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House Bill 65

"Increase Base Student Allocation"

Sponsor Statement - Version B

House Bill 65 increases Alaska's Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$680 in FY24 and by \$800 starting July 1, 2024 (FY25 and beyond) for a total of \$6,640 and \$6,760, respectively, per eligible student.

Alaskan students, parents, and teachers are dealing with underfunded schools. Between flat funding from the state and inflation, education funding has not kept up with increased costs. It has resulted in fewer education programs, staff shortages, and even school closures.

University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research conducted a study that found that Alaska spent less per pupil on public education than the national average in 2019 when spending was adjusted for inflation and indexed to the cost of living. Since 2012, Alaska's urban consumer price index increased by 24.6% while Alaska's BSA only increased by 4.2%.

Increasing the BSA is an impactful investment in Alaska's K-12 public education system. It would allow school districts to recruit and retain good teachers, reduce class sizes, and ultimately give Alaska's children the education and tools they need and deserve.