

Daniel George

From: Herman, Marcy J (EED) <marcy.herman@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 4:50 PM
To: Christa McDonald; Daniel George
Cc: Teshner, Heidi A (EED); Efird, Sana P (EED); Peterson, Darwin R (GOV); Gaffney, Emily D (GOV); Gorle, Nicole A (GOV)
Subject: DEED//SFSC Documents for 3/9/17 hearing
Attachments: 03.08.2017 Mike Dunleavy Education Finance Subcommittee.pdf; WICHE Factsheet.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Christa,

During Tuesday's SFSC hearing on education, Sen. Dunleavy asked the ACPE to provide a brief description and acronym definition on WICHE, WUE and WWAMI. Those responses are attached – see [03.08.17 Mike Dunleavy Education Finance Subcommittee](#) and [WICHE Factsheet](#).

Additionally, both Senators Hughes and Dunleavy asked if the Child Nutrition Services (CNS) program allows for the purchase of local food products. [DEED response](#): Yes, USDA CNS funds can be used for the purchase of local foods. School districts and other operators may purchase local foods with the funding they receive, in fact USDA allows a geographic preference to be applied towards local purchases. However, neither local purchase or geographic preference may be mandated at the state level.

Senator Dunleavy also asked if DEED was aware of the need for the extra federal authority in the CNS program. [DEED response](#): Factors include:

- The federal reimbursement rate increases annually by 2%-3%
- Alaska's proportion of student population that is low-income has been increasing by 1%-2% each year. As a result Alaska schools receive higher reimbursement rates for children who participate which in turn increases the federal reimbursement received.
- Over the last 5 years, the participation in school meals has increased significantly. The increase in meals served, coupled with items 1 and 2 above, is the reason for the increased receipt authority request for federal funds.

Please let us know if there are related questions.

Thank you Christa,

Marcy

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