



**Southwest
Region
School
District**

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March 31, 2015

Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chairs Kelly and MacKinnon and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write to you today to respectfully request the legislature's re-instatement of the 32 million in one-time funds for FY16 that were approved by the legislature last year as part of a three-year funding package. Districts across the state, including Southwest Region, understood that the one-time funding was stepping down each year. The District has been working on its long-range plan to keep instructional programs intact faced with the original anticipated reductions of a \$97,000 for FY16 and \$111,000 for FY17. However, the currently proposed complete cut in funding means a \$388,000 immediate funding cliff. While some areas of the state may have been able to save monies with the reduction in energy costs this past year, Southwest and other rural districts have not had the same benefit. Our students have already lost music, fine arts, and many of the career and technical pathways. Now we are faced with immediate and deep cuts to core academic instruction. Your support is needed and appreciated.

Aleknagik

Clark's Point

Ekwok

Koliganek

Manokotak

New Stuyahok

Portage Creek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David J. Piazza".

David J. Piazza
Superintendent