



LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Edgar Hoelscher

Chairman

Dr. Rob Picou

Superintendent

March 27, 2018

Senate Education Committee
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senate Education Committee Members,

I have been a teacher, a principal, and a superintendent in both rural and urban Alaska for the past twenty years. On behalf of the Regional School Board, the families of the Lower Yukon School District, and the staff of the Lower Yukon School District, this testimony is in support of **Senate Bill 216: SCHOOL FUNDING FOR CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS.**

We are in support of Senate Bill 216 for the following reasons :

1. Hooper Bay is a growing community with a population of 1275. The Hooper Bay School is the largest school in LYSD. The current enrollment is at 449, well beyond the 425 specified in AS 14.17.905.
2. Every school in Alaska is funded proportionately according to its ADM during a twenty day count period. According to the current language of AS 14.17.905, Hooper Bay School is the only school in Alaska that actually gets penalized for an increase in student enrollment.
3. In current form, the provision in AS14.17.905 that calculates funding for a school with an ADM over 425 as one school instead of two schools would equate to a reduction in revenue of \$1M. A reduction in school funding of this size would have a very detrimental impact on children in the Lower Yukon School District.
4. The Senate Bill 216 provision correction of AS 14.17.905 in Sec 2 would hold the children of LYSD harmless from the unintended consequences of legislation that was written in 2001. In the original language of AS 14.17.905, this unintended consequence was anticipated and Hooper Bay was specifically mentioned in deliberation.

CHILDREN FIRST

Alakanuk Emmonak Hooper Bay Kotlik Marshall Mt. Village Pilot Station Russian Mission Scammon Bay Sheldon Point