

*Susan B. English School
Parent Advisory Committee Site Based Decision-Making Council
PAC-SBDMC
Kenai Peninsula School District
PO Box 171 Seldovia, Alaska 99663*

April 1, 2023

RE: Full Support of Increasing Alaska's Base Student Allocation

Dear Honorable Alaska Legislators,

At our most recent meeting held on Thursday March 30th, the Susan B. English School Parent Advisory Committee Site Based Decision Making Council unanimously voted to make this letter of request on behalf of our members, students, community members, parents, and teachers to implore the 33rd Alaska State Legislature to vote and show indisputable support by passing the proposed increase to Alaska's Base Student Allocation in both House Bill 65 and Senate Bill 52.

As our school's site-based decision-making council, we believe that our youth needs to be supported, advocated for and prioritized. We are asking, in the most direct way possible, that our lawmakers and legislatures also prioritize our students' educations, foundational opportunities and invest into the systems that strengthen our state's future – our youth.

From 2012 to 2022 Alaska's consumer price index has increased by 24.6% while the BSA for Alaska's students has only increased by 4.2%. School districts statewide are facing employee retention challenges, deferred maintenance costs and increased costs of operations; investing in our school districts and their objective to provide our students with safe, equitable, accessible, and competitive educational opportunities is in the best interest of each of us, to strengthen our economic infrastructure, bolster our workforce and enrich our communities through supporting our youth.

By increasing the BSA by the proposed \$1250 (HB 65) or \$1000 (SB 52) the school districts will have additional resources to reduce or maintain class size, increase student educational opportunities, and maintain quality teachers. The return on investment in our youth has infinite possibilities and it starts with passing both bills. Conversely, if there is not an increase passed on BSA this year, additional schools will close and over 1200 teachers will lose their jobs.

We appeal, urge, ask, and request that you completely support our youth, their education, and our state's future by voting yes for both HB 65 and SB 52. We appreciate your consideration of this request and will be watching closely the outcome of your decisions – please support education, our youth, and our state's future.

Kindest Regards,

*Susan B. English School Parent Advisory Committee Site Based Decision-Making Council
Current Members: Heidi Geagel, Allison Miller, Cassidi Cameron, Dianne Gruber, Karen Bornheimer, Lisa Stanish*

Cc: House Education Committee

Representative Justin Ruffridge, Co-Chair

Representative Jamie Allard, Co-Chair

Representative Mike Prax

Representative CJ McCormick

Representative Thomas McKay

Representative Rebecca Himschoot

Representative Andi Story

Representative Dan Ortiz

Representative Louise Stutes

Representative Sarah Vance

Representative Ben Carpenter

Senate Education Committee

Senate Finance Committee

Senator Loki Tobin

Senator Gary Stevens

Senator Jesse Bjorkman

Senator Jesse Kiehl

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

Clayton Holland, Superintendent Kenai Peninsula School District

Scott Jonsson, Principal Susan B. English

Debbie Cary, President Kenai Peninsula School Board

Zen Kelley, Vice President Kenai Peninsula School Board