

Bering Strait School District

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BREVIG MISSION • DIOMEDE • ELIM • GAMBELL • GOLOVIN • KOYUK • SAINT MICHAEL • SAVOONGA • SHAKTOOLIK
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DATE: February 10, 2013
TO: Thomas Studler
SUBJECT: SESA SB17 and HB87

I'm writing to support the reauthorization of Special Education Service Agency (SESA).

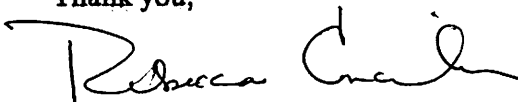
Bering Strait School District relies heavily on SESA services and support for our students with low incidence disabilities. Due to the remote locations of our schools, we have limited access to services for our most severely handicapped students. SESA has helped fill some of the gaps through consultation, training, distance and on-site support from their experienced staff.

During onsite visits, they not only work directly with students, but also provide training to staff and parents. They help staff develop strategies and provide resources that tailor to individual needs of students.

Training and support from SESA are not limited to direct services during on-site visits. Our staff has received in-district, off-site and web-based training on topics related to Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support. We've also been able to access technical support through cameras in some of our schools that allow SESA specialists to give feedback and make recommendations regarding strategies and interventions for students on their caseloads.

SESA services are vital to helping meet the needs of children with low incidence disabilities in our school district and other districts in rural Alaska. I ask that the State reauthorize SESA's statute. I also ask that the State increase funding to allow SESA to sustain their ability to serve special needs students in rural Alaska.

Thank you,



Rebecca Concilus
Special Education Director
Bering Strait School District