



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Education &
Early Development

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House Finance Committee Hearing – Public School Funding, COVID Relief Funding, and FY2023 Budget Update

Follow-up on Committee Member Comments

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Expand on how the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) reviews school district performance. Include a general description of assessments and the accountability system.

Attached you will find information regarding statewide assessments and the accountability system. The attachments are titled "Quick Guide to Required Statewide Assessments" and "Summary of the System for School Success."

Provide what supports DEED provides low performing schools regarding curriculum choices.

Curriculum decisions remain with the district. They are required to review their materials every five years. DEED has training materials and rubrics to help districts evaluate instructional materials based on the Alaska English Language Arts and Mathematics, and the Alaska Science Standards.

Provide a chart of the inflation-adjusted base student allocation (BSA).

Please find attached a chart of the FY2008 through FY2022 inflation-adjusted BSA in 2020 dollars.

Regarding required local contributions, provide the districts that exceed 45% of the district's basic need for the preceding fiscal year.

The required local contribution amount is the equivalent of 2.65 mill tax levy on the full and true value of the taxable real and personal property in the district; and not to exceed 45% of the district's basic need for the preceding fiscal year; whichever is lower. All municipal school districts fall under the 2.65 mill category except for three: North Slope; Skagway; and Valdez.

Provide a breakdown of all district's local contributions.

Please see attached the FY2021 Audited Local Contributions by district and FY2022 Budgeted Local Contributions by district.

Provide the sum of the one-time funding that was vetoed in FY2021.

The FY2021 one-time funding that was vetoed by the Governor was \$30 million.

Provide data showing if there is a correlation between BSA increases and improved student achievement.

DEED currently does not have any data that shows a correlation between BSA increases and improved student achievement.

Provide how much state funding districts spend on career and technical education.

Per AS 14.17.420(a)(3), a 1.015 career and technical education (CTE) factor is part of the Foundation Formula. Since this is part of the Foundation Formula, DEED is not able to provide the CTE related expenditures that tie to this funding source. These CTE expenditures are comingled with all other operating fund expenditures, which is where all Foundation Formula revenues and expenditures are to be reported. However, since the CTE factor is part of the Foundation Formula, DEED can determine how much funding is generated by district. The statewide CTE total generated through the Foundation Formula is \$17,480,218 and attached is a breakdown of the FY2022 CTE factor funding by district. The school districts would need to provide data in order to compare what is provided and what is actually spent on CTE.

Provide the school operating funding reports.

Audited and budgeted operating fund expenditure data for all of Alaska's school districts, minus Mt. Edgecumbe High School, are available in Excel format on the department's School Finance Budget and Actual Reporting website at the following link:

<https://education.alaska.gov/schoolfinance/budgetsactual> under Operating Fund Reports. Operating Fund Revenue reports are also available under this same link.

Provide the student allotments for each district.

DEED does not track or have a list of the student allotments by district; these are determined and controlled at the local level. Since the student allotments are different between districts and change at a district's discretion, reviewing each district's website and/or reaching out to each district's point of contact is the best way to get an updated student allotment amount. A list of the current correspondence programs is available on the department's website at

https://education.alaska.gov/Alaskan_Schools/corres/docs/Correspondence%20Program%20List.pdf.

Provide the criteria used to determine if a child should be counted in the Special Education Intensive category.

State funding for special education, intensive services funding is provided for each special education student who is (1) receiving intensive services; (2) enrolled on the last day of the 20-school day count period; and (3) has an established Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Intensive funding is only intended for students who need and receive intensive services for special education (4 AAC 52.700). As noted above, state funding is in addition to other special needs funding (federal and State grants, etc.). Funding is currently 13x the BSA. Approximately 650-725 new students are claimed annually. Specific regulatory requirements (4 AAC 52.700) must be met by all claimed students. Attached please find the Intensive Review Worksheet, which outlines the requirements, and the range of services students are entitled to.

Each fall, school districts report how many students are intensive in the [Fall OASIS Data Collection](#) (i.e., the annual 20-school day count period) to DEED. From this roster of students, DEED determines which ones are new claims for intensive review. Districts must submit their special education paperwork for each new intensive claim.

Regulation 4 AAC 52.700(c) governs the Intensive Process:

1. Reviewed by three special education certified, department staff for compliance with the regulatory criteria;
2. Detailed administrative review of all finalized claims;
3. District status notification in mid-January;
4. Districts have 30 days to resubmit (or provide additional supporting information);
5. After 30 days, department determinations are issued;
6. Districts may appeal the department's decision to the Commissioner's Office under 4 AAC 52.750; and

7. After appealing to the Commissioner's Office, districts may also request a formal hearing.

Provide the document that includes, by district, the amount of state funded program changes, federal COVID Relief funds remaining to be drawn down, and the unreserved fund balance.

Please see the attached document titled *State Funded Program Funding Changes due to enrollment fluctuations*. The amount of federal COVID Relief funds remaining to be drawn down is as of January 26, 2022. In addition, Kuspuk School District's FY2021 audit is still outstanding so their FY2021 Unreserved Fund Balance amount is blank and highlighted in yellow.