff and our programs! We are counting on you!

Thank you so much for your service to our state and its citizens (and our students!)

Patti Truesdell  
[REDACTED]  
Soldotna, Ak 99669  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB 69  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 6:41:48 AM

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I beg you to SUPPORT HB 69 for our children in public education in Alaska! We are suffering and charter schools no matter how you look at it are NOT the answer!

Thank you,

Karen & Mark Severson

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 - EDUCATION FUNDING: INCREASE BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:34:00 PM

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Alaska Legislature Education Committee Members:

I encourage the committees to not waste any time aligning necessary education policy reforms with the priorities of our new federal administration as demanded overwhelmingly by the public. This will be important to ensure funding eligibility and associated predictability in the fast-approaching next fiscal year.

Legislation delays due to education committee inaction and failure to act appropriately could have significant impacts to local communities, school districts, and children. The resulting consequences and failure on the committees' behalf would be extremely disappointing.

The committees should pay particular attention to recent Federal Executive Orders. So far these include:

January 20, 2025, „Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, and  
January 28, 2025, Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation

I hope the committee acts swiftly to help ensure students are free from existing abuse and mental health risks resulting from guidelines which have remained unchecked for too long. An example of such guidelines include the Anchorage School District's publication entitled, "Administrative Guidelines: Working with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students and Employees".

Good luck to you all in rising to the occasion and satisfying this urgent need. Many of us look forward to celebrating additional inklings of positive trends in the education of young Alaskans.

Sincerely,  
Lucas Smith  
Anchorage Resident

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 - Full support  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:41:34 PM

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I am trilled to see bill HB69 with the intent to boost the BSA back on the docket. Our children deserve teachers and schools that give opportunities for students to thrive by providing stable and enriching learning environments.

Jody Mastey  
Homer, Alaska  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 - Raising BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:06:56 PM

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Dear members,

As a 40 year Alaskan teacher, mother, grandmother and forever Alaskan resident - I STRONGLY support this long overdue increase in our state education system. It is shameful to live in a state that issues annually DFDs, has millions in savings and yet each year invests less in our children's education. YES - flat funding is a reduction....To continually require educators to do more with less, yet expect better results just doesn't make sense.

Most Sincerely,  
Kristie Wall

[REDACTED]  
Kodiak, Ak. 99615  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:32:07 PM

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House Education Committee:

I am an Anchorage educator, administrator, and charter school parent. calling in opposition to HB69. Increasing the BSA without any measurable reforms is the definition of insanity “doing the same thing but expecting different results.” It’s not just the funding we need to look at— it’s how those funds are being allocated.

If ANY priority in education ever comes before student achievement, we have the wrong priorities.

Did you know that school choice creates healthy competition which drives outcomes for all students up— even those who attend traditional public schools? You can access the latest research on [https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_http://edchoice.org\\_!!LdQKC6s!lc8\\_nd7rrflET8JAuMChYrK36K-\\_pXcbC3FYtQ7lxktBrEE3S1urc8buk7Y27ZxJiMK5DKYnJ5gOafMytAjV9Fkp\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://edchoice.org_!!LdQKC6s!lc8_nd7rrflET8JAuMChYrK36K-_pXcbC3FYtQ7lxktBrEE3S1urc8buk7Y27ZxJiMK5DKYnJ5gOafMytAjV9Fkp$). These studies show time and time again that school choice drives costs down and outcomes up. That’s why more states are adopting school choice policies every day. Yet Alaska seems to turn a blind eye to the facts in favor of powerful unions. Unfortunately, priorities besides student achievement tend to drive decisions in Juneau.

Without fiscal accountability, education will eat up our state funds, as in the past, with nothing to show for it. It will eat up our PFDs so that families cannot use those funds to supplement their kids’ education.

Many families are turning to charter schools, of which Alaska has the best in the nation. Fund charter schools to a greater degree so that they can help close the education gap and empower low income families with the funding to make powerful choices for themselves.

I came from a low income family who pulled me from a sub-par school to thrive in a different school. I am thankful every day for the choice my parents were able to make that changed the trajectory of my life.

Let’s not do what we’ve always done and expect different results. Let’s be accountable to the parents first who care the most about their kids’ growth. Let the funding follow the child. Fund students not systems. Trust parents not bureaucrats.

Leigh Sloan  
[REDACTED]

Leigh

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 : vote yes  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:07:36 PM

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Thank you madam co chairs and members of the education committee for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you for bringing this important bill up early in the legislative session. I am for HB 69.

My name is Laura Stats a long time resident of Juneau. I have three children who have graduated from the Juneau school district and now 3 grandchildren, one homeschooled and two at Auke bay elementary.

Two years ago my grandchild received extra help for reading for a short time which resulted in him becoming a strong and avid reader. I am not sure that program is still available at this time due to budget problems. I dare say that that program could very well have been cut since a budget shortfall in the district.

A strong education system is a foundation for the development of a thriving democracy.

Waiting to testify this morning I listened to testimony of our many parents, school teachers and staff. You have received excellent feedback from the people of Alaska.

The certainty of a budget for administrators has been requested frequently to promote an organized start of the school year.

Small businesses owners have brought up the importance of good schools to attract families and support businesses which produce a vital economy.

I appreciated hearing from Dr Lisa Skiles Parady the Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators who stated the vast portion of money that is needed to keep up with the inflation of repairs, salaries , supplies and a comparative wage for teachers. She also reminded us that the accountability falls on our state government's shoulders to provide such funding and I agree.

I encourage you to vote for HB69.

Thank you for your service.

Best regards,

Laura Stats

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 BSA Permanent increase  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:13:22 PM

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The Administration's never get cut ! They are the bloated elephant in the room ; Education Test scores in Alaska are in the gutter; Always it is the Teacher's & Students that suffer from this bloated Administration ; They want more Funding with no accountability ; You are Robbing from all of us to pay for this ! I can see that our State has absolutely NO concept of Budgeting and Accountability ! I am opposed to HB 69 BSA Permanent increase !

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** H-B69 BSA Permanent Increase  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:51:22 PM

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I have no children but I do know that our education system is the lowest of any states so I oppose H-B69, taking the peoples PFD to put towards the education system .



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 Funding for Public Education  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:31:14 PM

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I am voting to voice my support for this bill.

Alaska cannot afford to do otherwise.

Alaska has been facing a consecutive loss in population for over a decade now, and a major factor in that outmigration has been a lack of funding for education.

If you care about the future well-being and success of this state, and the children who reside here, you will pass this bill.

I urge you to do so.

Sincerely,  
Amanda LaBarre

Fairbanks, AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 In Support of  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:20:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [HB69.pdf](#)

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Please find my letter in support of HB69 attached.

Thank you.

Kari Petersen

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 testimony - in support  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:15:59 PM

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Dear House Members -

Thank you for your service to the current and future citizens of Alaska.

As a school board member in the Denali Borough, our board like many others struggles with balancing our annual budget with our commitment to doing what is best for the students.

I am writing to **advocate for HB69** and, specifically, the tiered increase to the Base Student Allocation and tying future BSA increases to inflation.

Without a BSA increase to provide predictable and reliable funding, our school district can not efficiently budget for next year nor commit to high quality teachers. The perennial insecurity of education funding undermines community relationships and parent confidence about the true commitment to its current and future citizens by the State of Alaska.

Please make up for the impact of inflation after so many years of flat funding. Our borough assembly has maxed out it's financial support, we have to look to the state to fulfill its responsibilities to the children.

Respectfully yours,

Dawn Adams  
Seat F, District 4  
Board President  
Denali Borough School District

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:13:34 PM

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Hello,

I am writing as a constituent of district 25 and am writing to testify my support for HB69. Growing up in Anchorage, I saw how lack of funding and budget affected my own education as well as my peers and younger siblings. Supports I had in elementary school, such as a full time counselor and early intervention for struggles with reading, we're no longer available just three years later for my younger brother, and have not been available since. Schools are the base of our future and future generations, and without proper resources, we cannot be properly prepared.

Thank you,

Ella Mayo-Kiely  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK  
99507

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 to raise the BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:03:02 PM

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I support HB69 to increase base student allocation. At a time when young families are leaving Alaska for multiple reasons, let's not have our underfunded schools be one of them. Having a huge gap in funding is stressful for our educators, our city administrators, our parents and our school boards. Each year families hear stories on the news or experience first hand program cuts and even school closures and this plays a major role in why some families choose to leave, something that I myself have considered.

Please support this very important bill for Alaska's future.

Sincerely,  
Angela Bowers

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69- vote no!!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:20:40 PM

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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 a child in Alaska I do not support putting more money into the school districts, I don't believe more money is the answer to outcomes for children. 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. "

Pamela Farley  
[REDACTED]  
Palmer, AK 99645  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69- Vote Yes!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:56:32 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing in support of HB69. Please vote yes! The Education system in Alaska needs this increase to the BSA.

I appreciate your time,

Jen Reid  
Sitka, AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69 Written Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:05:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [Mckee 1.pdf](#)  
[Mckee 2.pdf](#)

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Hello,

I am emailing on behalf of Charles McKee, he wished to submit these documents as written testimony ahead of his public testimony at today's meeting on HB69.

Thank you,

Ian Tremblay



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:58:47 PM

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Dear House Committee on Education,

Please support HB 69 to increase funding for our schools. Our school funding and education is in a crisis. It is imperative it is turned around as quickly as possible to further demise.

Thank you for serving the children of Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Devry Garity

Homer, AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:39:49 PM

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Dear Legislators,

Please vote yes on HB 69. Our schools have not had adequate funding since the last time the SBA was increased in 2017. The Governor is giving no good reasons for not putting an increase in the budget. From what we are hearing from here he appears to be on a mission to defund public education to cause its failure. We need you to see through his false claims and see he has no evidence backing his beliefs. Please help us and pass HB 69.

Paying teachers more to recruit and retain the best instructors we can hire is not throwing money at the problem.

Providing more money to stop the trend of increasing class sizes is not throwing money at a problem.

Maintaining buildings is not throwing money at a problem.

Investing in education to reduce the number of school closures in Fairbanks and elsewhere is not throwing money at a problem.

Increasing the state commitment to education to bring back music, the arts and other necessary ingredients of a complete education is not throwing money at a problem.

The problem is the governor.

Please help us!

Kelly O'Connor Demko

[REDACTED]

Petersburg, AK 99833

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:04:37 PM

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**Good evening My name is Jamie Donley living in Eagle River. I have 3 amazing kids. My twins were blessed with the opportunity to get into NLABC. My oldest went to the failing overpriced neighborhood school. NLABC is an alternative school that usually has over 500 children on a waiting list to get into they're almost a title 1 school with 3 National Blue Ribbons for educational excellence and received less money than the regular schools yet they crush the other schools in reading and math because of the proven curriculum. Giving the Anchorage school district a blanket increase without oversight and**

**change is reckless and wasteful. I voted for Governor Dunleavy both times because of his vision for our children and his knowledge from being a teacher, principal, served on a school board in the Matsu Valley. His passion for educating our children and giving us school choice. Mike has an education package put together to fix our broken system and give our children the opportunity for a better future. I'm against HB69 and pray that our legislators will do what's best for our children regardless of the political party they're in. Our children deserve a system that allows them to thrive.**

**Thank you,  
Jamie Donley**

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:45:57 PM

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I am writing you today from Kodiak, Alaska to ask you to fund the HB69 bill.  
After teaching for the KIBSD for over 25 years I feel the need to encourage you to pass this funding.

Our district has just gone through the painful process of deciding to close one elementary school in order to fund our teachers, schools and keep a balanced budget.

This is a difficult process for a small district. Every family will be impacted.

Please help by passing HB69.

Thank you,

Barbara Brewster

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:22:47 PM

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I support the public schools and an increase to funding the education to our public schools. You can find additional funds from the allocation of the governor's request of a \$6.5M+ private plane. However, I worry about tying it to our economy.

Let's try a new approach to the BSA by considering a few new factors:

- **Student Needs:** Schools may receive additional funding based on the needs of students, such as those with disabilities, low-income students, or English language learners.
- **State or District Budget:** The amount of funding available in the state's budget can affect the BSA. If the state has more funds available, the BSA might be higher.
- **Additional Adjustments:** There might be other factors like geographic cost differences (some areas may cost more to operate than others), and this can adjust the BSA amount.

Each borough may have different unique needs for this allocation, but the core idea is that it's tied to student enrollment and local funding policies.

If we continue to tie the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) can be troublesome for a few reasons:

- **Mismatch with Educational Costs:** The CPI measures inflation in general consumer goods and services, but it doesn't always align with the specific costs schools face. For example, education-related expenses like teacher salaries, special education needs, or school infrastructure often rise faster than the CPI. This means the BSA, adjusted by CPI, may not be enough to cover the real cost increases schools face.
- **Underfunding During Low Inflation:** If the CPI is low or there's deflation, the BSA increase could be minimal, potentially leaving schools without the necessary funds to cover rising costs, especially when the cost of providing education is still increasing. Especially, if we are heading into the next great depression.
- **Regional Discrepancies:** The CPI is a measure of Anchorage, but costs of living and inflation can vary widely across different boroughs. For example, a borough with rapidly increasing housing or labor costs might struggle if its funding is tied to a Anchorage CPI rather than a more regionally adjusted measure.
- **Lag in Response:** The CPI is usually reported on a delayed basis (annually, for example), which means funding adjustments based on CPI may not reflect current cost pressures in schools in real-time.

In short, while the CPI is a commonly used economic indicator, it doesn't always track the specific financial pressures that schools face, making it a potentially ineffective way to ensure schools are properly funded year over year.

While tying the Base Student Allocation(BSA) to standardized test performance can be troublesome for several reasons:

- **Inaccuracy in Reflecting True Needs:** Standardized test scores don't always accurately reflect a student's learning needs or potential. Many factors—such as socioeconomic background, access to resources, language barriers, or disabilities—can affect test performance, meaning schools serving higher-needs populations may be unfairly penalized, even if they're doing their best to support students.
- **Pressure to "Teach to the Test":** If schools' funding is tied to test results, it can create an incentive to focus more on test preparation rather than providing a well-rounded, enriching education. Teachers and administrators might prioritize testable subjects and skills, potentially neglecting creative, critical thinking, and non-tested subjects like the arts and physical education.
- **Incentivizing Inequality:** Schools in wealthier areas often have more resources, which can lead to higher test scores. On the other hand, schools in low-income areas, where students may face more challenges, might see lower scores. This could create a cycle where lower funding leads to fewer resources and more difficulty improving test scores, perpetuating inequality.
- **Test Score Variability:** Standardized tests can be influenced by many factors beyond just what students have learned, such as test anxiety, student health, or the testing environment. Relying on these scores to determine funding could lead to fluctuations in funding that don't accurately reflect the quality of the education being provided.
- **Narrow Focus:** Education should aim to develop a wide range of skills, from critical thinking to social and emotional learning, not just the ability to perform well on a test. Tying BSA to test performance could diminish the focus on these important areas of student development.

In summary, while standardized tests can provide some insight into student performance, tying BSA to these results can lead to inequities and pressures that don't necessarily support the broader goals of education. So, I do not support it.

The best way to determine the Base Student Allocation (BSA) should be one that ensures fair and adequate funding for all schools while accounting for diverse student needs, regional differences, and the true costs of education. Here are several key considerations for determining an equitable and effective BSA:

- **Student-Centered Funding:** The BSA should reflect the varying needs of students, recognizing that some students require more resources to succeed. For example, students with disabilities, English language learners, and those from low-income backgrounds often need additional support. A weighted funding formula could allocate additional funds to schools serving higher-needs students.
- **Cost of Education:** The BSA should be tied to the actual costs of providing education, including teacher salaries, instructional materials, facilities maintenance, and other operational costs. This could be done by regularly updating the BSA to reflect actual inflation and rising costs in education, beyond just the general Consumer Price Index (CPI), which may not fully capture education-specific expenses.
- **Regional Adjustments:** Different regions may have different costs of living, including



housing, salaries, and operational costs. A regional adjustment to the BSA would ensure that schools in areas with higher costs aren't disadvantaged in comparison to those in less expensive areas.

- **Equity-Based Distribution:** The formula should prioritize equity, ensuring that schools in disadvantaged areas receive sufficient funding to bridge the gap in resources and opportunities. This might involve using a needs-based formula that factors in poverty rates, the percentage of students with disabilities, English language learners, and other equity factors.
- **Stability and Predictability:** The BSA should provide stable, predictable funding to schools. Frequent or drastic changes in funding can disrupt educational planning and make it difficult for schools to meet their students' needs. Setting a consistent growth rate for the BSA, while allowing for adjustments based on inflation or changes in student population, would help maintain this stability.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** The process of determining and distributing the BSA should be transparent to ensure fairness and build public trust. It's important that stakeholders—teachers, parents, and communities—understand how the BSA is calculated and how funds are being spent to improve student outcomes.
- **Long-Term Planning and Support:** Funding should not just address short-term needs but also support long-term educational goals. This might include investing in technology, teacher professional development, and infrastructure that improve the quality of education over time.

A balanced, needs-based formula that accounts for both the direct costs of education and the varying student and regional needs is likely the best approach for determining BSA. This ensures that schools receive the necessary funding to provide all students with a quality education, regardless of where they live or their circumstances.

To reflect the actual cost of education beyond the Consumer Price Index (CPI), it's important to incorporate factors that more accurately capture the specific challenges and expenses schools face. Here are several ways to achieve this:

### 1. Education-Specific Inflation Metrics

Instead of relying on the CPI, which tracks general consumer prices, a more targeted education-specific inflation index can be created. This index would track the costs that directly impact schools, such as:

- Teacher salaries
- Educational materials and technology
- Facilities maintenance and utilities
- Specialized staff (like counselors, special education professionals)
- Training and professional development for teachers
- Health and safety measures in schools

This tailored metric would better capture the true costs associated with running schools.

## 2. Regional Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)

The cost of living can vary significantly from one area to another. For example, schools in high-cost urban areas may face higher housing costs, transportation costs, and salary expectations compared to those in rural or less-expensive areas. A regional cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) can be added to the BSA to account for these disparities, ensuring that schools in higher-cost regions receive adequate funding.

## 3. Local Wage Adjustments

Since personnel costs (teacher salaries, administrative staff, etc.) represent a large portion of a school's budget, factoring in local wage trends is crucial. Local labor market adjustments could ensure that schools are able to recruit and retain quality staff by providing salaries that are competitive for the region, and reflective of rising or falling wage trends in the area.

## 4. Differentiated Funding for High Needs Students

As mentioned earlier, certain student populations—such as those with disabilities, English language learners, or those living in poverty—require additional resources. The funding formula could incorporate weighted allocations for these groups, reflecting the true cost of supporting these students, which often involves additional personnel, resources, and services.

## 5. Technology and Infrastructure Costs

The cost of integrating and maintaining technology has risen significantly in recent years, and this will likely continue to increase. Schools need to ensure they have the equipment, software, and cybersecurity measures to support both in-person and remote learning. A dedicated portion of funding for technology and infrastructure would reflect the growing need for digital tools and support.

## 6. Health and Safety Expenditures

Post-pandemic, schools face higher costs related to health and safety, including sanitization, PPE, ventilation improvements, and mental health services for students and staff. Including a health and safety adjustment would ensure that schools have the resources to address these pressing needs without detracting from their core educational goals.

## 7. Annual Reassessment of Cost Drivers

The cost of education evolves over time. To ensure funding is always aligned with current challenges, the education funding formula could include regular reviews (annually or biennially) of the major cost drivers, adjusting the BSA based on factors like changes in technology, infrastructure needs, or shifts in student population.

## 8. Collaboration with Educators and Administrators

Ensuring that funding aligns with actual needs requires direct feedback from educators and school administrators. Their insights about specific costs or challenges faced by schools,

particularly those in underserved or high-need areas, can provide a clearer picture of what funding levels are truly necessary to deliver quality education.

Incorporating these strategies would provide a much more accurate reflection of the actual costs schools face, ensuring that funding levels are appropriate and that schools have the necessary resources to meet the diverse needs of their students. The key is to regularly adjust and tailor funding formulas to address real-time changes in the education landscape.

An example of a needs based formula is below.

A needs-based formula for determining a school's Base Student Allocation (BSA) is designed to allocate funding based on the specific needs of students and the challenges faced by a school or district, rather than solely on student enrollment numbers. This approach helps ensure that schools with higher numbers of at-risk or high-need students receive additional resources to meet those needs. Here's how a needs-based formula can work:

Key Elements of a Needs-Based Formula:

- Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Every Student:
  - Every student enrolled in a school would receive a standard, base amount of funding. This amount covers basic education costs like teacher salaries, classroom materials, and general school operations.
  - Weighted Funding for High-Need Students:
  - The formula adds weights or additional funding for students who face greater challenges, including:
  - Low-Income Students: Additional funding is allocated for students from low-income families to help address the challenges of limited resources and access to educational opportunities.
  - English Language Learners (ELL): Schools with a higher number of ELL students would receive extra funding to support language acquisition programs and specialized instruction.
  - Students with Disabilities: Schools with a higher population of students with disabilities would receive additional funding for special education programs, services, and accommodations.
  - At-Risk Students: This could include students facing homelessness, those in foster care, or those at risk of academic failure. They may require additional support like counseling, mentoring, or other services.
- These weights are added to the BSA to reflect the higher cost of educating these students.
- Regional Cost Adjustments:
  - Since the cost of living and educational expenses vary by location, the formula can include regional adjustments to account for geographic disparities in salaries, housing, and overall cost

of living. This ensures that schools in high-cost areas can meet the financial demands of running schools.

- Local or District Needs:

- Some districts or schools may have unique needs based on factors like rural vs. urban locations, school size, or aging infrastructure. The formula could factor in additional funding for capital improvements or specific local challenges that impact the cost of education.

- Additional Factors (Optional):

- Teacher Experience and Quality: Districts with higher percentages of inexperienced teachers or those in hard-to-staff schools could receive additional funds for professional development, retention programs, or to attract highly qualified teachers.

- Health and Safety Needs: For example, if a school is dealing with a higher incidence of health issues, it may need additional resources for mental health services or school-based health clinics.

#### Example of a Needs-Based Funding Formula:

Let's say the base student allocation is \$6,000 per student. Under a needs-based formula, the following adjustments might be made:

- Low-Income Students: A school with 40% low-income students might receive a weight of 0.25 (25% more funding). For each low-income student, the school would receive \$7,500 ( $\$6,000 + 25\% \text{ of } \$6,000$ ).

- English Language Learners (ELL): If a school has 20% ELL students, they might receive a weight of 0.2 (20% more funding). Each ELL student could then receive \$7,200 ( $\$6,000 + 20\% \text{ of } \$6,000$ ).

- Special Education: A school with 15% students in special education could receive an additional \$1,500 per student to cover specialized services, bringing the allocation to \$7,500 per special education student.

- Regional Cost Adjustment: If a school is in a high-cost area, the formula might add \$500 per student to account for higher operational costs, increasing the BSA to \$6,500 per student.

#### Benefits of a Needs-Based Formula:

- Equity: By accounting for students' specific needs, the formula ensures that resources are directed where they're most needed, rather than simply distributing the same amount of money to every student regardless of circumstances.

- Targeted Support: Schools with a higher proportion of at-risk or high-need students receive additional funding to provide the necessary support, such as extra staff, tutoring, specialized programs, and resources.

- Flexibility: The formula can be adjusted to account for changes in student demographics,

regional cost shifts, or other emerging needs, allowing for more adaptive and responsive funding.

- **Incentive for Improvement:** Schools are incentivized to focus on improving outcomes for vulnerable populations, since funding is tied to the presence of students who require more resources, such as low-income or ELL students.

#### Potential Challenges:

- **Complexity:** A needs-based formula can be more complicated to calculate and administer, especially when adjusting for various factors like regional cost variations or fluctuating student populations.
- **Disincentivizing Consolidation:** Some argue that needs-based funding formulas may unintentionally create a disincentive for schools to consolidate or streamline, as they may lose additional funding when they reduce the number of at-risk students in a district.
- **Equity Concerns:** While the formula aims for equity, there could still be issues of distribution or local political influence that may affect how fairly resources are allocated.

A needs-based formula for determining BSA aims to ensure that funding is distributed in a way that reflects the actual challenges and costs faced by schools serving different student populations. By adjusting funding based on student needs, this approach seeks to provide more equitable and effective support for all students.

Thank you  
Susan Allmeroth  
Two Rivers

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:12:31 PM

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Greetings,

I support this bill. Please vote to support this bill and increase the base student allocation.

Thank you,

Lauren Blanchett

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99508

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:55:26 PM

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To whom it may concern-

I have been an Alaskan resident for 15 years now. The funding of public education in Alaska is abysmal. Supporting public education is a constitutional duty which the state is failing to do. This is leading to migration out of the state by those who are capable of doing so. As a parent of two elementary students, I implore you to increase public education funding. The educators with whom I have encountered at Bear Valley Elementary and Trailside Elementary Schools are amazing, but they are not magicians. They need proper funding which the state has consistently failed at providing. Public education funding will help retain a skilled workforce in Alaska. Those who are able are leaving to provide better opportunities for their children. Please support our schools, our children and the future of Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Morehouse  
Nurse practitioner  
Mom of 2 elementary school children

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:01:46 PM

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Dear House Education Committee Members,

I support House Bill 69 to increase the BSA with inflation proofing. I am a retired ASD teacher, parent of an ASD graduate and now a grandparent of a NSBSD student. Adequate funding is crucial for the public schools and must be a priority for all of our students to receive a quality education.

Thank you for working so hard to see this goal achieved.

Judith M. Ireton

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage AK 99504



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:05:08 PM

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Education reform must happen first, before any increase in school funding.

Sincerely

S.Curry

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 8:18:21 AM

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Dear Education Committee,

I would like to support House Bill 69, to increase the base student allocation in Alaska. I have a child in an ASD elementary school, and have watched our school cut staff members, learning opportunities, and increase class sizes over the years in response to static education funding. My child will enter 6th grade next year, where classes have 35 students, and teachers have 150-160 students! Those numbers severely limit meaningful learning and engagement. When I talk to friends that live elsewhere in the country, they are shocked by the class sizes we have in Anchorage. Currently, my family is considering leaving Alaska due to this education situation, as we want to live in a community that invests in our children. Please support HB69 to give our kids a better education.

Sincerely, Heather Johnson  
[REDACTED], Anchorage  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** hb69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:05:58 PM

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Hilda Martin and spouse Patrick E. Martin  
Residents of Anchorage since 1992

Greetings, we are sending this letter to voice our strong opposition to HB69. As tax payers we have the right to question where our state tax money goes. Education is very important to us and have seen through many statistics and polls that ASD academic levels have plummeted compared to other states in the United States. If Alaska is spending so much of our resources (aka tax dollars) I'd like to know where our money is going because our children most certainly not benefitting from it.

Question: Who is benefiting from the money coming out of our taxes and other resources that use the word EDUCATION stamped on it? Where is it going? Throwing money at these- one- size fits all systems does not help our ASD students or teachers. We know there are options to customize how each student learns best. Let's stop being the state that keeps pouring money into things that are unaccounted for and start producing factual proofs to bring up the education levels of our students?

- Why not combine the other low enrollment school districts in our state with one Superintendent to be responsible for? Instead of paying so many dollars for one superintendent at each district that has so low numbers? It isn't justifiable.
- Why not look at the resources ASD has at the Administration building with so many employees who can be trained to fill substitute positions throughout the district when needed like every day.

There should be no excuse for classrooms to be combined to greater number of students when ASD has available employees. That is saving money, cross train all the ASD employees that write academic curriculums, studies, programs etc... for the classrooms to be part of the bigger picture. Sell any real estate properties that may have been set for future projects now to help incur the cost of education.

My husband and I are in favor of an open-enrollment policy that allows students and their families to choose and attend the kind of public school that serves their specific needs. That may mean being going to a different residential school in the state, they choose. I am a former ASD employee who seen how students learning methods are not all the same and need to have different choices to better meet their needs.

Let's keep the main focus on the current students throughout our state of Alaska and their families whom the majority who pay taxes. Enough is Enough!

Thank you so much for reading this and consider my voice for others.  
Hilda Martin and Patrick Martin

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [house.Education@akleg](mailto:house.Education@akleg); [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB-69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:19:42 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

The Alaska House Education Committee is taking public testimony this evening (1/29) on a bill to increase funding for Alaska's schools.

There is a three year increase in base student allocation funding, and provision for ongoing inflation adjustments.

The governor is opposed and has been encouraging his people to weigh in - it looks to me like he's doing it on the government's dime. I've clipped the good parts from his anti-HB69 leaflet, the advice on how to testify, below.

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Here's my script. Not a work of genius, but should do the job:

My name is Penelope Oswalt Stimson and I live in Cordova, Alaska, 99574

I am writing to you to support the current education bill HB 69.

I am a 49 year Cordova resident, parent and former school board member.

I am 100% in favor of HB 69. We need to increase and inflation-proof the base student allocation. It has been way to many years since we have seen an appropriate increase  
To our school funding formula.

If we want our communities and state to grow and thrive, we need to guarantee parents and employers that we have a first rate system of public education. We already see too many families leave our great state because of the lack of support for our education system.

Starving public education of funds threatens our kids and our economy.

Vote to support HB-69 now.

Thank you.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB69: education funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:35:07 PM

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Dear State Legislature,

My name is Ailinh Tran and my family has been in Alaska for 10 years. My husband and I are both physicians and we know the importance of education, not only for ourselves and our family, but also for our patients.

We love it here and consider this our home but our primary concern about this state is the education system and the funding of our schools. We often talk about what would possibly force us to move out of Alaska and we always conclude that we would have to move if we felt that our schools were inadequate. I know we are not the only family who feels that way. I worry that if this bill does not pass, Alaska will lose more of its highly trained workforce and have more difficulty recruiting new staff.

The workforce and economy of Alaska depend on properly funding our schools. It is unfortunate that the current funding does not keep up with inflation and the needs of our schools, teachers, and students. Please pass this bill to ensure adequate funding of our schools and invest in the future of Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Ailinh Tran  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HN 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:03:22 PM

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I am writing in favor of House Bill 69 to increase the state's Base Student Allocation system. We need to support our schools. Thank you.

I am a resident of Homer, Alaska.

Evelyn Waltenbaugh

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:01:42 PM

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I strongly advocate for HB 69, as it is essential for providing our young children with a well-funded school system, thereby ending the cycle of annual budget cuts that our schools are forced to endure.

Thank you  
Mercedes Monroe

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:17:12 PM

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Dear Friends,

My name is Patricia Dick and I am a retired Sitka middle school teacher. All my children and their spouses all have their MAT for the State of Alaska, so we are a teaching family. Thank you for listening to Alaskans views on the [House Bill 69](#) proposed by Rebecca Himshoot. The damage that Mike Dunleavy and the Alaska legislature has done to education in this state is shameful! In Sitka and all SE Alaska communities we have lost so many teachers and programs that my grand children are getting a fraction of the education that their parents (my children) got. The Alaska Constitution does not mandate specifically very many things but one thing that it does mandate is that this state is responsible for funding EDUCATION!! Presently, this state is failing Alaska children and teachers in providing an adequate education!

Last year, I knew many really good Sitka teachers that were pink slipped due to lack of funds, and schools were closed all over this state. Most of our local teachers who were pink slipped committed to new jobs out of state BEFORE Dunleavy's veto saying deadlines for job opportunities out of state were looming. I support House Bill 69 which is at least an attempt at stabilizing education funding in Alaska and gives us a chance to vote out legislators that stand in the way of us starting to rebuild what we once had. We have done our job in Sitka, we elected Rebecca Himshoot and Burt Stedman who both support education. Now it is time for you to do YOUR part and support House Bill 69 NOW, to help us start to repair the damage that has been done, and begin to rebuild from this time forward.

Beware of legislators that say, "I think we need to tie funding to student performance." Alaska has wonderful state standards that presently EVERY teacher is required to cover and every student is expected to meet. Trust that process. But when you vote to close schools and fire teachers, you are failing your obligation to our Alaska Constitution!

I beg you, pass House Bill 69 now! If you pass it now, it sends a message to the teachers, that we still have left, that says, "We've got your back and you can build on what you accomplished this year!"

Sincerely, Patricia Dick, Sitka, Alaska



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:59:10 PM

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As a retired middle and high school teacher, there is no way adding more money to the BSA is going to fix the abysmal testing scores of Alaska students.

The money will continue to go anywhere but into the classroom, where smaller class size (15-18) and teaching the basics would.

All you are doing with this bill is feeding the education bureaucracy, which is NOT a solution to a better education system.

I don't understand why so many of you don't get this.

This bill merely throws money at problems instead of solving them.

Aldean Kilbourn  
Fairbanks North Star Borough school district retired teacher

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:26:45 PM

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Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to you today as both a general education teacher in an elementary school and a parent of a kindergartener in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD). Our district is facing a dangerous \$17 million deficit going into the next school year, and without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), the consequences for Alaska's children and communities will be devastating.

As I am sure you are aware, the only way to solve a budget crisis of this size is through deep staff and service cuts. The cuts currently being discussed in my local district include, but are not limited to: School closures and consolidation, elimination of all elementary school counselors, elimination of elementary school specialists (Like P.E., music, art, STEAM, and library), pink slipping all non-tenured teachers, shortened student days or student weeks, and reductions in overall student instruction and learning, just to name a few. Districts are scrambling to find solutions to meet the needs of a student population that relies on us more than ever. It is hard to fathom voters educated in Alaska that would support and vote for an agenda that advocates the slashing of education budgets, to ultimately provide a significantly worse experience in Alaskan public schools for their own kids. Directly supporting you constituents' children, their education, and the future of our great state is a popular stance, despite what current social media and political trends would have you believe.

The risks our Alaska State lawmakers are placing on Alaska's students with non-action on this matter is unacceptable, and the most vulnerable population in our state will suffer most. While affluent Alaskan's may be able to afford to send their students to private schools, drive them to alternative or charter schools in other areas, or enroll them in homeschool programs to cover the gap in the effective educational product, most Alaskan's will be forced to deal with the educational products our Alaska State Legislature has decided to fund. KPBSD's transportation deficit is so severe that bus route consolidations has already forced students to wait for their bus along dark highways, along busy streets, at locations far from their homes, or through dark wooded areas filled with all the plants and animals we warn tourists about. This is not the standard of education and safety that Alaskan families deserve, and in my opinion, violates the Alaska State Constitution:

#### Section 1. Public Education

"The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other public educational institutions. Schools and institutions so established shall be free from sectarian control. No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution."

Funding Alaska's public school system is not just a moral obligation; it is a constitutional duty. The vast majority of Alaska's children attend public schools, and yet years of neglect and divestment has left our schools struggling to provide even the most basic educational services. This trend must end.

Education of Alaska's youth, and the youth of much of the country, has become a product to be commoditized, marketed, and sold to parents and students. We cannot let private influence, corporations, or investment groups decide the future of education in Alaska. "School Choice" is only a choice when the lobbyists and private sector allow the public options to be funded enough to compete. The question for Alaskan Lawmakers is very simple: Who do you work for?

To keep pace with inflation and ensure that all students receive the education they are guaranteed under our state constitution, the BSA must be increased by at least \$1,808 per student. Anything less will continue the cycle of underfunding that forces school districts into impossible financial decisions, harming students, families, entire communities, and the future of our great state.

Alaska's future depends on the strength of its public schools. I urge you to prioritize education funding and provide the resources necessary to protect the well-being and success of all students. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,

Erik Dolphin  
Physical Education  
K-Beach Elementary

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** House bill 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:03:57 PM

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Hello,

I am writing in 100% support of House Bill 69. Funding our schools and our students' education is critical for the future of our state and our country. This is the place to increase funding to ensure quality education as we go forward.

Thank you.

Bonita Banks  
[REDACTED]  
Homer, AK 99603

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill No. 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:17:00 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

My Name is Leilynn Swain. I am a junior attending Sitka High School. It is from this point of view that I am writing to you in strong support of House Bill No. 69. I see this bill as a way to keep public schools afloat until Alaska's economy begins to grow again with recent openings of Alaska's energy resources.

Last year, my school, like many others, had to make multiple cuts to faculty, programs, and classes due to funding that hasn't matched inflation. This has resulted in severe negative effects on both teachers and students. One of the results is notably larger class sizes. This change has limited teachers' ability to give each student the individual attention that they need. This has affected all my fellow students but has been especially harmful for kids who were already struggling with school.

Another way that cutting teachers has had a negative effect is less obvious. That is that with less teachers the faculty who are left have to teach classes they are unfamiliar with to cover the missing positions. This means that the teachers are making sense of new material while simultaneously trying to teach it to students. This has made learning much more difficult for my classmates and me to learn.

These cuts have had emotional effects on our community as well. Last year, my younger brother and cousin had to say goodbye to friends whose parents lost their teaching jobs and had to move out of state. The importance of connections with friends and teachers is not something that can be understated, especially at a young age. Forced loss of these connections has caused sadness and pain to many families, not just my own.

If this bill does not pass, this situation will only worsen. My school is already considering cutting ALL electives (including foreign languages and CTE programs) as well as reducing the number of core classes by next year. This would severely impact mine and my classmates' education. It would make it harder, and at times impossible, for us to meet requirements for colleges, vocational schools, and scholarships (including the state funded Alaska Performance Scholarship). This is a common problem statewide. While this may only impact today's student body, in the coming years we will have a workforce stunted by a lack of proper education.

By asking you to approve this bill, I am only asking you to prove you care about the education of all Alaskans. The time to act is now. Next year will be too late. Thank you.

With Respect,

Leilynn Swain.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:26:47 PM

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As a first year educator in Alaska I support House Bill 69.

As someone who spends all day in a public school in Alaska I see the need for an increase in the base student allocation. Our administrators are doing all they can to give our students the best education possible with what we have, but we could enhance the quality of their education, as well as their experience in our schools, if we had the funding our students' need and deserve. As someone who was born and raised in Southeast Alaska, deciding where I wanted to move after graduating college in Washington was not something I had to put much thought into. I knew that as an educator I wanted to give back to the place and the people that inspired me to become a teacher. I believe in the education of Alaska children, and I hope that you show that you do as well by also supporting House Bill 69.

Thank you for your time,  
Brooklyn Sudnikovich-Eddy

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** In support of HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:20:22 PM

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Dear Madam Chair and the House Education Committee,

My name is Lia Calhoun. I was born and raised in Homer, where I am now raising two boys with my husband, who is a 4th-generation Alaskan. I am a proud graduate of Homer High School, and my boys are in 3rd grade and kindergarten in Homer's public schools.

Alaska's public education prepared me so well for college that I soon realized I could go further. I earned a PhD from Boston University and returned home, where I am now a tenured English professor at the Kachemak Bay Campus of UAA.

I strongly support HB69, and I thank you sincerely for considering this bill so early in the session.

Even though KPBSD has been in a budget crisis for as long as my kids have been in school, my boys are getting a remarkable education because of the dedication of teachers and staff who continue to do more with less. I volunteer in my children's school one morning per week, and I am continually impressed with the rigorous curriculum as well as by the teachers' commitment and care for each student. I leave the school exhausted after just a few hours because it is hard work, but these teachers continue day after day with passion and love. Let us support the extraordinary work our educators do before we lose more of them to burnout and better working conditions elsewhere.

The past decade has been difficult to watch as a committed Alaska who chose to raise my family here. We've watched class sizes grow each year. We've watched extraordinary educators leave the state. We've seen positions left unfilled. We've seen positions cut. We've endured annual threats to high school sports, reasonable teacher/student ratios, theaters, and pools.

In rural Alaska, a threat to our school is a threat to our community because public schools are the hub. For instance, when the high school pool is on the chopping block, we parents worry about where our children will learn to swim--a crucial skill for residents of a small, ocean-based community.

Our state's devaluing of education over the past nearly decade has been enough to make me want to leave the state if it weren't for my deep commitment to this place.

Please pass HB69 so that we can put the last decade of educational budget crises behind us, show our educators that we value them, show our children that they matter, and invest in the change we want to see.

Thank you for your work on this and your commitment to our children and the health of our communities.

Sincerely,  
Lia Calhoun

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Rep. Rebecca Himschoot](#)  
**Subject:** In support of HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:38:12 PM

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Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I write to you today not just as a teacher but as an advocate for the students whose futures depend on the decisions you make. I am urging you—pleading with you—to raise the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and pass HB69 so that every child in our state receives the education they deserve.

**Every year** we find ourselves in this unknown financial position, and I do mean it in the literal sense. We then ask our schools to do more with less. It trickles down. We stretch every dollar, we exhaust every resource, and it is never enough. Our classrooms are overcrowded, our materials are outdated, and our teachers—who dedicate their lives to shaping young minds—are leaving the profession because they can no longer afford to stay. The cost of living has risen. The needs of our students have grown. But our funding has not kept pace.

The BSA is the foundation of school funding. It determines whether we have enough teachers to give each child the attention they need. It decides if students will have access to up-to-date technology, adequate mental health support, and safe, well-maintained classrooms. Right now, that foundation is crumbling beneath us.

This is not about politics. It is about priorities. It is about whether we, as a society, believe that every child—regardless of where they come from or what zip code they live in—deserves a high-quality education. It is about whether we are willing to invest in the next generation of doctors, engineers, artists, and leaders, or whether we will continue to underfund their potential.

I have seen too many educators have to beg the legislators for the basic funding to do their job. I have watched colleagues leave because they cannot afford to teach or their job is slashed (18 teachers cut last year in our district!). And I have heard too many promises of support that never materialize into real action.

The time for delay is over. Be bold! Be decisive! Raise the BSA. **Pass HB69** so I am not here next year, for the 10th year in a row, pleading with you to fund our schools. Invest in our students. Invest in our future. Because if we fail them now, we fail all of us.

Ariel Starbuck  
Sitka High School Teacher since 2005



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:57:36 PM

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My name is Sarah C Hanson Hofstetter, I live in Petersburg Alaska and I am in support of HB69. My parents moved to Alaska in 1967 from WA state to be teachers in Unalakleet, Ak. They remained in education as they moved to Juneau. My brother and I were both in public schools and now my kids are. Educating our kids is the most important thing we can do for the long term strength of Alaska. Public School is the most accessible way to reach the most kids possible. I am in support of HB69. Please keep funding our public schools generously and making public school available.

Thank you so much for your work, Sarah C Hanson Hofstetter  
Daughter of Mark L Hanson and Susan Lynn Hanson  
Sister of Christopher M Hanson

[REDACTED]  
Petersburg, Ak  
99833  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** In support of HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:21:35 PM

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Dear Alaska State Legislature,

I teach band at West Anchorage High School. As a band director, I'm thrilled to have 50 students in a single class. This formula won't work across the board, however! We can no longer continue to increase class sizes, close schools, and cut staff to meet a flat-funded budget that has not been adjusted for inflation for more than a decade. As Department Chair for Fine Arts at West, I'm concerned about losing the opportunity for students to engage and discover visual arts, photography, music, theatre and dance. We hear many times a year that band, orchestra, choir, art, dance and theatre and the creative communities they foster are the main reason many students persevere to come to school.

Funding for Alaska's schools is at a crisis point across the state. My son is a band teacher in Fairbanks and had his school, Eilsen Jr./Sr. High, close his first year teaching. This year his high school is losing 5 elementary school feeders. Many of those students will end up in home school, due to long commutes to the next available school.

If we want to keep young teachers in the state, and young families in the state, reverse the trend of outmigration, and make our state an attractive place to start and invest in businesses, we need to invest in our schools. Please support HB69.

Sincerely,  
Kirby Kauffman  
West Anchorage High School Band Director  
West Fine Arts Department Chair

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** In support of House Bill 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:45:56 PM

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My name is Marina Marley and I am a Junior at Sitka High School. I am in support of house bill 69. As a student who has been in the Sitka School district all of my life. I have personally been affected by the cuts to the budget especially in the past few years. I can't see any more things to cut. I am afraid that not passing this bill would mean that the high school would be forced to cut elective and CTE positions along with other staff. As a person who has taken advantage of these elective classes, I feel like they have value. I have taken a woods class and a construction class with Mr. Vieira. These have given me not only lifelong skills but also perspective and an appreciation for people who do this as a profession. The same goes for the small engine, metals, and engine overhaul class I took with Mr. Pike. Especially in Mr. Pike's classes I always over hear the boys talk about how they were going to sleep in but then they remembered that it was a Tuesday and they had Pike's class! In one particular instance I overheard a group of boys who were wondering why another boy wasn't at school. One of them said, "he probably forgot it was a Tuesday." The group of boys called their friend and sure enough 15 minutes later the boy came in - a little bleary eyed, but excited to work on his car. Pike's class was probably the only reason he came in that day. Elective classes make school worthwhile and shape me and my peers to become more well rounded citizens of the world. As in the case of the boy, they incentivize coming to school and learning some of the more mundane subjects. I believe that elective classes have value for everyone regardless of whether or not students like the ones they have. At the minimum, students can gain an appreciation for different professions and hopefully discover where they want to enter the workforce - and equally as important - where they don't. I believe house bill 69 will help our school at least maintain these important programs like electives, afterschool tutoring, reasonable sized classes, and most importantly to retain teachers who bend over backwards to keep our schools running. Please help invest in Alaska's future by supporting bill 69 to give students the tools they need to graduate and become contributing citizens in our beautiful state. Thank you.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Increase Alaska's BSA: support HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:58:29 PM

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Dear members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 69 (HB 69) and to urge you to lend your support to this important legislation. As a member of the Juneau community, I am deeply invested in the well-being and future of Alaska's educational system. My husband and I are both educators, and we are raising two children within the Juneau School District.

Why supporting HB 69 matters to me and my family: overcrowded classrooms, teacher retention and recruitment, stagnate state funding, rising inflation and the equitable investment in education across districts—are of critical importance to me and my family.

The challenges of overcrowded classrooms are becoming more pronounced, especially in the wake of rising enrollment and limited resources. As educators, we understand that large class sizes hinder our ability to provide the individual attention and support that every student needs to succeed. HB 69 presents a valuable opportunity to address these issues by prioritizing funding for schools to alleviate overcrowding and ensure students receive the quality education they deserve.

Teacher retention and recruitment are also pressing concerns in Alaska. The state is facing a growing shortage of qualified educators, exacerbated by high turnover rates. As both a parent and an educator, I have seen firsthand the negative impact this has on students and schools. Inadequate funding makes attracting and retaining qualified educators challenging. Teachers struggle to cover living expenses with dragnet salaries they have not kept pace with inflation.

Furthermore, supporting HB 69 is an investment in the future of Alaska. Education is the foundation upon which the state's success and prosperity are built. By supporting this bill, we are investing not only in the immediate needs of our schools but also in the long-term growth and development of our communities and the state as a whole.

Further, the rising cost of living and inflation have placed an additional burden on districts. The BSA has not kept pace with soaring operational costs such as utilities, maintenance and transportation. Because of this, districts are facing significant budget shortfalls that leave school boards and administrators forced to make difficult decisions about which critical programs or services need to be reduced. Many schools are being closed as a means of reducing costs, but this results in larger classroom size negatively, impacting our children's education, which contributes to teachers leaving the profession.

Finally, rural and remote schools face particularly difficult challenges. Rising costs for transportation, utilities, and teacher recruitment and retention creates significant barriers to providing equitable education. Increasing the BSA can help level the playing field for all Alaskan cities and children. Making a more equitable educational environment, where all students, regardless of their district, have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge you to support HB 69. As a parent, an educator, and a

concerned member of the community, I believe this bill is a vital step in addressing the critical challenges facing Alaska's education system. I appreciate your consideration and hope you will act in favor of the future of Alaska's children and educators.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Krista Jacoby

**Krista Jacoby**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** increase in education funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:56:21 PM

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To the House Education Committee:

I am an old teacher. Actually, I don't feel like I should be an old teacher, I am 47. When I was a child, a 47 year old teacher was not THAT old. I had teachers in their sixties and seventies. Now, I don't teach with anyone in their sixties, a few in their fifties, and I am ancient. Where are all the fifty and sixty year old teachers? They don't want to work here anymore. Will the new twenty-five year old teacher make it to fifty? Ha! Of course not! It's all we can do to get them to stay for this school year and not walk out on a random Tuesday (which I have seen THREE TIMES by the way...)

Why are teachers leaving? Do they hate teaching? Have students become intolerable? No, and no. The job has just become impossible. I am not asking for a raise. I don't want a monetary raise, I want a raise of the learning conditions we face every day in the schools. We can do this by raising the BSA, which won't even be enough to raise us to lofty heights, but it will take the edge off until we as a society have decided to prioritize public education as a common good. So how will raising the BSA keep teachers from quitting on a random Tuesday? Let me share actual stories from my actual schools (I say schools because the schools I have worked at in Fairbanks keep getting closed, so I have to go to another school).

- Teachers get more students assigned to them than we have desks available. Custodians have to find more desks. Unfortunately, the extra desks can't fit in the classroom. So, the custodians have to take out all the desks and find separate tables and chairs. Custodians spent all night doing this, so they didn't get around to all the areas. Next week, this happens to another teacher, but there are no more tables and chairs, just desks. Since it is a high school and only TWO of the classes can't fit enough seating, the teacher lets two students share her desk during those overcrowded periods.
- There aren't enough of the books in novel sets that English classes read. We typically buy 35 as a "class set" but over time, the students lose books, students move and the books get lost in the shuffle, we can bill them for lost books, but if they don't pay, they don't pay, so now there are, let's say, 32 books in the set. This means the teacher has to give up their teacher copy to a student if there aren't enough copies. Maybe there were 32 books, the teacher gave up their copy, and it was just enough. But then two more students get added to the class. That's where I come in. I have a spreadsheet of approved novel sets, and every time I go to Value Village or the transfer site, I am on the lookout for another "Animal Farm" or "Romeo and Juliet". I share it with my retired father, who fancies himself a book detective, and he can cover more ground than I can. So one of us finally finds that "Romeo and Juliet", except the class is reading the Penguin Classics version and I found the Oxford Press version. No matter, because we've been doing this so much, there are actually 5 versions circulating in that class, so the teacher can't say "Open your books to page 38." And if I am not so lucky, the students have to just share books and two read off one. Hopefully we have some best friends in the class. This also means that no one can take a book home to read for homework because it has to stay in the room for the next period class.

- When students used to act out, we could reach out to our school social worker to see if there were any social-emotional problems contributing to this. They could go to the social worker's office and talk it out and work there. Except that we don't have one anymore. So we could send them to the nurse to see if there is a medical reason they are acting out. Except that we share the nurse with other schools now, so we don't always have one. So then we could try the counselors, except that now they are subbing because no one took the three sub jobs today. So then we could try the safety monitors, except that now they are being custodians because our custodial positions are vacant. So then we could try the administrators in the office, but they are in interviews trying to hire a last minute math teacher because ours walked out on a random Tuesday, so now the teacher has a hard time continuing with the lesson because there are zero options to help with a student who is acting out, which is hard to manage when there are 34 sophomores in one room.
- When new teachers are hired midyear (to replace those that quit midyear), I have to tell them that I have nothing to give them. They are looking for their flat panel monitor with the Apple TV and I have to give them a 20 year old projector that connects through two different kinds of dongles dangled together.
- I clean all 18 tables in my room every day, I vacuum my own floor (with my own vacuum), I take the rags home and wash them myself and bring them back. I don't do this because we don't have a custodian or that our custodians aren't great, but I need our custodians to fix things for me (which I can't do) instead of wasting their time cleaning (something I can do) because there are so many maintenance issues in the school that our custodial crew addresses.

Naysayers on Facebook think we want these exorbitant teacher salaries and posh, finely appointed buildings and lavish football stadiums, when in actuality, I just need a couple more paraprofessionals, reliable HVAC, eight more copies of "Animal Farm", a couple classrooms worth of usable tables, and some subs so a teacher can finally get that ulcer checked out. Teachers are leaving because the job has morphed into something unrecognizable and chaotic, requiring too much of their own time and money, and they can do better elsewhere now. If the best of us go elsewhere, it is the kids who pay the price, with inexperienced and burnt out teachers. Fix the environment and you will solve your teacher problem. Solve your teacher problem, and you will see more excited, engaged, and thriving students.

Thank you,

Mariko Kinikin

teacher, librarian, Fairbanks AK

(and also a bus driver, UAF adjunct, photographer, and exchange student coordinator, because all of us teachers need side hustles to keep funding our own classrooms)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Increase the BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:55:50 PM

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Please increase the much needed BSA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judy Leask Guthrie

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)  
**Subject:** Increase the BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:40:27 PM

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You all know how much inflation has increased the price of everything over the last few years. Flat rate funding is decreased funding. Please do everything in your power to increase the BSA, the future of our state depends on it.

Concerned lifeline Alaska,

--Ryan

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=====  
Ryan Cross  
Kodiak, AK

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

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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  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Luke Almon - The Rest of my Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:45:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-vu1ont4m.png](#)

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Thanks for the opportunity to testify tonight. Here's the entirety of what I intended to share:

Good Evening and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of a base student allocation increase.

My name is Luke Almon and I am the Principal of South Anchorage High School. I have been an educator for 21 years, the last ten years as a principal. In that time, I have never seen the kind of challenges we currently face. To that end, I would like to share three items that illustrate these challenges, and by extension, how a BSA increase could address them.

First, if we continue to receive one-time funds, principals will continue to cut staff in February, and then try to hire a portion of them back in the summer. By that time, almost all of them have left the state or secured other employment. Last year, I was forced to cut 3.4 fte or the equivalent of 17 classes. This year I expect to have to cut an additional 5 teachers. Together that means South High School will have 42 less class options for our students. The pattern is the same at all other schools. That means I will have 40 teachers for approximately 1260 students. Schools in the lower 48 with similar enrollment have up to 70 teachers or 350 more class options for their students.

Second, when I attempt to hire new staff, I often have zero candidates to interview. South High School is one of the newest high schools in Anchorage, an excellent place to teach and learn, has a vibrant school culture, and prepares students who enter the most competitive post-secondary institutions as well as the workforce that keeps the Alaska economy afloat. If I cannot find new candidates to hire, I suspect my peers are in even more desperate circumstances. This is because our salaries are no longer competitive, we have no long term benefit to offer and class sizes get bigger every year.

Finally, I would like to share my own story as an example of what is at stake. I came to Alaska in 2008. Since then, I have earned a National Board Certification and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. I have had the opportunity to work with and be mentored by excellent educators. I'm honored to be entrusted with the responsibility to lead a high school in Anchorage.

However, there is no financial incentive for me to stay. I'm being asked to achieve the same or better results year after year with less and less resources. If I moved to the lower 48, where I would be a competitive candidate, my salary would go up, my living expenses would go down, I would have a defined benefit, and I would have more staff to face the challenges that our youth bring to school everyday. Looked at another way, Alaska would have invested 17 years and reap no further return. And I'm not alone. The last educators with a defined benefit and a competitive compensation package will retire in the next 1-3 years. Those remaining will have no incentive to stay.

Undoubtedly, you have a hard job to do. And it is also clear that without immediate change, communities will continue to wither, your talent pool will grow weaker or non-existent, and those who remain will face the daunting task of continuing to do more with less.

In approximately three weeks, I, along with all principals in this state, will begin deciding who will not have a job next year, despite their tireless efforts this year. And at that point, as most have pointed out tonight, the damage will be irreparable.

Thank you.

Luke Almon, Ed.D

Principal, South Anchorage High School



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Money in Not Education  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 10:09:36 PM

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Falling math and reading scores indicate many of the finds are being absorbed by constant administrative growth. Spending more money is not the answer.

More Individualized studies and pursuit of student interests can encourage and enable students to excel.

I have a Masters at UAF and studied home schooling for my thesis. Students excel with personalized individuated studies. Minimal classroom instruction and student implemented exploration fo their interests has better results in education. Students can excel in the right environment and this current situation is dampening their excitement about learning.

We have left

The industrialized age and enter the Information Age while education has fallen behind.

Please find a new way for our youth,

Lynda Klaes

Fairbanks, Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** More funding for our schools  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:00:35 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I'm a parent of four young children. Three of those children attend school in Ketchikan, Alaska. The past few years the schools have been cutting so many teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, etc. And they continue to plan cuts in many areas because of insufficient funds.

Education funding currently lags significantly behind the increasing costs school districts across Alaska have faced for several years. The ability of our district here in Ketchikan to provide a quality education is in jeopardy as we face significant staffing and program cuts.

BSA has increased by \$30 in the past seven years.  
Ketchikan has made cuts the past two years.

Last year Ketchikan School District had to cut:

5 teachers cut at Ketchikan High School

Loss of CTE Programs: Maritime, Culinary Arts, Auto Shop, Child Careers, and Aviation  
Loss of Electives: Spanish, Psychology, Economics, Zero Hour Basketball, Asian Lit, Speech, AP Biology, Biology 2, and Choir  
Many of these classes are crucial to the students future careers.

Counselors at elementary schools and cut counselor at Revilla  
The counselors we had for our kids prior to the cuts were the best! And those counselors are a crucial part to helping the children thrive in schools.

Cut teachers at elementary schools

Full time electives reduced to half time at elementary schools

Technology Director cut

Funding for supplies

What will be cut next?

Current funding levels are not investing in Alaska's long term success.  
Current funding levels are not supporting our students.  
Current funding levels are not enough to maintain neighborhood schools. This is a sad reality and shouldn't be happening. It makes it hard for children and families to get their children to and from school.

Highly qualified teachers are leaving the Alaska because of no job security and no retirement.

If we prioritize education, we can get it!

The current BSA is \$5960. In order to maintain current staff/programs KGBSD needs BSA plus \$1000 in extra funding.

We ask that more funding be provided to the students here in Ketchikan. We need to help the children learn the best they can by prioritizing education and helping the future of our country with helping our children in their education.

Thank you for your time.

Megan Schramm

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** My family strongly supports HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:33:48 PM

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I am writing this email to express my strong support for HB 69, increasing the BSA. I am a 19-year teacher in the Anchorage School District and am the parent of two ASD students and one ASD graduate.

Class size has steadily increased since 2017. There are now routinely 36-38 students in my chemistry classes. My high school has lots of empty classrooms despite having the same number of students as 2017 - classes are just so much larger now. There isn't a whole lot of room to move around the lab benches, must less time to provide individual attention for struggling students. I can see the drop in learning each year as I have to drop specific subjects from the curriculum because larger classes move more slowly than smaller classes.

Please pass HB 69 and raise the BSA.

Dan Maclean  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99507



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)  
**Subject:** No On 69.  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:50:43 PM

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My name is Joel Michael McKinney  
I am not speaking on behalf of District 16  
I am opposed to HB 69  
This legislation will cause inflation  
Anyone that says it will be "inflation proof" doesn't understand economics whatsoever.  
It is, however a testament on how well they were educated.  
I also don't think government employees like principals, school board memebers, and teachers  
should be allowed to comment or vote on this.  
Self licking ice cream cone.  
6th highest budget in the nation.  
2nd from the lowest performing.  
(With the exception of charter schools)

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** No on HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:40:54 PM

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**HELLO,**

**I do not support HB69, increasing the BSA. There are too many instances of money being spent on raises and bonuses for Administrators instead of in the class rooms.**

**Thank you.**

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** NO on HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:15:09 PM

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House Bill 69 is very irresponsible. It makes no sense. This is a corrupt bill and is wasteful spending.

Jule Miller  
Fairbanks Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** OPPOSE HB 69 – No More Blank Checks for Failing Schools  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:05:03 PM

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Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

HB 69 is yet another misguided attempt to throw money at a failing system without any accountability. I strongly oppose this bill because it does nothing to improve student outcomes, nothing to hold failing schools accountable, and nothing to fix the deep-rooted issues in Alaska's education system.

Let's be clear: we do not have the money for this. Alaska is in a financial crisis, yet lawmakers continue to push for more education spending with zero accountability. Where are the metrics of success? Where is the proof that previous funding increases have led to better student performance? They don't exist. We are simply expected to pay more blindly while test scores plummet and proficiency rates decline.

Enrollment has been dropping, yet the education system is demanding even more funding. A shrinking student population should lead to lower costs, not automatic budget increases. This is basic math, and yet Alaska's education system refuses to acknowledge it.

If increased funding actually worked, we wouldn't be ranking near the bottom in student performance year after year. Instead, our schools have become an unaccountable money pit. In any other industry, continued failure would result in change—but in public education, it results in more funding. This is completely ridiculous and an insult to Alaskans.

We cannot afford to keep throwing money at a system that refuses to reform. Alaska is in a budget crisis. Raising the BSA without any accountability is nothing more than reckless spending.

Alaskans deserve real reform, not another blank check. Stop rewarding failure. Demand accountability. Demand results. Vote NO on HB 69.

Sincerely,  
Kassie Andrews

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:36:06 PM

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I am the uncle of 4.

the Reads Act worked because it was reform.

HB 69 is a cash grab. You all need to resign.

HB 69 is joke F-you for proposing it

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:14:25 PM

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I'm Gabby Ide, chair of Moms For Liberty Anchorage representing the local chapter in the largest school district in Alaska in opposition to HB69. I have three children, run a small business and am the first and best educator for my children, as are all parents. David Boyle already testified to the true cost and misuse of funds in neighborhood schools, especially in Anchorage. He also provided numerous cost effective solutions that are tested and backed by evidence to improve education results. I'd add provision for roth403b increasing savings while giving more opportunity in better funded retirements retaining great educators.

Education spending is the second-largest category of Alaska's budget: DEED budgeted \$1.67 billion for fiscal year 2023


- Education spending in Alaska has outpaced inflation in the last 10 years by over 50%.
- Alaska has much higher per-pupil expenditures than the nationwide average—over \$22,000 per student per year, the sixth highest in the nation—but Alaskan students lag in academic performance, ranking 49th in education according to the Casey Foundation in 2022. Alaska's current spending per pupil is 23% higher than the U.S. average.

Increased funding has already proven to not increase results.

Remember when ASD dissolved the longest running and most successful charter in the state? Family Partnership was treated unethically and ASD absorbed roughly \$30 million annually in the hostile take over of FPCS by removing parents from directing the upbringing of our children. Charters are efficient and effective. They need protective legislation to ensure the tragedy of Family Partnership Charter School is not repeated. Increased funding to failing systems is like giving a terrible employee a raise hoping that tomorrow they will miraculously do the right thing. That defies logic and is removed from reality. It is enabling continuous inadequacy.

Children, families and teachers need your support in reigning in administration and leadership that does not serve them well. Adding money to an antiquated,

one-size-fits-all system is not the solution Alaska's students need. It is time to fund students, not systems.

Thank you,  
Gabby Ide  
Moms For Liberty Anchorage  
Chapter Chair  


**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Parents choice  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:20:32 PM

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- Parents choice
- Hold schools accountable for spending

Parents have the best vision for what is working and not working. All children can have individualised education plans not just special needs children. Allow parents and children the ability to choose a private religious education, homeschool, hybrid or a typical school with the best trained teachers.

Let us allow our children to apprentice into programs they show a high interest in and allow others full curriculums that move them directly to universities.

My special needs son is saving the district money by being homeschooled at home and not having a para or busing.

Let us reward the best trained teachers, and remove teachers with poor student/parent evaluations.

- Make better use of school buildings.
- Parent busing vouchers over hard to staff and costly bus services?

Thank you,  
Sherry Tunilla

Sent from Sherry Tunilla



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** PASS HB 69  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 11:27:47 AM

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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:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Ky Holland](#)  
**Subject:** Please increase the BSA by approving HB 69 ASAP!!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:53:11 PM

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Dear House Education Committee:

I was excited to learn that you are having hearings on HB 69 which would increase the Base Student Allocation by \$1000 for this funding cycle, followed by further increases of \$400 in each of the subsequent two years in order to bring our education funding up to par for our children and our education system. Please vote YES to advance this bill to the floor for approval as soon as possible!

Our state education system has been in crisis for years. This bill will smartly address that crisis by reliably and predictably funding and inflation-proofing education to enable districts to recruit and retain good teachers, support small class sizes, and allow Alaska businesses to attract and keep talent here at home.

There has not been a guaranteed increase in education funding since 2014 while inflation and unfunded mandates (e.g., the need to beef up security at schools due to school shootings) have steadily eroded our flat funding. The results have included larger class sizes, loss of enrichment programs, loss of kids to alternative schools where they may not receive a well-balanced education, and loss of population as teachers have had to leave for better paying jobs with retirement benefits and families leave for better school districts Outside.

Please pass this bill NOW to give our school districts time to plan for the coming year and so teachers know their jobs will not disappear. The Governor may have other aspects of education he wants and those can be debated and addressed later. But NOW is the time to increase the BSA as prescribed in HB 69.

Thank you,  
Ann Rappoport

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99516

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Please pass HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:33:56 PM

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Dear House Education Committee,

I had signed up to testify but had to leave early so I hope you will accept this as public testimony in support of HB 69.

The BSA has not been raised since 2017 and the continued pressure of inflation is starving our state public schools. In Fairbanks where my son attends high school, his classes have 30 students. This is not an environment where students can learn the basics they need to succeed as working adults.

We are watching the slow destruction of the public school system in Alaska. Please pass HB 69 to reverse the damage that continues to happen at our schools due to consistent lack of funding.

Thank you,  
Lili Misel  
Fairbanks

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** please pass HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:01:19 PM

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Good evening -

Please support passage of increased BSA funding for schools and work to inflation-proof it into the future. Education is critical to the long-term success of our state.

Thank you,  
Heather Williams  
Anchorage

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Please raise the BSA for education!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:36:43 PM

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Dear House Education Committee,

I want to thank you today for taking the time to read my testimony. I am asking you to invest in public education with a BSA increase of \$1,808 and I want to share with you the reason that this matter is so urgent.

I have been a teacher for the last 13 years in Fairbanks and want to give you a picture of how things have changed during that time. When I first started teaching, it was nearly impossible to find a teaching position. Teacher jobs were highly sought after and I had to start part time just to get my foot in the door. We had art, band, orchestra, and ELP (Extended Learning Program) at the elementary level, not to mention many sports and extracurricular options for students.

Fast forward to the last five years where we are today. In the last 3 years, our school district has had to close 4 schools, cut band and orchestra at the elementary level, cut elementary art, eliminate ELP for elementary, cut hockey in high school, and many other programs and extracurriculars. As a result, teacher jobs are insecure. The continuous neglect and under-investment in our public schools must end for the benefit of our students and teachers. There has been a huge exodus of families from our state and many other families are moving to home school programs.

This year our school district is facing a \$16 million dollar deficit and our school board is facing the closing of 5 additional schools in order to balance the budget and still there will be a deficit. This is heart wrenching. These schools are not just numbers to be balanced, they are like families that serve as anchors for our children and staff. As a teacher who has been working tirelessly to offer the regular education for my students plus extra after school sports, I am tired. Like many educators around me, I am tired and weary from all of the cuts. I am starting to wonder if another profession might be in my future.

For these reasons, I urge you to invest in Alaska's future, invest in our children, and significantly raise the BSA now!

Thank you so much,

Rae Trainor- Wright

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Please raise the BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:25:59 PM

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Honorable members of the Education Committee,

Our schools are in chaos statewide. Costs have risen beyond the abilities of school districts to maintain services, due in great parts to hits from inflation.

As our student population shrinks, our districts understand that we can't continue at previous spending levels. However, the BSA is years behind in keeping up with inflation and our efforts only go so far.

The needed solution is to fund forward at least a year, so that districts can plan in a timely manner. I recognize that this a longer-term goal and is unlikely to occur any time soon. But this would be the ideal to work toward.

In the meantime, please do all you can to ensure a higher BSA.

Here in Ketchikan, we are holding onto career & technology course by a very fragile thread. We lost 5 teaching positions last, most in CTE.

We also lost our IT director , who led us through our one-to-one laptop rollout during Covid. Every family that wanted a laptop during lockdown was able to get one. He had previously led us through the one-to-one laptop deployment at the high school. If we had another Covid situation now, we would be unable to operate.

We are limping on, trying to offer our maritime and culinary courses with fill-in staff rather than certified teachers. We are limping on, cutting teachers from core classes and increasing class size ratios to accommodate those cuts.

Please do all that you can to move HB 69 forward. Our students are counting on you to help them!

Sincerely,

Caitlin Jacobson  
KHS grad, 1983  
[REDACTED]  
Ketchikan AK 99901

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Please support HB 69 to raise the BSA!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:56:03 PM

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My name is Toby Campbell. I live in Sitka.

I began teaching in Alaska in 1982 and taught for about 40 years...almost every year there was a consistent unknown about school funding and the BSA. And for years no increase! This causes enormous unrest and inability for school districts to make reasonable, professional plans.

One-time funding DOES NOT work! Forward funding is also critical and needs to keep up with inflation. That only makes sense. No other occupation operates in this way!!!

Education is critical to our society and allows for stability. Children are our FUTURE!

Please support HB 69 to raise the BSA!!!

Thank you!

Best,

Toby Campbell

[REDACTED]

Sitka, AK 99835



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Please Support HB 69!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:09:16 PM

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## House Education Committee:

HB 69 prioritizes our students' education and ensures the survival of the community schools we all hold near and dear!

Years of stagnant and one time funding coupled with declining enrollment and inflation have sent a wrecking ball through school districts all throughout our state. Alaska school's have endured cuts to staff and programs, and because there is no more "stuff" to cut, Districts are left with no choice but to implement the least best option.

**Kodiak**, projecting an \$8 million deficit for next year, recently made the difficult choice to close a beloved elementary school before next year; a recent news article reported the "school board meeting was more like a funeral rather than a school board meeting." Kodiak's students deserve better!

**Sitka** has distributed the impact of cuts over all its buildings in previous years, and completely offloaded the maintenance department and the Blatchley Swimming Pool to the city. If a substantial BSA increase is not passed, Sitka schools will endure more cuts. Sitka's students deserve better!

**Ketchikan** has lost staff, eliminated essential academic and CTE programs at the high school, and are now in the horrible position of having to choose between making further cuts or restructuring elementary schools due to insufficient state support. Ketchikan's students deserve better!

**Juneau** restructured much of their district last year; Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks have closed schools and have plans to close more; Juneau, Anchorage, Mat-su, and Fairbanks's students ALL deserve better!

None of these cuts or radical changes are being made because they are educational best practices. None of the cuts and changes have been proven to improve student outcomes. None of these changes are embraced by educators, students, or parents. Alaska's students deserve better.

Public education decisions in Alaska are being made from purely a financial lens. It's a sad day when the state of Alaska is unwilling to fund neighborhood schools which are the heart of every community in our state. Our students deserve better!

HB69 invests in Alaska's biggest asset: our students. Ensure HB69 becomes law because it is what our students not only need but also deserve!

Thank you,  
*Sarah Campbell, English Department*  
**Ketchikan High School**

[REDACTED] Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
School Phone: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Senate Education](#)  
**Subject:** please support HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:01:15 PM

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I am writing in support of an increase to education funding in Alaska. I live in Kodiak because my parents retired from teaching here and we wanted to raise our children in a school system we were proud to have been a part of. In Kodiak, it has been incredibly difficult to participate in the last month of meetings about shutting down one of Kodiak's beloved elementary schools. The process has created conflicts between families, and it will create a huge amount of change for children in our small town next year. That such major choices are having to be made because of a budget crisis, and not because they will in any way improve the education of Kodiak's students is disheartening.

I left one meeting in January after 3 hours of wrenching testimony against bigger class sizes and the impact of a school closure and job loss--only to turn the radio on during the drive home and hear parents speaking about the EXACT same things in Fairbanks. We have to do better for Alaska's kids. We have to do better for our public school educators. Our population may be declining, but the lack of support for thriving, quality education in our state is only going to exacerbate this trend.

Thank you for your time and for caring for Alaska's learners, teachers, and for the future of our state.

Sincerely,  
Sara Loewen-Danelski

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Rebecca Himschoot](#)  
**Subject:** Please vote yes on HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:22:09 PM

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Dear members of the House Education committee,

I'm writing to thank you for hearing testimony today on House Bill 69. I urge you to adhere to Alaska's constitution and maintain an educational system for all students by voting yes on this bill. We must do all we can to ensure a stable future for our state, and that begins with a well-educated population.

With appreciation for your time and service,

Beth Short-Rhoads  
Sitka

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Public Testimony HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:19:58 PM

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To Co-Chairs Himshoot and Story and Committee Members,

I fully support passage of HB69. I am a retired teacher with experience in public schools—brick and mortar, charter and online. In addition, I am a mother and grandmother of Alaska school students K through University.

The schools clearly need a BSA boost in funding (not just one time) to make up for years of cuts. Once teachers and students have the resources they deserve, we can work on performance issues that remain to be addressed. Many other State agencies receive increases that help counter inflation etc. without having to pass standardized assessments. For example, why increase the Corrections budget if the recidivism rate does not go down? In addition, Legislators, the Governor and Commissioners received a notable wage increase without proving their effectiveness according to what standards?

It appears our children and those who are working hard to educate them are held hostage by those who do not truly respect public education. Some may forget that public schools must accept all students regardless of their readiness and ability. If we try to discount the bill of educating those students, we get what we pay for. We will all pay for that in the end.

Please pass HB69

Sincerely,  
Mary Corcoran  
Delta Junction  
47+ year resident

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

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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]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Public Testimony in Support of HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:47:14 PM

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Good evening Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jackie Hanson, and I serve as the Superintendent of Craig City School District. I have dedicated over 20 years to education in our great state, am a longtime resident of Prince of Wales Island, personally built my home in Craig, my husband is a retired Alaskan teacher, and my two sons, now graduates, proudly received an Alaska public school education.

I am here today to urge you to support House Bill 69 because the future of our students depends on it.

Alaska's Constitution is clear, it's the state's responsibility to fund public education. Yet, for too long, our schools have been asked to do more with less. Over the years, school expenses have surged nearly 40%, while the Base Student Allocation has increased by only 10%. That gap is not just a number, it represents fewer programs in schools, support services and specialized programs being consolidated or cut and eliminated altogether, dwindling resources that directly impact student learning, school staff being stretched thinner than ever, and educators leaving the profession because they don't have the support they need.

We've heard numerous testimonies from our partners in education about the devastating impact of the state's funding shortfall. With the added failure of Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Program, many of our schools are facing severe financial hardship. Too often I hear calls for public school funding to be tied to "accountability measures." While accountability measures have their place in education, many accountability indicators, such as standardized test scores, do not fully capture student learning or school quality. Taking this a step further, let's put the shoe on the other foot, where is the accountability of our state when our students' opportunities are diminished, their potential stifled, and our schools, the heart of so many of our communities, is put at risk?

This bill is about fulfilling the state's constitutional duty to fund public education. It's time to invest in our children's future. I urge you to stand with Alaska's students, families, and educators by passing House Bill 69. Let's take action to close this gap and provide every child in Alaska the education they deserve.

Thank you,

Jackie Hanson  
Superintendent, Craig City School District

[REDACTED]  
Craig, AK 99921  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Public testimony on HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:54:45 PM

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Good evening, members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Jenna Hamm and I'm a school board member of the Denali Borough School District. I was born in Fairbanks and raised in the Denali area during the 1970s-80s. I currently co-own and operate a tourism business inside Denali National Park and have two high schoolers at Tri-Valley School in Healy.

My purpose tonight is to testify in support of HB 69.

Our school district is lucky-- we're not as hard-hit by the State's extended underfunding of public education. Our municipality, the Denali Borough, fully funds to the maximum allowable contribution, fulfilling nearly 1/4 of our budget. We are fortunate to have continuity in district leadership from a superintendent who has been with us for 10 years and who has prioritized the district's fiscal responsibility and accountability. The homeschool program the district administers, Denali PEAK, provides parent choice and helps fund the district's investment in teacher training, helps keep our smaller sites, Cantwell and Anderson Schools open, pared down as they are. While we're not immediately facing school closures, we do face decreasing enrollment, and face being forced to further minimize our class offerings at all sites, combine grades, and defer overdue maintenance needs.

At our most recent 2026 budget revision we showed a \$330,000 deficit and a \$850,000 unrestricted carryover. This deficit budget has many assumptions built into it. It assumes a \$680 BSA increase. It assumes a 2024-level of student enrollment. It assumes the our borough will be able to continue to provide the same level of funding.

These are all big "ifs." If HB 69 passes with its \$1000 BSA increase in year one, this would allow us to balance our budget.

About 10 years ago I tore a full-page newspaper ad titled, and I'm paraphrasing, "What kids know..." and hung on the wall of my summer cabin. Paraphrasing, it listed all the things that kids know very well that many grown-ups assume they don't know:

"Kids know... and feel the same fears that grownups do."

"Kids know...when their parents are worried."

"Kids know...when adults are not telling the truth."

"Kids know...what uncertainty feels like."

This is what's most compelling to me in this moment when we are faced with extraordinary uncertainty and division about how we ensure the continuation of public services and public education in our communities. How do we protect kids from uncertainty and give them reason to HOPE, enable them to DO THEIR BEST WORK, and to feel SUCCESS? For starters, we must stop kicking the state's fiscal can down the road, get our state affairs in order, and fulfill our constitutional obligation for public education. HB 69 does this for public education. The legislature must also act to address the state's fiscal crisis. Thank you to Representative Himschoot for sponsoring this bill and thank you to the committee for hearing public testimony today.

Jenna Hamm  
Denali Borough School District



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

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Hello Ms. Tatsuda,

It was a pleasure to hear you speak yesterday in support of raising the BSA- HB 69, to the House Education Committee.

Thank-you for your offering to address the committee as an Invited Testifier and for sharing your expertise and experiences.

Rep. Himschoot is delighted and proud to team with you!

Kind Regards,

Claire Fordyce  
Legislative Aide/ Education Committee  
Rep. Rebecca Himschoot  
District 2  
907.465.6848

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**From:** Katherine Tatsuda [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  
Secretary/Clerk  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** School district funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:55:45 PM

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Malcolm G McBride Kenai, Alaska

It seems like most every year the school districts get additional funding, and yet we aren't seeing any better results.

Alaska is ranked 47th to 49th in a country that is ranked between 37th to 44th in the world. Education needs a big fix not more money.

Alaska has 54 school districts with 509 schools and 130,931 students. Why don't we change things up a bit? One statewide superintendent of schools, make six school district regions each with an assistant superintendent, leave the maintenance departments as is, but combine all purchasing through one warehouse/distribution center. Maybe the state superintendent could be hired from one of the top ten countries?

Come up with a plan and stop the more money game, we aren't getting any results.

Thank you,  
Malcolm G McBride  
[REDACTED]  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** School funding testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:38:24 PM

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I support House Bill 69, which provides for inflation proof education funding. Also important, it includes a \$1,000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), for 2026, followed by \$404 in each of the subsequent two years.

School funding is vital to our families and communities as education is the most important issue for the future of our children.

Thank you,  
Barbara Farris  
Anchorage

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

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Sent from my iPhonei urg

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** School funding.  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:42:08 PM

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I support house bill 69. We need to fun our schools.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** School funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:23:51 PM

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I moved to Alaska in 1982. Since then every year I hear the schools/ NEA complaining about school funding and students grade averages. Alaska has thrown more and more money at education with less and less acceptable results!! Parents keep taking their students out of schools for different reasons ie: shoving the DEI agenda down our throats, "your parents just don't understand you" (excuse me, but shouldn't the school be helping parent/ student relationships???), most of the parents I talk to are upset because the schools are trying to dictate how students should be raised and what to believe in (that is not the teachers job!!!! Teaching reading, writing, and other basic subjects is!!!) How about we start teaching subjects that help with life, like home economics, shop, and history and leave morals, and beliefs to the family!! We waste money on the political agendas and DEI and we need to be teaching students how to find and keep a job, how to think through problems, hygiene, thinking through college vs on the job training, job fairs with local businesses and military with time to talk to the representatives. When a family budget is in crisis, we tighten our belt and rethink our spending choices. Our family has gone through those choices multiple times because of job layoff (construction work). When the school system has less students or less money given to them, they whine, cry, beg for more money and blame the Republicans for tightening the state budget. Get a life and do what the citizens of your community have to do- rethink the cost of programs, don't spend money you don't have, cut the extra political crap that isn't your job to teach/ practice!! Whether the parent is a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or doesn't give a rat's rump about politics or the current agenda is NOT the teachers business. Get back to teaching subjects that help students think, have the knowledge to make a living, and keep a job! Students need to know how to read, write, make a complete statement or thought without um, uh or I don't know. They need to know that if they are constantly late or absent- they get fired, they need to know that if they don't complete an assignment at work- they get in trouble and could be fired! I hear over and over again that students can skip several days, don't turn in homework, mouth off at teachers without consequences!!! Then they wonder why that doesn't fly at work!!!

Stop increasing the amount of money to schools and start increasing the expectations of our comes!!

Gaye Wright  
[REDACTED]

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22+ 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)




From: [REDACTED]  
To: [@Speak Education](#)  
Subject: Speaking Education  
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:36:20 PM

Parental Rights and Accountability is a must - if you would only respect of our Constitutional and Godly Rights of our offspring social education would be addressed whereas public education would address life skills as well as Math/English!  
Due to such failure over the past 20 years is the reason is why the Chinese is fare more intelligent than Americans! Time to quit playing games and rethink how AK is to managed! We are not puppets- we are humans beings that deserve respect!



Sent from my iPhone

**From:**   
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for H.B. 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:37:18 PM

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Thank you, committee members for making it a priority to address education funding early in this session. I am strongly in favor of H.B. 69. It is long overdue and will allow schools the financial stability to plan ahead so our newest teachers aren't told they may not have a job at the end each year. The Alaska Constitution requires our state to educate our youth. Inflation has increased while flat funding has substantially reduced what is available to our schools. Decisions made by previous Legislators and Governors to reduce spending on education have pushed Alaskan school districts to increase class sizes and close schools. We citizens of Alaska are counting on THIS legislature to support H.B. 69 with a veto-proof majority.

I, also, strongly support changing the current retirement system from defined contribution to defined benefits for teachers and all public workers in Alaska. I believe you will see a groundswell of grassroots support for this and other education issues this session.

Thank you for considering my comments and your commitment to the students of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Lynn McNamara

Retired teacher/librarian

Girdwood Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Student Testimony HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:23:37 PM

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My name is Sarah Todd and I am a student at Sitka High School. I moved to Sitka just last year, and when I first started at Sitka High, I wasn't sure how well I would fit in. But very quickly, I realized that with a strong support system, anything was possible. The staff—my teachers, my coaches, even the librarian—made this school feel like home. They inspired me, pushed me to do my best, and made me feel like I belonged.

But budget cuts have been hitting Alaska's schools for years, and last year, we felt them worse than ever. One of my coaches, who led both my mock trial and softball teams, was on the chopping block. Several of my teachers were either let go or forced to take on larger class sizes, and even the librarian—someone who had become an important part of my school experience—was relocated. I remember going into this school year apprehensive because so many of the people who made Sitka High special were suddenly gone or stretched too thin.

That's why I got involved in student government. I realized that if I wanted to see change, I couldn't just sit back—I had to do something. I even attended an Alaska Association for Student Government (AASG) conference, where students from all over the state came together to fight for education funding. I've seen firsthand how passionate students are about this issue because we're the ones directly affected. We're losing teachers, programs, and resources that shape our futures, and it's discouraging to feel like our education is constantly on the chopping block.

House Bill 69 is a step toward fixing that. Increasing the Base Student Allocation would help prevent the kind of cuts my school and so many others across the state have faced. It would mean keeping the teachers and staff who make a difference in students' lives. It would mean investing in a future where students in Alaska have the support they need to succeed.

I love my school, and I want future students to have the same opportunities and support that I had when I first arrived. Please support HB 69 and help give Alaska's students the education they deserve.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Ashley Carrick](#)  
**Subject:** Support fo HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:43:40 PM

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Dear House Education Committee members;

Thank you for being serious about educating our children by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1000 this year and by \$404 for the next two years. Please support House Bill (HB) 69 as it moves through committee and onto the floor and encourage fellow representaives to support it once the bill has been introduced for a vote.

My children were educated in Alaska's public schools. The schools were the envy of other states. They are not an envy anymore. Now my grandchild attends public school in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. I have watched as she and her friends are moved into classrooms with too many students for effective teaching. My adult child, like other public school teachers who are passionate about educating our children, is frustrated and exhausted by trying to teach to students in packed classrooms. I support HB 69, increasing the BSA, and providing our children with the education to be contributing and successful adults.

Thank you for furthering public education in Alaska.

John Burr

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:37:35 PM

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Dear Legislators,

Small communities need support. We live in Petersburg and my two daughters have attended public school since Kindergarten. They are both in high school now. As parents who are involved with school activities and volunteering, we want present and future students to thrive. HB 69 proposes an allocation level increase over time that allows students to realize their potential. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE vote to support HB 69.

Sincerely,  
Carin Christensen and Emil Tucker  
Petersburg, Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:29:26 PM

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Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Jason Lessard and I live in House District 14.

I am a parent of 2 children who have attended public schools in Anchorage (one a graduate, one a current high schooler) and am writing in to express my full support for HB 69.

Our Alaskan youth are the single most valuable resource we have as a state and it's important that we treat them as such. Raising and inflation-proofing the BSA is only one component of how we should help nurture that resource but it's a critical one.

If we want our state to thrive, we need our people to thrive. If we want our people to thrive, we need to invest in their education in a meaningful way.

Thank you for hearing this bill today.

Best regards,  
Jason Lessard

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:04:30 PM

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Dear Alaska State House,

This is my first year entering the Anchorage public school system since I graduated from Service High School. I have a kindergartner, and a 3 year old that will enter public school in a couple years. We need to start allocating for the future of Alaska, and that starts with giving our children a great education. I encourage you to vote yes on House Bill 69, ensuring the funding of education for our Alaskan kids.

I came back to Anchorage after college to work in the fishing, and aviation industries. I wanted my kids to be a part of this wild landscape and learn from amazing teachers like I did. For this to happen, we have to get our base allocation up, recruit great educators, start acting like our kids are the future.

Pass the HB 69, and let's get started growing the next generation of Alaska geniuses!

Thank you for supporting and representing Alaska's interests.

Erica Madison  
Anchorage  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:15:00 PM

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Raise the BSA!! I support HB 69.

Carol Race

Juneau, Ak 99801

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:58:39 PM

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Dear House Education Committee Members:

I am a parent of a child in the Juneau school district and I am writing in support of HB 69. Funding for education has decreased drastically while inflation rises. Teachers and staff within the school continue to bear the weight of caring for and educating our children without the resources to do so. Funding education can help prevent more quality educators from leaving their positions and families from feeling uncertain about their child's education. I support HB 69 so that public schools in Alaska can function. Not only do students deserve to be supported, teachers and staff need help and deserve to be set up for success.

Thank you for prioritizing education funding which is essential to getting schools and our children's futures back on track.

Sincerely,

Crystal Bourland  
Juneau, Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Frank Tomaszewski](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:05:57 PM

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Dear Members of the Committee:

My name is Molly Proue and I am a mother of two elementary school kids and an archaeologist—I've lived and worked in the Interior for 20 years. I'm writing today in the midst of an educational crisis in Fairbanks—the flat funding over many years has resulted in numerous cuts. Last year we closed one neighborhood school and this year five more are proposed. Neighborhood schools aren't just educational facilities—they are community centers. Our kids get an education and build social networks along with us parents—these networks are essential for making a vibrant and sustainable community. Strong schools make for strong communities.

For the first time in 20 years my family is seriously considering leaving Alaska—I ask myself, is it irresponsible to stay with the education system crumbling due to inadequate state funding?

I fully support and applaud HB69. Please increase the BSA to reflect inflation. Please work together to pass a bill for funding and worry about policy later. Our children and working families don't deserve to be victimized by political differences.

Thank you for your work on behalf of my kids and my community—strengthening Alaska's school funding will help keep our population strong.

Molly Proue

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Education](#); [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson](#); [Rep. Alyse Galvin](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:24:53 PM

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Greetings Alaska State Legislators,

I am Theresa Lyons of Anchorage, Alaska. I am a graduate of the Anchorage School District, and I earned a Master's Degree at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I support education for the students of Alaska.

Education is proven to be a pathway out of poverty. The earlier we begin to foster a culture of lifelong learning in Alaska's children the better for the future of our great state. We know that we must develop our own leaders and it begins with a good foundation supported by our systems of education. I implore you to fund education in Alaska.

Of course, education is good for the people of Alaska. We must ensure our residents can think critically about themselves, their families, their state, and the world. Surely, we want to have problem solvers in our communities. Certainly, we want people that can lead and follow good leadership. We want Alaskans to have agency and be empowered to engage in our local and state government. Right?

I support HB69. Educate Alaska's students!

Thank you.  
Theresa Lyons

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 10:06:22 PM

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Dear Alaska Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB69 and the urgent need for increased and sustainable public education funding in Alaska. My name is Greta Myerchin-Tape, and I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska. As a parent of two children in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, one in middle school and one in high school, I've seen firsthand the challenges that come with stagnant funding. It has been increasingly disheartening to watch the erosion of essential programs each year, as the Basic School Allocation (BSA) fails to keep pace with inflation.

Although not under consideration today, I also look forward to future support for our teachers and the critical need for improvements to both their wages and retirement plans. These changes are crucial not only to retain our current educators but also to attract new talent to our schools.

Thank you for your service and for prioritizing the critical need for increased support for public education in Alaska.

Regards,  
Greta Myerchin-Tape  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for House Bill 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:28:18 PM

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Please support education for our children and pass HB 69.

Thank you,  
Debbie Oudiz  
[REDACTED]  
Homer AK 99603  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for House Bill 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:29:32 PM

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I want to take a moment to thank you for your dedication to serving our communities and for the work you do to support Alaska's families.

Today, I am reaching out with deep appreciation for your time and consideration of House Bill 69, introduced by Representative Rebecca Himschoot, which would provide much-needed increases to the per-student base allocation (SBA).

As you know, the SBA has not been increased since 2017, and the impact on our schools has been profound. Here in Sitka and Juneau, we are seeing firsthand how stagnant funding has led to staff shortages, larger class sizes, lack of special education resources, and the heartbreaking loss of programs that once enriched our students' education. Teachers are doing their very best with limited resources, but the strain is undeniable. Our children—who deserve every opportunity to thrive—are the ones bearing the burden and diminished opportunities our community was once known for.

I remain grateful for the dedication of our educators and school staff, who continue to show up for the students every day. I am also deeply appreciative of legislators like you who have the power to help create meaningful change. By supporting House Bill 69, you can ensure that our schools receive the funding they need to provide students with a strong foundation for success.

A \$1,000 increase to the SBA this year, followed by incremental increases in the coming years, would make a world of difference. It would allow our schools to retain teachers, restore essential programs, and provide the support that every student deserves.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do to support this effort or share further insight from our local schools—I have three school aged children in Sitka and work closely with families in Juneau who have been impacted by the changes there due to budget cuts.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to Alaska's students. I appreciate your consideration and urge you to support House Bill 69.

With gratitude,

Sheri Powers  
Sitka, Alaska  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for the structured BSA increase!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:44:33 PM

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Dear Legislators,

Our schools are in dire straits. The struggles are not understated- we don't have enough funding, substitute teachers, or retention benefits to support teachers. Students are in over-crowded classes with fewer and fewer supports, services, and staff. As a 12th year teacher in Juneau, I find it harder and harder to justify staying in a profession that I used to absolutely love. The bare-bones educational experience is not okay and it won't be long before more of us decide we will no longer be able to put ourselves in front of the steamroller of underfunding. Please, please support a structured increase to the BSA. I don't want to see things get worse before they get better. It's worse now. This is it.

Respectfully,

--Tanya Roust

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support HB69  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 8:02:57 AM

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## Public Testimony in Support of HB69 and Increased Public School Funding for FY26

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kim Saunders and I serve as the Assistant Superintendent of the Kodiak Island Borough School District. I am also a lifelong Kodiak resident, deeply invested in the success of our schools and our community.

I am here today to urge you to support **HB69**, which provides a necessary and **predictable** increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). A stable and adequate BSA is essential to **stabilizing our workforce, retaining high-quality educators, and ensuring that our students receive the education they deserve.**

For years, the state has emphasized the importance of teacher **recruitment and retention**, yet unpredictable and last-minute funding decisions undermine those very efforts. When funding is delayed or uncertain, school districts are left scrambling—forced to issue **one-year-only contracts**, make difficult budget decisions, and risk losing talented educators to states that offer more stability.

As someone who has worked directly in **special education, personnel, and district-wide administration**, I have seen firsthand the challenges that unstable funding creates. **We can do better.** Our students deserve **consistency, strong relationships with highly qualified teachers, and the resources necessary to accelerate their achievement.**

I ask you to **ensure that we can recruit and retain the best educators for Alaska's students** by providing reliable, increased public school funding. **Support HB69. Raise the BSA.** Our students, families, and communities are counting on you.

Thank you for your time, your attention to this critical issue, and your commitment to Alaska's public schools.

Kim Saunders

[REDACTED]

Kodiak Alaska 99615

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Andrew Gray](#)  
**Subject:** support HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:49:06 PM

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Dear Alaska House Committee on Education (and my district's House Representative Gray),

I appreciate your attention to HB 69 and am writing to express my support for increasing the BSA and education funding.

Investment in our youth is one of the most important steps we can take for our future as a state. I am an Anchorage parent of a 5 and 3 year old and we are in the process of preparing our daughter for kindergarten this next year. It is not an exaggeration to say that her school experience will be one of the driving factors of where we choose to live over the next 15 years as our children progress through the educational system. We want to stay in the Anchorage community and have roots in Alaska (I grew up in Juneau). We also want our children to be prepared for higher education and being informed citizens.

Schools that are underfunded are unable to provide the learning experiences, support, excellent teachers, and innovative curriculums that help kids learn best.

I urge you to support this bill and increase funding for our school system as an investment in the future for all of us who love Alaska.

-Mackenzie Slater, M.D.

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [house.education.committee@akleg.gov](mailto:house.education.committee@akleg.gov); [REDACTED]; [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support of HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:58:36 PM

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My name is Meghan Redmond. I am the principal of Homer Middle School in Homer, Alaska, but I am also a parent of 4 young children that I want to have the best future possible. I have been a teacher, assistant principal, and principal both on and off the road system in Alaska for the past 15 years. I am writing today in support of HB 69.

Our schools are facing rapidly rising costs in energy, transportation, health care, food service, and so much more. As those costs that are mostly out of our control rise through the roof and our funding remains flat, our districts are forced to find cuts that directly impact the classroom through cuts in staffing. As a principal, when I have to cut staffing, I am faced with an impossible decision of what opportunities to cut for my students or how big to make classes. I am forced to make decisions that I know are not best practices for student learning, when my original plan for next school year was to be moving the completely opposite direction. I can speak from experience that the things everyone calls "extra" are most often the things that get motivate kids to get to school so that they can also get our core instruction.

We need stable, long term, and predictable funding for our schools to be able to focus on long term school improvement, and to retrain and recruit excellent educators to our schools. Being a teacher is hard, being a teacher in Alaska is even harder. We have amazing, dedicated teachers in our state. but when our jobs are constantly on the chopping block due to possible budget cuts that year after year are stayed off temporarily by one-time funding outside the BSA, eventually the amazing teachers we have will have had enough. And I can tell you from personal experience in hiring teachers in Alaska for the past 15 years that we will not be able to replace them.

Our teachers deserve reasonable job expectations. We constantly ask our schools and our teachers to do more and more with less and less every year to the point that being a teacher is an impossible job.

We need stable, long-term funding for our schools. This will make an immediate improvement in the education of Alaska's children.

Last year, you heard the public testimony and the stories. You worked together with the rest of the legislators and found a compromise that nearly ALL of you agreed to. Last year's bill going to law would have made it so that we don't have to go through this awful process again and again just to staff our schools adequately. We aren't asking for a BSA increase to build ourselves a castle. We just want to ensure that every time our electric bill or the costs for insurance or the price of fuel to run our school buses increases, we don't have to make impossible decisions that inevitably take away opportunities for our students.

Thank you taking the time to read my email. Thank you for all you do. You have an impossibly difficult job that I could never do, so please know you are appreciated!

Meghan Redmond  
Homer, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support of HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:05:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [HB69 Testimony.pdf](#)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support School Choice  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:15:52 PM

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Not all children are alike. Isn't that an understatement? As a foster and adoptive family with 13 children that reality has driven our educational choices over the last 26 years. We have found some support and success in traditional classrooms, but all too often we found our special needs children struggling with environmental, academic, social, or emotional issues that required creativity and even heart wrenching decisions. It is not without thought and many tears that someone sends their five-year-old deaf child to Missouri, yet we found road blocks in ASD with teachers and professionals who were unwilling to support our desire that our deaf child would learn to use her Cochlear Implant in an auditory rich environment. I was told that even if I could prove she could eventually learn to speak, ASD would not provide her with an oral education. She did return home speaking and yet the struggle was not over. We eventually homeschooled her in 6th grade as the deaf school was too noisy and made it difficult for her to concentrate. Her story is not unique. The diagnosis and the struggles change, but the search for support and the best learning environment continues. My son with FASD has a history of failures, but is currently finding success in a small private Christian School combined with parent provided homeschooling classes. It is not easy, but he is back on track to graduate at 18 years old. This would not be possible if he were limited to publicly funded local options. Why should he be limited to failure? What about parents who don't have the fund for private education, or the time and education to provide home schooling, why should their students be limited? I believe that allowing for parent choice can help fill the gap when local public education isn't working. I also believe that excellence is not hampered by school choice. I believe that no one knows what a child needs like the parent and that providing parents with support and options is the best for all children. Brenda Hanson

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:03:40 PM

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Greetings

I want to send in written testimony in support of HB 69.

I've been a parent with kids in public schools in Juneau for the past 13 years. I have watched class sizes increase, core classes such as physics not be offered and the broad elimination of electives.

I've also spend many years working as a teacher and administrator having experienced the short fall of education.

I fully support this bill.

Sincerely  
Kristy Ford

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** testimony for HB 69 Raise the BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:33:09 PM

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Dear Madam Chair and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Kim Bates, and I am a public school teacher in Alaska with 24 years of dedicated experience, testifying today on my own behalf. As someone who has benefitted from the Alaska public school system, I've had the honor of teaching PreK-4 in both remote villages and along the road system. It is disheartening to see the ongoing challenges that persist in our public schools. I wholeheartedly support a reasonable increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), but this increase must be accompanied by meaningful policy changes.

We need to streamline district office administration and carefully audit unnecessary spending on frequently changing curriculum programs. While many highlight the successes of Alaska's charter schools, it's important to note that these public charter schools often stick to the same curriculum for extended periods and may not adequately serve special needs and behavioral students. Having taught at the only non-charter elementary school in Kenai, Alaska, I've seen this issue firsthand. Our school is the largest elementary in the district and has a strong special education department. We frequently step in to support students from nearby charter schools when they are unable or unwilling to meet these students' needs.

Any increase in the BSA should be strategically directed to support classroom teachers, ensuring they receive a living wage to promote retention, as well as the students they teach. To genuinely improve Alaska's troubling education outcomes, we must ensure that funding is channeled toward supporting students and teachers in the classroom rather than merely inflating general education budgets.

I urge you not to pass HB 69 without implementing significant policy changes. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kim Bates  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher  
Mountain View Elementary  
Kenai, Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:01:28 PM

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Hello,

My name is Melissa Wechter and I am representing myself. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public testimony on house bill 69. I am a Juneau school teacher and mother of two young daughters who are students in the Juneau School District.

I am in support of passing house bill 69 and raising the Base Student Allocation. The BSA is the core of our school funding, and it's critical for the success of our students. Since 2011, school costs have risen nearly 40%, yet the BSA has only increased by 10%. This is far below the rate of inflation.

As both a teacher and a parent, I witness firsthand the impacts of inadequate school funding. The result is larger class sizes, a shortage of teachers and paraeducators, and an increasing number of teachers leaving the profession.

I have two daughters, and I am deeply concerned for their education. With rising costs across the board, we cannot expect our schools to operate effectively when funding has not kept pace. Access to a better education means access to better opportunities. The BSA needs to be increased to ensure our students, teachers, and schools have the resources they need to thrive.

Thank you for taking my testimony and thank you for your attention, time, and focus on this critical priority.

Thank you,  
Melissa Wechter



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in favor of HB 69  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 8:16:39 AM

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## TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 69

GOOD AFTERNOON MEMBERS OF THE House Education Committee.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR TAKING MY TESTIMONY TODAY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 69.

MY NAME IS SUSAN RITTER, I LIVE AND WORK IN ANCHORAGE. I HAVE BEEN A LIFE SKILLS SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER FOR 17 YEARS WITH THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT., BEFORE THAT I WAS A SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL WITH ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 3 YEARS.

HOUSE BILL 69 : AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING. WHAT A SIMPLE BUT POWERFUL TITLE FOR THIS BILL.

FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS, FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS HAS BEEN WOEFULLY INADEQUATE. THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF OUR STATE GOVERNMENT HAVE SIMPLY KICKED THE PROVERBIAL FUNDING CAN DOWN THE ROAD. TIME HAS RUN OUT, OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM MUST BE FUNDED ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE.

THE STUDENTS , FAMILIES, TEACHERS, AND COMMUNITIES DESERVE TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT. I LISTENED TO THE ELOQUENT TESTIMONY ON MONDAY BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ; THE PARENTS, THE BUSINESSES AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS FROM AROUND THE STATE WHO SPOKE ABOUT THE IMPACT A LACK OF FUNDING HAD ON SCHOOLS, ACADEMIC OFFERINGS, POTENTIAL JOBS, AND THE COMMUNITY.

THIS BILL IS NOT ASKING FOR THE MOON. IT IS ASKING THAT OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ABIDE BY THE STATE CONSTITUTION BY ADEQUATELY SUPPORTING THE FUNDING OF EDUCATION FOR THE STUDENTS OF ALASKA.. PIECEMEAL FUNDING DOES NOT COUNT. FOR A STATE AS WEALTHY AS ALASKA, THIS IS SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE.

IT IS APPALLING TO ME THAT THE GOVERNOR OF OUR GREAT STATE, SENT OUT

AN EMAIL JUST TWO DAYS AGO URING THE PUBLIC TO CALL IN AGAINST THIS BILL. WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT.

I AGAIN URGE YOU TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 69 AND FUND OUR SCHOOLS.  
I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE EDUCATORS SITTING ON THIS COMMITTEE, IT IS WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU.

THANK YOU.

SUSAN RITTER,MS  
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER  
ANCHORAGE, AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB69 Funding: Increasing BSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:02:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [HB69.Funding.Increasing.BSA.Testimony.pdf](#)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony re: HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:33:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony re HB 69.pdf](#)

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Honorable Members of the Alaska Legislature,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 69, an increase to the BSA. My name is Eric Filardi, and I am the proud principal of Mendenhall River Community School in Juneau. As a Tier III educator with over a decade of experience in Alaskan education, I have been privileged to serve in roles ranging from classroom teacher to STEM Director to principal, receiving recognition such as the 2024 AAESP National Distinguished Principal Nomination, 2023 Alaska Region II Principal of the Year, 2020 PolarTREC Educator, and being a 2017 Alaska State Teacher of the Year Finalist. Today, I testify before you not only as an advocate for my school but as a father of a six-year-old first grader who attends the very institution I lead.

The need for a significant and permanent increase to the BSA has never been more critical. Despite the resilience and commitment of educators across Alaska, our schools face unsustainable challenges. At Mendenhall River Community School, we began the school year with four of our ten general education teaching positions vacant. Two of these positions were filled on the first day of school, but the other two required emergency-certified hires six and eight weeks into the term. This resulted in a last-minute reassignment of a kindergarten teacher to a multigrade 4/5 classroom, a decision that, while necessary, strained morale and compromised the stability our students need. Until now, our team members - and students - continue to feel the strain of these last minute decisions.

This is not an isolated issue but a systemic one exacerbated by flat funding, historic inflation, and unpredictable budgets. Staffing shortages have led to situations where one of our four K-6 special education staff members is virtual. While virtual services are a creative solution, they place an undue burden on the remaining team members, who must support both the virtual staff member and the students they serve. As a building leader, I am stretched too thin to adequately support our new teachers, leaving them without the mentorship and guidance critical to their success and, ultimately, the success of our students.

When decisions regarding the BSA drag out, the uncertainty becomes insurmountable. This uncertainty leaves schools unable to plan effectively and erodes trust in the system. Ultimately, we will lose our educators—dedicated professionals who can no longer endure the unpredictability and instability caused by delayed funding decisions.

The impact of these challenges extends beyond our classrooms. As a parent, I worry

deeply about the quality of education my daughter and her peers receive. Flat funding has left schools unable to invest in the resources, staff, and innovative programs that foster academic achievement and growth. How can we expect our children to thrive when their teachers are overworked, under-supported, and facing untenable conditions?

There is an urgent need for predictable and equitable funding. Without a permanent increase in the BSA to address inflation and rising costs, schools cannot maintain high academic standards or meet accountability requirements like those outlined in the Alaska Reads Act. To keep pace with inflation since FY11, the BSA requires an increase of \$1,808. This is not merely a number—it represents the gap between what our students need and what our schools can currently provide.

I urge the Legislature to act decisively and invest in Alaska's future by increasing the BSA. The proposed increases outlined in House Bill 69—including an additional \$1,000 on July 1, 2025, and annual adjustments tied to inflation thereafter—are a step in the right direction. However, these changes must be implemented without delay to prevent further erosion of our schools' purchasing power and ensure that every child, in every community, has access to the quality education they deserve.

Education is the foundation of our state's future. By fully funding the actual cost of education, the Legislature can reverse the out-migration of families, support economic development, and uphold the constitutional responsibility to provide a meaningful education for all Alaskans. In benefit of the students, families, and educators in Alaska, I ask you to prioritize this investment in our children and our communities.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Alaska's future.

Respectfully,

Eric Filardi

Principal, Mendenhall River Community School

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Eric Filardi

Principal/Teacher

2024 AAESP National Distinguished Principal Award, Nominee

2023 Alaska Region II Principal of the Year

2020 PolarTREC Educator

2017 Alaska State Teacher of the Year, Third Place Finalist

Juneau, AK 99801 USA

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Today's testimony supporting HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:36:50 PM

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Thank you again for the opportunity to speak this morning to the committee via phone in support of HB 69. I have been made aware that my stated location was misrepresented - it displayed that I am from Palmer, but I am from and currently living in Homer. As my testimony related specifically to my experience growing up and then returning here, I want to be sure that is clear. I've copied my testimony below.

Thank you again,  
Emily Kizzia  
Homer, Alaska

Thank you Madame Chair and members of the committee. My name is Emily Kizzia and I'm 34 year old resident of Homer, where I work as a Registered Nurse and live with my 4 year old daughter. I'm calling to express my support for HB 69. I was born in Homer and raised in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. I graduated from Homer High School in 2008, and when I left for college, I was so proud of being a public school kid from Alaska. I had a lot of opportunities growing up here that served me well, sports and AP classes and theater. I enjoyed academics, but it was the camaraderie of things like early morning swing choir, or taking weekend-long bus trips to the MatSu Valley for volleyball games that defined my experience as a student in Alaska. For other classmates of mine, those activities were what kept them returning to school each day to learn.

I moved back to Homer two years ago to raise my daughter, and I have been dismayed at the state of education funding. I currently work in Homer as a Registered Nurse. The state has a significant healthcare worker shortage, chief among them Registered Nurses. I loved growing up in Alaska, I love being here now, and I want to stay. But it is difficult to imagine sending my daughter to a public school system whose funding is so anemic, that has been so deprioritized by the state, that the KPBSD faces increasing class sizes by 10 students, cutting the theater and the arts and all sports programs, experiencing even higher teacher turnover. It would be enough to make me leave the state, much as it would break my heart. There's only so much one working parent can do when the public school option faces such inconsistent funding.

I understand that people would like to see our schools perform better, and I imagine most will agree that is important. However, I do not see this bill as throwing money at a failed endeavor; I see it as a recognition of past neglect, and an acknowledgment that Alaska's future may well be directed on the basis of how attractive it makes itself to young families. Funding education appropriately is the most important legislative issue to me this year, and I believe this Legislature can be the one to do it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** We Support HB 69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:05:42 PM

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A quarter way through the 21st century and we have gone from the outstanding K-12 public education my 3 Alaskan children received in the 90s and 2000s to the current dismal outlook for my Alaskan grandchildren just getting started. Instead of vibrant busy schools with librarians, music programs, custodians we now have a no-show generation of school age kids glued to phones and parents wanting to know why Johnny can't read. Will just blanket increases to Alaska school districts solve out-migration. Probably not, but if we can afford to subsidize energy and mining corporations at untold millions in AIDEAs latest business promotions then should we not first meet our state constitutional obligation to education first! Because and not to mislead, I am in favor of Alaska resource development, but don't we want to attract the new mining, oil & gas, tourism, military, etc. industries to move a motivated workforces to Alaska by having world class schools, highways, infrastructure, and opportunities once again. Starts with quality education fairly provided to all. Perhaps it's time to embrace and empower public, charter, home, private, classical, religious or whatever schooling and recognize each method has some virtues. But nothing is free not even public ed and there lies the rub. All the other education models charge for services. As Alaskan property owners in the boroughs we pay for our local schools, but perhaps time to re-institute the statewide school tax on All income earners in Alaska? Then we can not only allocate more to the BSA but also pay for it.

Bruce Bridwell  
Fairbanks Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony on HB69  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:37:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony on HB 69 1.29.25 - Bill Burr.pdf](#)

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Please include in testimony.

bill

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**Bill Burr**  
**Superintendent**  
**Wrangell Public Schools**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Yes, on house bill 69. Fully funded public school  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:44:50 PM

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Following up. Specifically this is in support of House Bill 69. Thank you!

On Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 2:06 PM Shannon McBride-Morin [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for your work in the Alaska legislature.

I am writing to you from Homer asking for you to fully fund and forward fund AK Public Schools education. I support raising the BSA -base student allocation. I support paying teachers well. I support Alaskan public school educators and kids.

as a long time Alaskan, I was born and raised on the Kenai Peninsula and got an excellent public school education in Homer. I raised my kids here and they got an excellent education- I want to support our teachers, para professionals, school nurses, counselors etc and pay them a good living wage with good benefits.

I hate to see our school funding being cut & our class sizes going up And our teacher is not being able to afford to live in the community that we love. Please support public schools and fully fund public school education. Our kids need it. Thank you.

Shannon McBride-Morin

[REDACTED]  
Homer AK. 99603

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Shannon McBride-Morin  
Co-Owner & Operator

Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge  
China Poot Bay & Homer, Alaska  
[www.AlaskaWildernessLodge.com](http://www.AlaskaWildernessLodge.com) 

Please read our [reviews](#) on



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