

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

House Bill 169 “Appropriation: Education and Pupil Transportation”

Each year, school districts rely heavily on an appropriation from the state to fund education. House Bill 169 separates the foundation formula and pupil transportation from the regular operating budget for Fiscal Year 2022 in order to pass funding for education earlier in session and prevent school districts from issuing mandatory teacher layoff notices.

Some years, the operating budget doesn't pass until late May or June. School Districts must have draft budgets much earlier, usually in March. Without knowing when or how much money will be appropriated by the legislature until many weeks later, districts are forced to draft multiple budgets and anticipate low amounts. In the face of uncertainty, school districts will issue termination notices, commonly known as pink slips, to non-tenured teachers by May 15 and to tenured teachers by the last day of school.

House Bill 169 makes appropriations from the public school trust fund and the general fund to fund K-12 education at approximately \$1,162,308,500 and student transportation at approximately \$71,435,893 for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2022.

Education and student success is a high priority for the state, and keeping educators in the classrooms is one of the most effective ways to address that priority. HB 169 reflects the legislature's commitment to education, the school districts, and teachers.