

Alaska Superintendents Association

234 Gold Street • Juneau, AK 99801

907.586.9702 • 800.478.9702 • (Fax) 907.364.3805



April 3, 2018

The Honorable Senator Natasha von Imhof
Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator von Imhof and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

We are writing to support SB216 relating to school consolidation. We note that the bill significantly reduces disincentives to school consolidation that are built into the current funding and statutory provisions. We also note that this is voluntary and leaves the decisions to each individual school district.

Specifically, by providing a four year transition period, where 100% of pre-consolidation per student funding is maintained in the first two years before dropping to 66% in the third year and that 33% in year 4, a school district is given ample time to effectuate the consolidation without being financially penalized.

As all of us – educators, legislators, parents, community leaders, and stakeholders – across Alaska work to make the most of the resources provided to K-12 education in these phenomenally tight budget times, it makes sense to provide a path through the thicket of statutes and regulation to reach a better balance in the use of existing school facilities. By leaving other provisions intact – the school size formula, state aid calculations for schools not involved in the consolidation, single school communities, etc. – the bill provides incentives for school level consolidation without impinging on other significant concerns.

We appreciate the balance brought forth in the bill, its usefulness in more than one district in the State, and your efforts to bring it forward. It is another tool for public school districts to use if they choose at a time when flexibility is a premium.

Yours respectfully,

Lisa Skiles Parady, JD, Ed.D.
Executive Director