

HB 261: Education Funding



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Monday, February 2, 2026

Enrollment Reality

Fairbanks North Star Borough Enrollment

- Peak enrollment (2015-2016): 13,851
- Current enrollment (2025-2026): 11,200

Loss of 2,651 students – nearly 19%



The Effects of Flat Funding

- BSA increased from \$5,680 in 2014 to \$5,960 in 2024
 - About 5% over 10 years

In the same time period, cost for staffing, healthcare, utilities have significantly increased.



Why the Current ADM System Doesn't Work

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Enrollment:

- 2023-24: 12,453
- 2024-25: 11,793
- 2025-26: 11,200

Each enrollment drop triggers immediate funding loss



How a Three-Year ADM Average Helps

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Enrollment:

- 2023-24: 12,453
- 2024-25: 11,793
- 2025-26: 11,200

Three-year average =11,815

This does not hide enrollment decline.
It phases it in responsibly



What Instability Has Cost FNSBSD

- Seven schools closed
- More than 360 jobs eliminated
- Class sizes
 - K-5: 26
 - 6-8: 29
 - 9-12: 32



Intensive Students & Growing Needs

FNSBSD Data:

- 21% increase in special education students over 10 years
- 28.5% increase over the last 5 years



Staffing & Stability

Staffing reality

- Ongoing shortages, especially in special education
- Competition statewide and nationally

HB 261 is a practical, responsible change that helps districts manage reality without harming students



Thank you! Questions?

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