
From: Altenhof, Barry [<mailto:baltenhof01@kibsd.org>]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 12:47 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Cc: 'Senator Gary'; 'Representative Alan'; 'Representative Mike'; 'Representative Beth'
Subject: SB 199

Dear Senator Meyer,

I am writing from Kodiak to express my strong support for SB 199.

Keeping students fully engaged in school should be our highest priority. For 22 years I've been involved in career tech programs at Kodiak High School. As an architectural and mechanical drawing teacher for 18 of those years I've watched students become engaged in the learning process because they are actually learning how to do something valuable, authentic, and relevant. I've never had a student come back to me and say they were upset because I showed them how to design and build a house or build a mechanical prototype. Not only are they engaged in their own learning but they are also quick to recognize the value of skills—of knowing how to do something. No word searches, crossword puzzles, or fill-in-the blank worksheets. Rather, hands-on, project based learning focused on skill building, problem solving, and teamwork. It seems obvious that the earlier students begin to grasp these concepts the better off they will be when they leave high school. In short, technical skills lead to real opportunities. These are programs that work !

Investing in CTE middle school programs gives us an opportunity to grow successful programs. I hope you and your colleagues will continue to push for increased funding for middle school CTE programs. Hold us accountable—but fund these programs.

Yours truly,

Barry Altenhof

CTE Coordinator, Kodiak Island Borough School District

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