



Association of Alaska School Boards
1111 West 9th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

February 19, 2018

To: Alaska House Education Committee

Flat funding of the Base Student Allocation (BSA) has had a significant negative impact on school districts throughout Alaska. During the recent AASB Fly-In you heard school board members speak about the increases in transportation, airfares, utilities, cleaning supplies, health care costs, paper supplies and all the many commodities needed to operate schools. Meeting these increased operating costs has directly impacted classrooms.

Supporting an increase in the BSA would allow school districts to replace what has been lost from the classroom. These are things that directly affect students such as reinstatement of academic electives including CTE, art, and music; replacing teachers, counselors, and paraprofessionals; and providing direct services to students such as interventions, tutoring, and after school activities.

AASB's Delegate Assembly supports an increase to the BSA through a long-standing resolution:

2.2 URGING EARLY, ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE, AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
AASB urges the State of Alaska to provide early, adequate, equitable, and predictable funding of public education. AASB believes that adequate funding should include the following:

- *State funding of the TERS-PERS retirement liability;*
- *An increase to the Base Student Allocation to account for both inflation and adequate pre-K through 12th grade education;*
- *Recognition of the need to keep pupil-teacher ratios to a level in line with research-based best practices;*
- *Career and technical education;*
- *An early adoption timeline that allows school boards and district administration to effectively plan instruction and staffing for the upcoming school year'*

AASB urges that in years when the Alaska Legislature has not approved an education budget by April 1, the budget from the previous year shall be the legal minimum funding for the next fiscal year.

AASB urges the legislature to review and recommend appropriate adjustments to AS.14.17.460, District Cost Factors, to ensure equity in school funding.

AASB urges the Legislature to provide stable forward funding that addresses inflation, including the use of an education endowment, to ensure funding predictability.

We encourage the committee's support of HB 339

Michael Swain, President

Norman Wooten, Executive Director