



ALL ALASKA
PEDIATRIC
PARTNERSHIP

5/7/2025

Dear Rep. Dibert,

House Bill 12 – An Act Relating to Free Breakfast and Lunch in Public Schools

Dear Representative Dibert:

On behalf of the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership (A2P2), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 12, “An Act relating to free breakfast and lunch in public schools.” If passed, This important legislation will ensure that every student in Alaska has access to nutritious meals, regardless of their family's income or circumstances or where they live.

House Bill 12 will enable school districts to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students who request them, eliminating barriers that prevent children from receiving the nutrition they need to learn and thrive. As research consistently shows, hunger and/or poor nutrition directly affects students’ academic performance, attendance, behavior, and long-term health outcomes. When children are hungry, their ability to concentrate and participate meaningfully in the classroom is significantly diminished.

This bill also directs the Department of Education to pursue all available federal funding to support these efforts, ensuring that the state maximizes existing resources and minimizes the financial burden on local districts. By aligning state support with federal programs, House Bill 12 represents a fiscally responsible approach and aligns with the stated priorities for children and youth in [Healthy Alaskans 2030](#).

Access to meals at school should not be a privilege—it is a foundational part of creating equitable educational environments. House Bill 12 acknowledges this by treating school meals as essential services, not optional extras.

I appreciate you and your colleagues for sponsoring this important legislation and for standing up for the wellbeing and future of Alaska’s children. Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your continued commitment to supporting public education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tamar Ben-Yosef".

Tamar Ben-Yosef
Executive Director
All Alaska Pediatric Partnership