



LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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George Smith
Chairman

John Hargis
Superintendent

Subject: RE: HB57 - School Cell Phone Policy/Base Student Allocation legislation

April 28, 2025

Dear Members of the Alaska Legislature,

As the legislative session nears its conclusion, I urge you to help finalize a strong education package that includes the Governor's proposed \$700 Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase *and* the key policy reforms necessary to secure his signature.

Progress has been made, but important pieces are still incomplete. Specifically, we ask that you prioritize ensuring the bill fully addresses:

- **Restoration of Reading Incentive Grants** (not contingent on separate revenue bills),
- **Clear Open Enrollment Options** (not delayed to task force discussion),
- **Full 1.0 ADM Funding for Correspondence Students**, and
- **Charter School Process Updates** (including fund balance clarification and decision timelines).

The Governor has clearly stated:

"If legislators make a few key edits — including restoring reading grants, adding open enrollment, ensuring full funding for correspondence students, and including the charter school reforms — I will sign this bill."

Without meeting these targets, we risk returning to one-time funding (I fear it would be \$340, which would be detrimental), missing a critical opportunity to secure a **statutory BSA increase** that our schools urgently need for stability, staffing, and student success.

Finishing this work benefits every district and student in Alaska. On behalf of our community, I respectfully ask you to advocate for including these reforms before the session adjourns and securing a lasting, meaningful victory for public education. Thank you for your leadership and service.

Sincerely,

John Hargis
Superintendent
jhargis@lysd.org