

HB 261: Education Funding



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Who We Serve

- Remote, small island communities across Southeast Alaska
- Multiple small schools where enrollment can shift year to year
- Students deserve stable staffing, programs, and services despite volatility

The Challenge: Enrollment Volatility

- Rural enrollment fluctuates due to housing, jobs, and migration
- Small changes in student count create major funding swings
- Instability disrupts staffing, course offerings, and student supports

Enrollment Trends Across Our Schools

School	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26	3-YR AVG
Coffman Cove	16	19	19	18
Hollis	13	12	15	13.33
Kasaan	25	18	21	21.33
Naukati	22	14	13	16.33
Port Alexander	22	11	19	17.33
Thorne Bay	63	66	53	60.67
Whale Pass	11	9	15	11.67
AK Trails	22	15	45	27.33

How HB 261 Helps Rural Districts

HB 261 improves stability by:

- Using the greater of last year ADM or a 3-year average
- Providing a declining enrollment phase-in for sharp enrollment drops
- Strengthening intensive services funding predictability

Impact on Students and Communities

With a stable funding process, REAAs may:

- Maintain consistent teachers and support staff as contracts can be signed earlier
- Protect electives, cultural programs, and interventions
- Ensure continuity for special education and intensive needs students

Request to the Legislature

On behalf of our REAA communities:

- HB 261 recognizes the realities of rural Alaska
- It stabilizes the funding process without increasing uncertainty
- We respectfully urge passage of HB 261

Thank you! Questions?

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