

# HB 261: Education Funding



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# 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



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

# Intensive Students & Growing Needs

## FNSBSD Data:

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



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

# 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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