

Alaska's Legislative Plan for Public Education

Bold, Innovative, Inclusive, Limited, Affordable

Public education needs more money. Teacher salaries, adequate teacher housing, and retirement system options require your careful review and consideration.

1. Conduct an independent study to find out the actual cost of providing public education across all school districts.
2. Assess the long-term costs of any services you recommend for public education, such as a defined benefit system, higher educator salaries, or a statewide bond for major school district maintenance.
3. Identify revenue sources to fund current and proposed additional education services, such as new taxes or reallocating revenue from other state programs.
4. Understand that you'll never have enough money to meet the demands of the public education system.
5. Take your time to develop the education plan. Increase funding as much as you can while building your plan. Allow two or three years to create, identify costs, and evaluate proposals. Build public support through consistent, meaningful engagement with communities across the entire state.
6. Propose, approve, and implement a new funding plan for public education that supports hiring and retaining excellent educators and provides the services Alaskans want for their schools and students.
7. Measure the return on investment for high school graduates. Do they start their jobs, college, or technical programs with the necessary skills? Do employers need to provide skill training that schools should handle? Let's find out!
8. Legislatures before you set a poor example for funding education. They were short-sighted, failed to balance expenses with revenue, and didn't follow their own education funding formula. You have an opportunity to be a positive example by modeling the actions, behaviors, and accountability you want and expect from the public education system.
9. Your greatest challenge and greatest opportunity is to build a strong relationship with the public to increase Alaska's understanding and support for public education.
10. Please show Alaskans what Bold, Innovative, Inclusive, Limited, and Affordable public education looks like!