
From: Maria Sackrison <maria_sackrison@lksd.org>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 7:46 AM
To: Riley Leonard; Tim Lamkin
Subject: Fwd: Letter in support of SESA

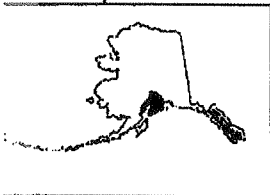
From: Maria Sackrison <Maria_Sackrison@lksd.org>
Date: February 11, 2013 7:40:36 AM AKST
To: riley.leonard@akleg.org, tim.lamkin@akleg.org
Subject: Letter in support of SESA

We receive tremendous services from SESA. Their help has made all the difference in the lives of the children, parents and school staff. We are in tremendous support of this phenomenal agency and could not do as well out here in these remote areas without them. They have figured out some "puzzles" that had not been figured out by other specialists from other places. Please make sure that any support you can provide them is available.

Thanks,

Maria Sackrison-Special Education Teacher Napaskiak School, Napaskiak, AK (LKSD)

1. The importance of funding a service that was created by the legislature to guarantee students with low incidence disabilities a free and appropriate public education under IDEA 2004.
2. The importance of funding the agency based on services provided and your continuing need for those services.
3. The need for training staff, including special education teachers, who need training in disability areas they do not have adequate experience in.
4. The importance of having a free service from SESA in the context of tight budgets.



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pupil Services Clayton Holland, Director

148 North Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553 Phone (907) 714-8881

Fax (907) 262-1374

To: Senator Stevens

From: Mr. Clayton Holland, Director of Pupil Services, KPBSD

Re: SESA

Date: 2/8/13

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am the Director of Pupil Services for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. I am writing you in support of the reauthorization of the Special Education Service Agency. SESA has been a valuable resource to our district when working with students with low incidence disabilities. On several occasions we have asked for their assistance with students that we have struggled to serve effectively. SESA has always been able to help our students and work productively as a team with both our staff and parents. The positive impact that SESA has on students, families, and schools in the more remote locations of the state must be even more substantial than here, where we do have access to more resources.

Respectfully,

Clayton Holland

Clayton Holland
Director of Pupil Services
KPBSD
907-714-8899
cholland@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

Superintendent's Office
(907) 886-6332
FAX: (907) 886-5130

Business Office
(907) 886-6009
FAX: (907) 886-5130

Special Education
(907) 886-6020
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ANNETTE ISLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. Box 7 • Metlakatla, AK 99926
Accredited by Northwest Accreditation Association

Metlakatla High School
(907) 886-6000
FAX: (907) 886-5120

C.R. Leask Sr. Middle
School
(907) 886-6003
FAX: (907) 886-6019

R.J. Elementary School
(907) 886-4121
FAX: (907) 886-4120

Representative Ms. Lynn Gattis
Chair House Education Committee
Attention: Mr. Jim Ellis, Legislative Aide
Alaska State Capitol
Room 420
Juneau, Alaska 99801
February 7, 2013
Regarding: HB85

Dear Honorable Gattis,

This letter is written in support of funding for the Special Education Service Agency, Anchorage, Alaska. The Special Education Service Agency (SESA) has provided quality services to our district since 1986. Throughout those years, SESA has been a consistent force in helping our district meet the needs of our special education students.

The Special Education Service Agency has sent highly qualified specialists that are trained in designing effective programs for students diagnosed as vision or hearing impaired, autistic, emotionally disturbed, and multiply disabled. These specialized programs have allowed our students to access their educational opportunities to the fullest extent possible.

Small school districts that serve low-incidence disabled students would find it challenging to meet the special needs of individual students without the expertise of the Special Education Service Agency, who are specifically trained and qualified to provide assistance to rural districts, such as ours.

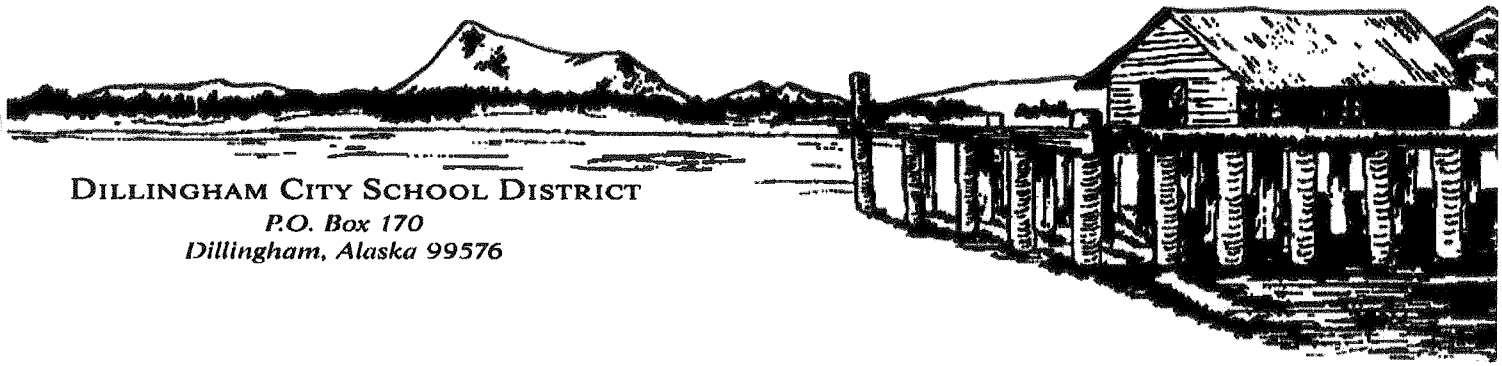
As the Special Education Director of the Annette Islands School District, I can attest to the loss we would incur if the Special Education Service Agency would not be granted funding to ensure their existence.

In closing, the Annette Islands School District and our community can only offer our utmost respect and gratitude to Mr. Patrick Pillai, as well as his highly trained staff.

Professionally,

Susan Beardsworth
Director of Special Education

Cc: Mr. Eugene Avey, Superintendent of Schools



DILLINGHAM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. Box 170
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

January 31, 2013

Dear Senator Gary Stevens,

It is indeed a genuine pleasure to submit this letter of support to increase per student funding for the Special Education Services Agency (SESA). As you no doubt know, SESA was established by the Alaska Legislature to help Alaska School Districts meet the unique and diverse needs of students with low-incident disabilities as defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

I have been fortunate to be able to request and receive SESA services for over the past 20 years. There have been times as both a classroom practitioner and a school district administrator that I have sought advice and services from SESA, and in all cases found their professional wisdom and responses to my queries to be invaluable.

The need for a special services organization, such as SESA, can best be explained by providing a typical example of what school districts encounter in rural and isolated Alaska villages. Example, Dillingham has five children with autism and four children with Down Syndrome. To locate and retain the services of a qualified professional in autism is quite expensive, and in many cases impossible. We also have a student that is blind and one that is hard of hearing. Dillingham Schools need centralized expertise in a variety of special service fields in order to provide adequate services for special needs children in their school district. SESA provides that expertise. SESA also provides staff training.

In conclusion, Dillingham City School District fully supports the increase in funding. The increase will assure that SESA is able to continue to seek and retain the services of highly qualified professional experts to address the growing demand we have for their.

Thank you for your interest, time and support of SESA. If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Danny Frazier, Assistant Superintendent

<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>Central Office</u>	<u>Business Office</u>	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Middle/High</u>	<u>Alternative School</u>
Ph: 842-5223	Ph: 842-1046	Ph: 842-3318	Ph: 842-5642	Ph: 842-5221	Ph: 842-5023
Fax: 842-5634	Fax: 842-3756	Fax: 842-4145	Fax: 842-4313	Fax: 842-4395	Fax: 842-5024

Tim Lamkin

From: Tim Stathis <tstathis@aebsd.org>
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 4:16 PM
To: Ryan Wilson
Cc: Tim Lamkin
Subject: AEBSD Supporting SB17

Honored Senator Stevens and Members of the Senate and House Education Committees:

I am writing to earnestly convey to you the dire need for SB17 to successfully pass, for SESA funding to continue. SESA's service for our youth in the extremity of remoteness of our region is essential to the fulfilling of my promise to the parents of our Special Needs students, that ALL our students shall be provided an equal opportunity for excellence of education. We have an autistic child in the remote community/island of Akutan. SESA's intervention for this child has been a vital part of the child's development, positive self-esteem, and building identity. SESA support to our Teachers who work with our special needs students has, as well, been vital to our efforts. The costs of travel to Akutan are enormous (r/t ANC-Akutan is approximately \$1800), and these costs have been rising over the years; rising costs has a proportional negative impact on offered services. I therefore encourage increasing SESA's State funding to meet such rising demands (as I understand SESA has been flat funded for 15 years!). We cannot deny our pledge to provide for Alaska's youth no matter how remote the destiny of their upbringing. Please support everything SESA needs to continue with its mission.

Thank you.

Tim

--

T. Stathis, Superintendent
Aleutians East Borough School District
Sand Point, Alaska 99661
tstathis@aebsd.org
wk. 907-383-5222
c. 907-538-4962
SKYPE username: timstathis

REC'D 08 JAN 13

Margaret Kavanaugh

3260 Peninsula Rd

Kodiak, AK 99615

Senator Gary Stevens

305 Center Ave, Suite 1

Kodiak, AK 99615

Re: Re-Authorization of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA)

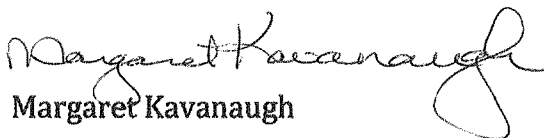
Dear Senator Stevens,

I am writing as a resident of Kodiak, a retired Kodiak Island Borough School District (KIBSD) special education teacher, and as a parent of an adult son with a disability. Over the course of my 23-year career with KIBSD I have consistently worked with specialists from the Special Education Service Agency (SESA), and fully support the reauthorization of SESA. I urge you to sponsor a bill in this regard.

As a special education teacher it is impossible to be knowledgeable in all the content areas necessary to adequately program for a child with a disability. It is even more difficult in areas of low incidence disabilities since every child is unique in terms of their cognitive, sensory, and medical needs. SESA specialists provide a critical service to Alaska's school staff, parents, and communities in this regard. The SESA specialists support teachers and paraprofessionals and create a sense of community by networking staff with resources across the state. This is a critical service to teachers who feel overwhelmed with encountering specific disabilities for the first time. Of extreme value to me as a classroom teacher was the sharing of the specialist's unique skill set honed from working in special education classrooms across the state of Alaska.

I have worked with many SESA specialists over my twenty-three year career and understand the value of their expertise with low incidence disabilities. I fully support legislative reauthorization of the Special Education Agency and urge you to sponsor a bill to reauthorize SESA.

Sincerely,


Margaret Kavanaugh

E-mail: kavanaugh@gci.net

Phone: 907-539-2950