



# LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA LOCAL 341

2501 Commercial Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone (907) 272-4571 Fax (907) 274-0570  
[www.local341.com](http://www.local341.com)



March 14, 2011

Senators Kevin Meyer and Joe Thomas  
Co-chairs Senate Education Committee

Alaska State Senate

RE: Letter of Support for SB84 for use in the legislative committee process

Dear Senators:

Laborers' Local 341 representing over 2,000 Alaskan workers, strongly supports passage of SB 84. Our public schools are the foundation of our nation's greatness. The small annual increases to the base student allocation (BSA), included in SB 84, are essential to maintain a basic level of K-12 education for Alaska's children. We additionally fully support the statutory changes contained in SB 84 regarding vocational instruction funding.

An excellent K-12 education system is essential to economic development of all kinds and a crucial element to ensure a strong state economy. Good schools attract employers and improve employment opportunities. Funding for Alaska's K-12 schools has barely kept pace with inflation over the past 12 years. Adequate funding is an essential component of a good K-12 education system. Without the BSA increases included in SB 84, our real value school funding will decline significantly as inflation rises over the next several years. Providing K-12 education is a constitutional duty of the State of Alaska.

## **Article 7 - Health, Education and Welfare**

### **§ 1. Public Education**

The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State . . .

Education funding should accordingly be prioritized not to decrease in real value. In fact, we support a real increase in state education funding, but SB 84 is a good first step.

**JOEY MERRICK**  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**RON MCPHETERS**  
PRESIDENT

**RON AXTELL**  
VICE-PRESIDENT

**LARRY MOONEY**  
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

**STACY ALLEN**  
HEALTHCARE UNIT  
REPRESENTATIVE

Serving on the Alaska Workforce Development Investment Board, the AGIA Steering Committee, and as an active member of many civic organizations, I can confidently say that there is overwhelming public support for increasing vocational education opportunities in our high schools. Unfortunately, the structure of the current school funding formula is inhibiting improvements to vocational education. We strongly support the revisions proposed by SB 84 to create a separate "high school vocational and technical instruction" funding component within the formula. This is an absolutely necessary first step toward addressing the growing demand for vocational training.

We request the support of all Alaskan legislators and executive branch officials toward the passage of SB 84.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A.J. Merrick II".

A.J. "Joey" Merrick II  
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
Laborers' Local 341

## Edra Morledge

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**Subject:** FW: SB 84 CTE support!

-----Original Message-----

From: Neel\_Julye [[mailto:Neel\\_Julye@asdk12.org](mailto:Neel_Julye@asdk12.org)]

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 9:35 AM

To: Sen. Kevin Meyer

Subject: SB 84 CTE support!

Dear Senator Meyer,

My name is Julye Neel and I am the Principal at Hanshew Middle School in Anchorage. I've learned that the Senate Education Committee is preparing to take public testimony on SB 84 increasing the Base Student Allocation and funding for vocational/career and technical-education. I'm so pleased to hear that.

This funding would support the work of educators with students through expanded CTE programs such as programs that currently exist successfully at Hanshew and our local Service High School. Currently, Hanshew offers Applied Technology, directly preparing students for high school and the construction trades, Family Consumer Science directly preparing middle school students for Service High's Pro Start program, Business Education that prepares students for business courses such as accounting and marketing at the high school. We working on offering a course next year that prepares students for Service High's Bio Medical Academy. This purpose and goal would be to prepare students for the many career opportunities in the health field.

The increase in funding will support professional development for educators so that we can continue to support student and community interest. I believe that the CTE programs are relevant to students and their future more than ever before.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please consider this an invitation to visit our school and learn more about the opportunities we are currently providing for students.

Sincerely,  
Julye Neel  
Hanshew Principal  
Hanshew Middle School  
Home of the HAWKS!

907-267-0203

## Edra Morledge

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**Subject:** FW: Senate Bill 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Josh Applebee  
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 7:35 AM  
To: Edra Morledge  
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 84

EDUC

-----Original Message-----

From: Rios\_Rick [[mailto:Rios\\_Rick@asdk12.org](mailto:Rios_Rick@asdk12.org)]  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 12:35 PM  
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer  
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Alaska Legislature Education Committee Co-Chair March 11, 2011 Dear Senator Kevin Meyer, Please advance Senate Bill 84 and then persuade your colleagues of the Senate and House to pass it.

Vocational Education programs were abandoned and disassembled during the 80's and 90's as the skilled workforce was ignored in place of special education mandates, and college driven admissions. These past events have resulted in the low graduation rates and high dropout rates of disenfranchised and misguided students. America became driven by post-secondary institutional mascots rather than by career choices of its citizen workforce. Where students went to college became more important than what students would do as their life's career contribution. Many students are disengaged due to the irrelevance of their courses. This situation is unsatisfactory and needs new vision for a smarter, engaged and relevant citizen workforce to benefit America's and Alaska's future. Initiatives such as Science Technology Engineering and Math, better known as STEM, are merging academic and application learning into new models. CTE is the application component.

The skill style training of Vocational Education from the last century has changed. Skill sets and training tracks no longer serve the Twenty-First Century worker citizen. Problem-solving, processing, innovation and creative design are the worker's tools for the future. Even our military is rejecting our high school graduates as unfit for service. The military has found that America not only needs a tough fighting force, but more importantly, it needs a better thinking and innovative force. Career and Technical Education is slowly making this transformation. It starts with middle school career exploration and career cluster pathway education. It includes new engineering technology literacy skills.

This is a monumental task in the face of a program that was abandoned nearly twenty years ago. Career and Technical Education classes are currently relegated to a few elective options for students who need them and thrive on them. Many graduation requirements have not been updated in decades. The Anchorage School District has seen a rise in graduation rates while it has provided additional Career and Technical Education courses during after-school opportunities with special grant funds. The Anchorage School Board and Anchorage Assembly recognize the need for CTE and are providing a general school bond this spring to advance CTE opportunities at area middle and high schools.

The Anchorage School District is also modeling new innovative middle and high school academies in construction, health and engineering. The Anchorage School District has a taskforce currently researching and developing new plans for its graduation requirements. However, none of these urgent and essential initiatives will meet the growing needs for CTE

teachers, counselors and classes. Remodeled facilities and new graduation requirements will not provide the teachers and programs need to fill the classrooms with students. Many classes will need to be offered in extended day and extended school opportunities. Anchorage has more capacity to make these difficult changes; rural Alaska has no opportunity or chance to offer desperately needed CTE programs. SM84 provides equitable funding for all, without a competitive grant processes that deflects funding from classrooms and teachers.

Career and Technical Education has always started with middle school exploration classes as do all the new academies. Senate Bill 84 must include all the secondary programs including middle school 7-12. As much as possible Senate Bill 84 should address the State CTE Plan, jointly developed by the Department of Education and Early Development, Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the University of Alaska.

Now is the time to drill down to the core bedrock of workforce development. The pillars are in the minds and hearts of our next generation citizen workforce. The work has begun as the CTE forms have been constructed. Now, I urge you to pour some concrete into them and establish a solid foundation for the future of Alaska, our students.

Sincerely

Rick Rios  
ASD CTE Coordinator

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:37 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 84

EDUC

-----Original Message-----

From: Lucas\_Frances [[mailto:lucas\\_frances@asdk12.org](mailto:lucas_frances@asdk12.org)]  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 3:30 PM  
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens  
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senators,

I am sending you this email in support of Senate Bill 84. As a middle school business education and CTE teacher, I can tell you firsthand how important CTE is to education. I have witnessed students who had little interest in school come "alive" in their first computer, home ec and applied tech classes. CTE encourages lifelong learning by applying hands-on CTE concepts to real world examples. Students learn about career options and discover they have many choices.

I hope you will support Career and Tech Education programs with SB 84.

With much gratitude,

Frances Lucas

Frances Lucas  
Best Practices Coordinator-CTE  
Romig Middle School  
2500 Minnesota Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
PH: 907-742-5285  
FX: 907-742-5252

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:38 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 84 +

EDUC

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**From:** Denise Caposey [<mailto:dcaposey@skagwayschool.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2011 7:55 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettie Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Cc:** Denise Caposey  
**Subject:** SB 84 +

Please support school funding on SB 84 and any other bill that seeks to support public education in Alaskan schools. Schools are not being adequately funded. The communities are strangled by caps and poorly calculated funding formulas that do not take into account the needs of small schools.

Dear Senators,

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

I don't know if you are aware of what dire straights Alaska's small schools are in. School budgets are in crisis all over the state. I don't think schools should attempt to balance their budgets at the expense of teachers and programs. The teaching staffs have been hit particularly hard as programs are eliminated and positions cut. Many districts are experiencing a wage freeze. This has been happening for up to three years already in some districts. Imagine being a teacher in an outlying village and not getting a cost of living increase each year. We're in Alaska, where we pay the highest fuel prices in the nation! Please look into the current budget crisis for your districts who are, or soon will be, negotiating teachers' contracts.

I repeat for emphasis- Alaska's teachers should not be responsible for balancing budgets and finding money to run mandated programs in Alaska's schools. I did not enter the teaching profession to be a fundraiser. I am a professional and I expect that my priority and focus should be my students. Its costs more to live here.

Professionals like me will not be able to sustain living and working in Alaska with the added burden of having to subsidize our schools.

Support SB 84 and any other bill that seeks to increase state contributions to public schools. You do your job and I'll do mine.

Sincerely,

Denise Caposey, Elementary School Teacher  
Skagway, Alaska



## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:39 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 84

EDUC

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**From:** Debbie Collins [<mailto:dcollins@cordovasd.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2011 7:40 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer  
**Subject:** SB 84

Please support increased funding for SB 84. I am employed by the Cordova School District and more importantly, a community member. I see teachers and others work hard to support our children in academics and skills for life. With increased funding we can see smaller class sizes, which to me means children are not falling through the cracks, more small group instruction. Please help us give our best to our children. We want to do everything we can to ensure the best for our children.... and they are all our children, in Cordova, and in Alaska.

I realize that increased funding does not always ensure our children will receive a better education, but money is needed to build and maintain a strong program like we are proud to have in Cordova.

Thank you,  
Debbie Collins

Cordova

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:41 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: support for Senate Bill 84

EDUC

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**From:** Evelyn Willburn [<mailto:ewillburn@sisd.org>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2011 10:19 AM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer  
**Subject:** support for Senate Bill 84

Dear Senator Meyer: I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 84. I believe that as a state we should take every opportunity to increase our support of public schools. Thank you.

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:43 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: Senate Bill 84...vitally important to CTE needs in our state!

EDUC

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**From:** Pam Collins [<mailto:mpcollins@acsalaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2011 12:21 PM  
**To:** Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Senator [Charlie.Higgins@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Charlie.Higgins@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Senator [Johnny.Ellis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Johnny.Ellis@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Senator [Lesil.McGuire@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Lesil.McGuire@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Linda Menard; Sen. Donny Olson; Senator [Joe.Paskvan@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Joe.Paskvan@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Bert Stedman; Senator [Thomas.Wagner@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Thomas.Wagner@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
**Cc:** Maker Julie; [rios\\_rick@asdk12.org](mailto:rios_rick@asdk12.org); [comeau\\_carol@asdk12.org](mailto:comeau_carol@asdk12.org)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 84...vitally important to CTE needs in our state!

Re: Senate Bill 84 "An Act relating to funding for high school vocational education as a component of funding for public schools; increasing the base student allocation used in the public school funding formula; and providing for an effective date."

A few weeks ago my colleague, Leslie Moore and I met with many of you to discuss a number of issues, including this CTE initiative and forward, full funding, with a cap on core class (English, math, science, social studies) size of 27-28 students. We are grateful for your time and willingness to listen to our concerns, since testing and graduation rates are the main focus of our state.

Legislators, the need for the passage of this legislation has not gone away, and we support this new 2011 CTE initiative, Senate Bill 84. We are so grateful to Senator Joe Thomas and Senator Kevin Meyers and their staffs for introducing this much delayed and much needed CTE funding proposal. SB 84 assures that Legislative funds as provided in the education funding formula will be spent on secondary CTE programs.

As a middle school Career Guide, I see the daily importance in our school for 'hope', when students learn more about career options, they never thought attainable or knew anything about. Learning about these early in their school environment, opens doors. Through yearly Career Fairs, guest speakers from businesses and organizations, talks by community leaders, work with School Business Partnerships and available apprenticeships, our secondary students are given the tools to research their passions and seek out meaningful elective courses.

PLEASE don't let This bill stall in committee, like HB 317 last year. Senators, we need you to take action now. It is vitally important that the hearings be scheduled and that Senate Bill 84 be passed.

Gratefully,  
Mrs. Pam Collins

Mother of three successful college graduates and 50 year Alaskan resident

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:43 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 84

EDUC

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Friedman\_Jeff [[mailto:Friedman\\_Jeff@asdk12.org](mailto:Friedman_Jeff@asdk12.org)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2011 12:41 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Gary Stevens; Comeau\_Carol; Kennedy\_Crystal  
**Subject:** SB 84

Dear Co-Chairs Thomas and Meyer, and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for SB 84 and for CSSB 84.

During my eight years on the Anchorage School Board, I have seen a lot of growth in the district's efforts to enhance career training in both professional and non-professional job skill areas. The added vocational and technical instruction funding will allow us to continue those efforts without reducing funding for other vital programs.

I also appreciate the planned increases in the BSA. Inflation chips away at our funding every year. The increases provided for in SB 84 and CSSB 84 will help us maintain our purchasing power. Equally important in my view, knowing for three years what our funding will be lets us plan in advance.

With increased funding comes increased responsibilities and I know the ASD will not shy away from those responsibilities. Over the last eight years, we have made large gains in our graduation rate, seen large decreases in our drop out rate, and made progress in our test scores. All of this while seeing a large influx of students who don't speak English, come from low income families, or who transfer in and out of the district repeatedly. In addition, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan put stress on our many military families, which makes teaching their children more of a challenge. Just to maintain test scores and graduation rates while teaching increasing numbers of harder to teach students is a huge accomplishment. The credit for that goes to our many dedicated employees, as well as to the Legislature's recognition that financial support, while not THE solution, is certainly a necessary element to providing the solution.

I would appreciate your support for either SB 84 or CSSB 84.

Jeff Friedman  
Anchorage School Board  
1534 D Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:47 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: hearing for SB 84

EDUC

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**From:** Mary DeSpain [<mailto:timnmary@ak.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2011 1:01 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French  
**Subject:** hearing for SB 84

Dear Senators,

I have become aware that there is funding in question regarding monies that could be used to help the funding of future opportunities for Career and Technology class for students in the state of Alaska.

As a parent of two students in high school and in Junior High I would absolutely encourage you to pass the Senate Bill that would bring more money to continue and add to the education in high school students. I believe there are more students who are interested in hands-on classes and having those opportunities keeps them interested in school, interested in attending school which then creates less dropout rates. I have one son who has taken multiple classes from the King Career Center and every semester those classes have been his favorite classes. He's received excellent grades in all those classes and I believe part of the reason for that is because it's more hands-on and he's been able to choose classes in areas he's interested in. My son is graduating early and as a result of attending Technology Classes he's made a decision on what he wants his further education to be and what career field he plans on building his future on.

My daughter has started high school and wants the hands-on classes so much that she's chosen to attend the after school sessions that are offered at King Career Center and as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader has even said she believes she's going to go into this field as a career. These classes have a HUGE impact on our kids.

Please consider passing the funding. More students needs these opportunities.

Sincerely,  
Mary DeSpain  
Parent of three in the ASD

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:48 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 84 CTE Education Update

EDUC

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Roach\_Wade [[mailto:Roach\\_Wade@asdk12.org](mailto:Roach_Wade@asdk12.org)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2011 2:35 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer  
**Subject:** SB 84 CTE Education Update

Dear Senator Meyer,

I am very involved in Alaska FIRST programs. I have seen the positive impact on students participating in these programs and their decisions to pursue STEM fields for future careers. Students that are interested in STEM fields such as engineering can advance their education by taking CTE courses in high school that would be supported by the increased funding outlined in this bill. Please move SB84 through committee and give it a positive recommendation.

Thank you.  
-Wade Roach  
FIRST Robotics Team 568  
Nerds of the North

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:49 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 84

EDUC

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**From:** Mary DeSpain [<mailto:timnmary@ak.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2011 3:24 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Subject:** SB 84

Dear Senators,

I heard that Monday morning a bill was being voted on regarding putting more money towards Career and Technology education. As a freshman in the Anchorage School District I just wanted to tell you that I hope you'll spend the money on these types of classes. I have already started taking a class on Photography at The King Career Center and I enjoy in very much. I'm taking this class not only for the credit but also for the learning. It is allowing me to be able to tell if I will want to be a photographer when I grow up or if there is something else I'm wanting to be. I would love to see more of these types of classes provided at my school as well.

\*\*\*\*\*~Kelsey~\*\*\*\*\*

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:51 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: Support SB 84

EDUC

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Liebner\_Sue [[mailto:Liebner\\_Sue@asdk12.org](mailto:Liebner_Sue@asdk12.org)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2011 8:44 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer  
**Subject:** Support SB 84

Dear Senator Meyer,  
Please support SB 84 in order for us to continue to do our jobs educating our children.

Thank you for your work on the Education Committee.

Sue Liebner  
Principal of College Gate Elementary  
Anchorage School District



## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:52 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: Support for SB84 - VOC ED FUNDING/BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION

EDUC

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**From:** AASSP [<mailto:aassp@alaskaprincipal.org>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2011 9:35 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer  
**Subject:** Support for SB84 - VOC ED FUNDING/BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION

ATTN:  
Sen. Kevin Meyer  
Senate Education Co-Chair

Dear Senator Meyer:

I understand that the Senate Education Committee will be hearing testimony on Monday, March 14, 2011 on SB 84, VOC ED FUNDING/BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION.

The Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals supports this bill as it provides for a new multi-year funding formula with annual increases in the base student allocation, and additional funds that support career and technical education. SB84 will be beneficial, as it will allow the continuation of the recommendations that were part of the 2007 Joint Legislative Education Task Force. The multi-year funding has been extremely helpful for district and school planning for instruction and avoiding layoffs due to funding uncertainty.

With the current three year funding plan ending this school year, without the passage of SB84, schools and school districts will be facing renewed funding uncertainty. Faced with the certainty of greater fuel costs in 2011-12, increases in health insurance, food service, transportation and other costs, districts require funding certainty to make wise budget decisions that reduce the impact of cuts to instructional programs and reduce the disruption caused by lay-offs that are avoidable with funding certainty.

SB84 is a reasonable bill that will ensure no ground is lost in the progress districts have made over the past three years to offer a rigorous core curriculum. The provision in this bill would also allow districts to offer a vibrant career and technical education curriculum; something industry leaders have said is a priority if Alaska is to have a qualified workforce and a diverse economy. SB 84 will be very important in furthering the implementation of the state Career and Technical Education Plan

The Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals supports SB84 and appreciates your efforts to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Andre' Layral, M. Ed  
Executive Director  
Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals  
P.O. Box 83530  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Office: 907-458-8880  
FAX: 907-458-8889  
Email: [aassp@alaskaprincipal.org](mailto:aassp@alaskaprincipal.org)  
Web Page [www.alaskaprincipal.org](http://www.alaskaprincipal.org)

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:54 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 84  
**Attachments:** 0clip\_image002.png; 0clip\_image004.png

EDUC

-----Original Message-----

From: Ty Mase [<mailto:tmase@lpsd.com>]  
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 7:32 AM  
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens  
Subject: SB 84

[Image]

THE

LAKE AND PENINSULA

SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive

P.O. Box 498

King Salmon, Alaska 99613

Phone (907) 246-4280 / Fax (907) 246-4473

[Image]

March 11, 2011

Alaska State Senate Education Committee

The Honorable Joe Thomas and the Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chairs

Senators,

On behalf of the Lake and Peninsula School District I am writing in support of Senate Bill 84 - Base Allocation Increase and High School Vocational Education Funding. The multi-year increases applied during the past several years were very helpful in our strategic planning process. SB 84 proposes a similar multi-year plan.

Along with the ability to plan ahead financially, SB 84 also gives districts much needed funding increases that allow us to better respond to rising costs. In the past several years LPSD has experienced dramatic increases in medical insurance and utility costs. The yearly increase to the base allocation formula allows us to respond to such increases without cutting educational programs.

While the rest of the country is cutting teachers and educational systems are faltering, this is a positive step for Alaska. A sustainable, stronger education system is sure to be the result. On behalf of my Board and School District, I urge your support for multi-year funding of schools.

Sincerely,

Ty Mase  
Superintendent

Ty Mase, Superintendent  
Lake and Peninsula Borough School District P.O. Box 498 King Salmon, AK 99613  
(907) 246-4280  
(907) 246-4473 -fax

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## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:55 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: Support SB 84

EDUC

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**From:** Mike Andrews [<mailto:mike.andrews@alaskaworks.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 7:45 AM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Subject:** Support SB 84

Sen. Kevin Meyer, co-chair, Sen. Joe Thomas, co-chair, Sen. Bettye Davis, Sen. Hollis French, Sen. Gary Stevens.

Members of the Senate Education Committee. I am writing to express my support for CS Senate Bill 84, and act related to funding High School vocational and technical instruction. SB 84 is the right investment at the right time. Providing School Districts funds for high school vocational and technical education will increase high school completion rates and prepare more students for success in future education, work and career training.

Mike Andrews, Director, Alaska Works Partnership  
1413 Hyder Street, Anchorage, Ak 99501

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 8:37 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 84 Support  
**Attachments:** HainesSB84Support.pdf; ATT00001.htm

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

EDUC

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**From:** Michael Byer [<mailto:mbyer@hbsd.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 8:36 AM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** SB 84 Support

Dear Senators Meyer and Thomas,

I've attached a letter of support for SB84 in PDF format. The Haines School Board will be meeting to consider a resolution of support this Wednesday.

Thank you,

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Michael Byer, Superintendent  
Haines Borough School District  
PO Box 1289  
Haines, AK 99827  
(907) 766-6725

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 11:53 AM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 84 and CSSB 84

**Importance:** High

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**From:** Comeau, Carol [[mailto:Comeau\\_Carol@asdk12.org](mailto:Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 11:19 AM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Cc:** School Board; Bruce Johnson ([bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org](mailto:bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org))  
**Subject:** SB 84 and CSSB 84  
**Importance:** High

Dear Senators Meyer and Thomas and Senate Education Committee members:  
I was unable to testify on SB 84 and CSSB 84 this morning due to an emergency death of one of our staff over the weekend. I did want to comment on this important proposed legislation.

First, and foremost, I want to thank all of you for your long-time support for public education; our students, staff, and families have truly benefitted from the past three years of increased funding in the Base Student Allocation, the Intensive Needs factor, and in Pupil Transportation. The increased funding has allowed us to fully pay for our over 900 Intensive Needs students from the increased funding, and not to have to divert other general education funding to provide these required intensive services. In addition, it has allowed us to keep up with the inflationary costs of education. By knowing our funding levels for three years, we were able to more effectively plan to our instructional programs and student needs, as well as negotiate reasonable collective bargaining agreements.

I urge you to support either SB 84 or CSSB 84 with the three years of incremental increases to the Base Student Allocation as well as the increase of a specific factor for career and technical education. For too long, our funding in the block grant which assists us with our bilingual education, special needs, gifted, and career and technical/vocational education funding has been used up with the needs of our bilingual (English Language Learners) and special needs students with little left to enhance our career and technical education. Our school board has prioritized career and technical education for the past three years, and we are seeing significant increases in student interest and participation in these courses. We have elements of C and TE in all three bond propositions on our April 5 ballot. We have added C and TE opportunities in our after school and summer school programs due to student interest. We believe that more funding in this vital area will assist us in providing more classes for our students, and thus increasing the graduation rate, and decreasing the drop out rate.

Again, we urge you to support SB 84 or the CSSB 84 in this legislative session. It will make a significant difference in the quality of education for our students.

Thank you,  
Carol Comeau  
Superintendent

## Edra Morledge

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**From:** Josh Applebee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 3:50 PM  
**To:** Edra Morledge  
**Subject:** FW: Support SB 84

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

EDUC

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Tozer\_Robin [[mailto:Tozer\\_Robin@asdk12.org](mailto:Tozer_Robin@asdk12.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 3:28 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer  
**Subject:** Support SB 84

Senator Meyer,

I am writing to you to support Senate Bill 84. Public education needs all of the help it can get - especially in the areas of Career & Technology Education. Our children need financial and career support in every way possible!

Thank you.

Robin Tozer  
Parent & teacher in Anchorage School District



## Edra Morledge

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**Subject:** FW: SB 84 and CSSB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Steiner\_John [mailto:Steiner\_John@asdk12.org]

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 1:41 PM

To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens

Cc: School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org); crose@aasb.org

Subject: RE: SB 84 and CSSB 84

Dear Co-Chairs Meyer and Thomas and Senate Education Committee members:

I attended this morning's Education Committee meeting off-site by call-in, but you were apparently not made aware that I was on the line waiting to testify in support of SB 84--really CSSB 84. There was much excellent testimony, and your packet included input from the Anchorage School District and our board vice-president, Crystal Kennedy. Superintendent Comeau has also sent an email just this morning. Although the Anchorage School Board has not taken a formal position on this specific bill, we have strongly endorsed the changes it would make.

A number of points, however, bear emphasis:

1. Doing nothing would not "flat-fund" education, it would allow education funding to erode. So long as the BSA is stated in nominal dollars and inflation continues to exist, to leave the BSA unchanged would be a real-dollar decrease in education funding.
2. Even CSSB 84 would not really increase education funding; it would merely--or perhaps not quite--maintain education funding. With inflation estimated at 2.5%, SB 84's 2% adjustments would only mitigate real-dollar erosion.
3. The Anchorage School District has embarked on value-based budgeting to use our limited resources where they will produce the greatest results for student achievement, graduation rates and drop-out reduction, while preparing students for success in life. Budgeting for the coming year, we faced a nearly \$20 million shortfall, due to the erosion described above, and receiving no cost-differential adjustment like other districts. That will be partly mitigated by one last year of supplemental federal funds, but we still had to make substantial cuts, saving some critical services and activities only by increasing class size and digging deep into fund balance reserves. The projected FY 2013 shortfall is nearly \$30 million, and it gets much worse further in the future, without at least the erosion mitigation of CSSB 84.
4. Having to budget and plan devoid of real information as to future funding is a horrendous waste of time and energy, imposing needless trauma on the community and school staff. Three-year running erosion-mitigation would allow us to focus more on program rather than just on money.
5. Increasing Career Technical and Vocational Education is a central theme of the Anchorage School Board, with strong community support. We expect resounding approval of a bond for improvements to CTVE facility capacity in high schools across the District, but operating budget constraints will limit our ability to serve this need. The increased block grant increment for that purpose would help make school more relevant and useful for more students, and be a sound investment in Alaska's workforce, enhancing our human capital and helping to stem the export of local jobs.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, because SB 84 and CSSB 84 are committee bills, you may already know all of this and be ready to pass the bill on with favorable recommendations. But it is not nearly enough just to pass the bill out of committee. Last session, a similar bill died in House Rules. Though none of your individual names may be on this bill, I ask each of you to commit jointly to making it your flagship bill. Press it on through the Senate; shepherd it through the House. Let your colleagues in both chambers, as well as the Governor, know that what this bill would do is a must-have for Alaska's future.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide input on this very important bill and look forward to thanking and congratulating you when I come to Juneau later this month.

John Steiner  
Anchorage School Board President

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From: Comeau\_Carol  
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:18 AM  
To: Kevin Meyer (Senator\_Kevin\_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us); Johnny Ellis (Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us); Senator Joe Thomas (Senator\_Joe\_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us); Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us; Hollis French; Gary Stevens (Senator\_Gary\_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us)  
Cc: School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org)  
Subject: SB 84 and CSSB 84

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Thank you,