



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Law**

CIVIL DIVISION

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March 10, 2017

**Via Email and U.S. Mail**

Senator Mike Dunleavy  
State Capitol Room 11  
Juneau AK, 99801  
[Senator.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov)

Dear Senator Dunleavy,

You have asked whether or not the settlement agreement in *Moore v. State* obligates the State of Alaska to fund pre-kindergarten programs on an ongoing basis. It does not.

The parties in *Moore v. State* reached settlement in 2012. The settlement provided an \$18 million appropriation to be distributed by the Department of Education and Early Development, working with a collaborative committee. Districts with the lowest performing schools applied to receive grant funding, which targeted improvement programs, including early literacy, teacher retention, and remedial efforts to help students pass the then-extant high school graduation qualifying exam. The *Moore* collaborative committee expects to distribute all available grant funding by the end of FY17. The original settlement was clear: "All grants awarded under this program shall be for a definite period of time and shall contain a sunset provision." Under the terms of the settlement, any appropriated money that has not been obligated to a school district on June 30, 2017 will lapse. The settlement is unambiguous: "Nothing in this settlement creates an obligation for additional funding." The State's funding obligations under the terms of the *Moore* settlement end on June 30, 2017. For your convenience, I am attaching a copy of the *Moore v. State* settlement agreement to this letter.

Sincerely,

JAHNA LINDEMUTH  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:   
Rebecca Hattan  
Assistant Attorney General

REH/ckm  
cc: Cori Mills, AAG  
Enclosures: *Moore* Settlement Agreement