



February 8, 2022

Representative Andi Story  
Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building, Room 403  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 272 Increase Base Student Allocation and House Bill 273 Increase Base Student Allocation Inflation

Dear Representative Story,

On behalf of the 11,000 members of NEA-Alaska, I'd like to thank you for introducing House Bills 272 and 273.

This legislation and the associated funding is desperately needed to provide stability and relief for our public education system. Our public schools have been flat-funded since 2017, even as the cost for essential services and goods have increased rapidly due to inflation. This means every school district in Alaska is being asked to provide the same, or increased levels of service with reduced spending power. The consequence is fewer opportunities for students, increased class sizes, and increased educator attrition with few eligible candidates to replace them.

The provision in HB 273 to tie the Base Student Allocation to the CPI is critical and long past due. As you know, a certain set of required expenditures, including energy, broadband, transportation, health insurance, and more, increase on an almost annual basis. As these costs increase, school districts have no alternative but to divert resources from the classroom and student programs to pay the increasing costs.

Thank you for supporting Alaska's students and for sponsoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Tom Klaameyer, President NEA-Alaska