



March 11, 2019

Senator Mia Costello  
State Capital  
Room 119  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Costello,

The Association of Alaska school Boards is pleased to support Senate Joint Resolution No.9 (SJR 9), sponsored by you.

Each year school board members face the angst of attempting to create and pass a budget for the subsequent year, prior to knowing what the revenue will be. This makes employing teachers and committing to programs very risky.

We greatly appreciate your vision to put Alaska's students first by removing the financial uncertainty schools have continually faced. Implementing a long-term fiscal plan for public education in the state constitution will ensure a quality educational experience for current and future generations of Alaska students.

AASB has a long standing resolution supporting elements of SJR 9:

2.2 AASB urges the State of Alaska to provide early, adequate, equitable, and predictable funding for public education. AASB believes that adequate funding should include the following:

- State funding of the TRS-PERS retirement liability;
- An increase to the Base Student Allocation to account for both inflation and adequate pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education;
- Recognition of the need to keep pupil-teacher ratios to level in line with research-based best practices;
- Career and technical education;
- An early adoption timeline that allows school boards and district administration to effectively plan instruction and staffing for the upcoming school year;
- Alaska Native languages.

AASB urges in years when the Alaska Legislature has not approved an education budget by April 1, the budget from the previous year shall be the legal minimum funding for the next fiscal year.

AASB urges the Legislature to review and recommend appropriate adjustments to AS 14.17.460, District Cost Factors, to ensure equity in school funding.

AASB urges the Legislature to provide stable forward funding that addresses inflation, including the use of an education endowment, to ensure funding predictability.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the position of the Association of Alaska School Boards. Thank you also, for the work you do on behalf of public education with the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tiffany Jackson", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tiffany Jackson  
President