
From: Tanya BOYER <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:09 PM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

The state has a duty to provide and maintain public education for the benefit of all students. When the state does not prioritize public education funding, we send a message to our kids that their future is of little importance.

Please vote to pass SB 52 out of the Finance Committee and deliver the message to our kids that they matter.

Tanya BOYER
tanya_boyer@hotmail.com
53260 thunder rd
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: Tamara Hibberd <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Kenai Peninsula Needs Our Pools!

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Many Alaskans on the peninsula enjoy the recreation of swimming. From young to old, it's a wonderful form of exercise year round. Many kids, include my own, are apart of their local swim team. This is a wonderful program and I can't imagine if we lost it. They would be devastated. I also enjoy lap swimming at our Kenai pool for exercise, as well as many others. We live in a wonderful, small community, but there isn't a whole lot for kids to do. Swimming is one of the great activities they can participate in the entire year. Not only for recreation, the pools have swimming lessons which are SO important for everyone in Alaska! We have the ocean and lakes around throughout our state and knowing how to swim is such an important thing for kids and adults to learn. These are just some of the many many reasons I am in support of this. We NEED our pools!

Thank you.

Tamara Hibberd
tehibberd@gmail.com
1213 Channel way
KENAI, Alaska 99611

From: Melissa Sjogren <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

My son Johan is a 9 year old only child. I am a single mother and work for the State of Alaska remote at home. I am very concerned about my son sitting on screens all day while I'm working in the summer. Being able to ride his bike across the street to swimming Mon thru Fri 9-10am provides him the opportunity to wake up at 8am instead of sleeping in and ensures physical activity every morning. He has been on this swim team since summer 2020.

It is also important to keep this program all year because there is not a lot of activities for children in this community especially in the winter time. Swimming provides essential life skills, physical activity, listening and following directions skills, and team collaboration skills.

This community is very scarce for youth programs and it is important to allow this program to continue.

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Melissa Sjogren
masjogren@hotmail.com
903 Auk St, B2
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: Lonny Tucker <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:12 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Lonny Tucker
Stager1975@yahoo.com
691 Sycamore cir
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: Myles Sansotta <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:18 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Myles Sansotta
mylesprimo@gmail.com
47024 Clarence Dr
Soldotna , Alaska 99669

From: Erin Sansotta <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Erin Sansotta
erinsansotta@gmail.com
47024 Clarence Dr
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

From: Shoshanah Stone <shanah.stone@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:15 PM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

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Shoshanah Stone
shanah.stone@gci.net
2425 Marian Bay Cir
Anchorage , Alaska 99515

From: Trina Stanford <tsanford@gnail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Trina Stanford
tsanford@gnail.com
903 Auk St, B3
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: Celeste Chavarria <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:25 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Celeste Chavarria
jc_chav@yahoo.com
115 Green Valley St
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

From: Daniel Poulin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:18 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Daniel Poulin
drpjr81@gmail.com
1406 Julie Anna Drive
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: Billy Honeysett <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:02 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Billy Honeysett
bhoneysett@gmail.com
52394 6th Avenue #1
Kenai , Alaska 99611

From: Karen Honeysett <khoneysett@aol.con>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:01 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

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Please vote to pass SB 52 out of the Finance Committee and deliver the message to our kids that they matter.

Karen Honeysett
khoneysett@aol.con
52394 6th Avenue #1
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: Ashley Gillis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:37 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Support of SB 52

Senator Donny Olson,

I am writing today in support of SB 52. Over the last 8 weeks, both the House and Senate have heard from hundreds of Alaskans that our schools are unable to deliver a quality education without a significant increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

The state has a duty to provide and maintain public education for the benefit of all students. When the state does not prioritize public education funding, we send a message to our kids that their future is of little importance.

Please vote to pass SB 52 out of the Finance Committee and deliver the message to our kids that they matter.

Ashley Gillis
ashleyosmar2011@gmail.com
610 cedar dr
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Doniece Gott

From: Sierra McLane <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:23 PM
To: House Finance; House Education; Senate Education; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: please support SB52 and HB equivalent

Dear Senate and House Finance and Education committees,

Thank you for your service to our State and your concerns about public education in Alaska.

I'm writing to you in support of SB52, to increase the Base Student Allocation by \$1000. I am the mother of two elementary-aged children who attend Tri-Valley School in the Denali Borough School District.

This per pupil amount for children has not increased for six years. During this time the actual cost to educate our students has risen. The impact on the classroom experience is being felt by our students. To maintain and increase student achievement in our schools, we need additional resources to continue to hire exceptional teachers and assistants to inspire our students. Our schools need to invest in rich professional development and training to expand the skills of our staff to empower our students to succeed today and tomorrow.

Adopting SB52 will help provide our students with the resources they need in order to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sierra McLane

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Denali Park, AK 99755

Doniece Gott

From: Dixie D. Banner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:41 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: No extra funding to the Education Program! Please no more

In reference to adding funding to AK's Education program is like funneling millions into a dark hole! We want an audit and we want a outline what the system is going to offer for additional resources!

You all in Juneau are need to get a grip and start realizing the money will be diverted to a selected few and the avg Student/Teacher will not benefit. This why our our kids are failing and experienced teachers are retiring.

The issue is the fact you fail to recognize many of your adults are unable to read after HS graduation and are required to take remedial Math/ English in order to gain acceptance to UAA. Why is it teachers are required to purchase supplies for their classrooms! You know dam well the Head shed (Staff) are not spending a dime of their personal \$! Funding UAA at enormous rates is not acceptable either - They are like a calf that is fully dependent upon its mother! The worse of it all is you all buy into their agenda/games!

We know the unions are a major influence in regards to this goat rope agenda! What you all fail to realize you are destroying AK and forcing our children to compensate for you miss management! Also, You were hired to be effective managers not elected to operate as puppeteers!

Note we are not puppets and do not appreciate your failure of mis managing our resources or disrespect!

Our kids continue to fail and the blame is on you especially since you are not honoring your oath of office and ethically miss managing our resources!

Get Real

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Katy Journey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:35 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Increase BSA

Hello!

My name is Katy Journey and I'm a registered voter in Seward. I am a former teacher and mother of twin six year old first graders. I'm writing to reiterate to the legislature our state's dire need to increase the BSA by at least \$1500. That would make the buying power of the BSA current with the economy, plus a small increase in what we invest in each student.

I strongly encourage you all to spend thirty minutes reviewing [Alaska's NAEP scores](#). In fourth grade reading, our students are ranked second to last in the nation, beating only New Mexico. By eighth grade, our students are in better shape, but still well below the national average.

In my community, veteran teachers are unable to purchase homes because their salaries have stagnated compared to inflation. We have multiple unfilled positions because teacher salaries and benefits are no longer competitive with Lower 48 salaries and benefits. Teachers and administrators are leaving our community because they can no longer afford health care, and their positions are not being filled. This is unacceptable and, quite frankly, totally appalling. Y'all should be embarrassed that your constituents have to beg you for the money needed to fund our future. Scraping the bottom of the educational barrel is totally unacceptable for our children; they deserve the best we can give them, and what they're currently getting is NOT it.

Our youth will one day be in your seats, making decisions that will affect you and your descendants. I would feel far better about their ability to thrive in legislation if I knew they had a solid educational foundation-- wouldn't you? What we are providing to our students right now isn't even the bare minimum. We NEED to GREATLY increase the BSA because doing so is investing in the future of our society. Kids need quality educators. They also need arts, music, and movement in their lives. All of those things cost money, but it is money very well spent.

I implore you, for the sake of Alaska, increase the BSA. Give our schools the money they need to provide a top notch education for our students.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this-something you're able to do because someone taught you how. Do the right thing and make sure all of Alaska's kids have the opportunity to master the same basic skills that you have; significantly increase the BSA.

Thank you.

--

Katy Journey
[REDACTED]

April 19, 2023



Dear Members of the Senate Finance and Education Committees,

The Alaska School Nurses Association supports full funding of the Alaska Base Student Allocation. We know that school districts around the state are facing budgetary crises related to flat funding of the BSA since 2017.

We thank the Senate Education Committee for its dedication to education and its robust increase in funding and inflation-proofing of the BSA in **SB 52, Sections 4 – 6**.

We believe that full funding of the BSA, allocating from the general fund and not with a special appropriation, is the correct approach, and we appreciate the experienced and knowledgeable actions of Senate Education and Senate Finance toward supporting our constitutionally-mandated government functions in Alaska.

We urge Senate Finance to forward SB 52 to the Senate Floor with a *Do Pass* recommendation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sonja Mack, President, Alaska School Nurses Association

alaskaschoolnurses@gmail.com



SEWARD LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Seward.LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-224-5066

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Joshua Girard

REPRESENTING: Seward Middle School

BILL # or SUBJECT: SB52 Increase Base Student Allocation

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee DATE: April 18th, 2023

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

Good afternoon members of the committee,

My name is Joshua Girard. I am a paraprofessional at Seward Middle School. I've worked for KPBSD for about five years now. I started out as a long-term sub in the intensive needs classroom at Sterling Elementary. After a few months of learning and not running in fear, I interviewed and was selected to join the team of wonderful paras and staff. It wasn't long before the world was hit hard by COVID. Suddenly, teachers and education support professionals were lifted out of schools and had to move curriculum online and teach in a new environment. We responded to this great need and were raised to the status of heroes. Even though the world was going through terrible times, I felt like I truly mattered, and the work I was doing mattered.

Soon enough, we were back in schools, and things slowly went back to normal. Or so we thought. It wasn't long before we felt like we were the villains in the same story. After two years of dealing with the virus and distance learning, the lack of funding reared its ugly head. We started to lose the arts, then teaching positions, and soon staff had to take up even more duties. There was no compensation, and we would often hear how we weren't doing enough. Community leaders blamed the teachers, not only in our wonderful state, but across the nation. The stress of our work and the lack of competitive pay drove ever more of our great educators to seek greener fields, taking their knowledge of the job with them.

We've continued to do the best with what we have, but the ones truly suffering from this are our students. Our students are Alaska's greatest resource. They will be Alaska's next educators, next legislators, and our future. What we are currently showing them is that Alaska doesn't care about their education. The lack of funding for our public schools, and the meager interest in our educators has become ever more apparent. Our students see it. They are much more aware than so many give them credit for. We are tasked with raising them to their highest potential, but how are educators supposed to do that with a skeleton crew and no funding?

In our school we will be down to 6 teachers next year, one who we will share with our high school. We will have no arts. We may not even be able to do electives. I am the only paraprofessional and will be expected to work with my intensive needs students, as well as our resource. I will have to manage the curriculum of all our students in each of their classes, where I am expected to make sure they complete all their assignments, while managing their needs. We cannot hire more because the cost of living is so high. We do not make a living wage, not even close. I will quite possibly be homeless as an educator come summer, but I will continue to do my job because it is needed, and I love doing it. I care for my students and their wellbeing.

I am asking for this increase in the BSA because it is NEEDED. We cannot raise the next generation of Alaskans with what we have. As I said before, our students are our greatest resource, and unless we invest in them, we will continue to flounder, and lose even more ground.

Thank you.

Doniece Gott

From: Scott MacManus <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Supporting Testimony for SB52

Testimony on April 17, 2023 to Senate Finance on SB52.

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Scott MacManus, and I am a life-long Alaskan and product of our public school and university systems. I am currently the Superintendent of Alaska Gateway School District. Thank you for the opportunity to support full funding of SB52.

Right now AGSD is in the middle of our FY24 budgeting process. We are preparing a budget based on the \$30 BSA increase, our first increase since 2017, because that is what we know we can count on. For my district that translates into an annual increase of under \$50,000 a year. Yet our audited fixed costs since 2017 has increased to approximately \$1.2M more a year. This week we learned that our health insurance was increased by 34.8% and will cost \$2.1M a year...a 100% increase since 2017.

Our average teacher in 2017 made \$65K...this year it is \$80K...which does not even begin to keep up with inflation. Staff turnover in my district has traditionally been very low, but this year like many district's we are experiencing increased teacher turnover...and are recruiting teacher candidates...for a recent elementary position we have in Tok, I have over a 100 applicants...but only 1 of them from the US. We currently have two international teachers who are doing an excellent job and if are unable to fill our positions will hire more.

There has been recent discussion regarding the School Fund Balance that DEED prepared on April 17, it shows our undesignated reserve at \$1.1M, which we worked hard to build, and is right near the 10% allowable not subject to limitation. It shows our capital project fund balance at just over \$1M. That is the money we use for basic maintenance emergencies and summer maintenance program, and yet we have nearly \$30M in identified deferred maintenance needs.

The sheets shows \$1.1M in remaining in our COVID Relief Funds...these funds are NOT left over funds...they are already allocated and planned for, and will help get us through next year. They are paying for mental health counselors and other educational services and programs that are planned. We have planned out timed the use of those fund as we were told we could, so that we maximize the use of every cent to help with what our kids need. We have used all the funds as allowed and expired. Our funds are planned for, and we will use all of it, and they were meant to meet the learning needs for kids, not used to balance a state budget.

Alaska School districts are absolutely accountable. From our elected school boards who answer to their constituents, to annual fiscal audits and reports to various departments, we are accountable. This year alone AGSD has had it's Annual financial Audit, A TRS and PERS audit, A Food Service Audit, and we are going through an ESSER audit right now. Accountability is a must, but there needs to be a full understanding that every accountability measure has costs to provide it, and they increase the costs of doing business.

I ask the Senate to show their support of Alaska kids and education by supporting the BSA increase proposed in SB52, we should not have to run our schools on unsustainable grants such as ESSER.

Sincerely,

Scott MacManus

Scott MacManus, Superintendent
Alaska Gateway School District

smacmanus@agsd.us



"The more you know, the more you can imagine "

Doniece Gott

From: Kirk & Jenn DesErmia [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support SB52!

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of SB52, Base Student Allocation. It is an absolute priority of our government to fund our schools, keep teachers in classrooms, and provide opportunities for engagement of our youth. I have 2 children in middle and high school, work as a substitute teacher, and am the President of the Seward PTA. I am in our schools all the time and I see a system in extreme distress. You have an opportunity to support our schools and students by voting in support of SB52.

Here in Seward, this is what it will look like if legislation at the state level is not passed to increase the BSA for next school year: Our local schools will have to cut 5 teaching positions, a School Counselor, a Student Success Liaison (who oversees all Distance Ed students), a Pool Manager, and close our pool (home of Olympic Gold Medalist, Lydia Jacoby). This is devastating for our students and community! Our schools already struggle to meet baseline graduation requirements. More and more class requirements are only offered via Distance Education (online). If further cuts are made, families may decide to make different choices to serve their children's educational needs, including enrolling in homeschool/online programs or moving away. This further drains our schools' potential.

It is critical for our community that we support an increase to the BSA. We want to be able to provide children with appropriate educational opportunities in Seward. If a community cannot provide that, then families will look elsewhere and move on. We want Seward to be a place that attracts and retains quality community members, and part of that equation is providing quality education for children. This is in all of our best interests.

Please pass this resolution and know that your constituents need this BSA increase now!

Thank you for your consideration,
Jennifer DesErmia
[REDACTED]

Thank you to Chairman Olson and members of the Senate Finance Committee for taking public testimony on SB 52. My name is Andy DeGraw and I'm the Chief Operations Officer for Fairbanks North Star School District and I'm testifying in support of SB 52.

I'd like to address the document titled "DEED School district fund balances".

This document is misleading in its current form for 2 reasons:

1. It's dated June 30, 2022 and represents outdated, inaccurate numbers.
2. Additionally, many of the balances listed are NOT available to fund regular operating expenses.

Speaking specifically to Fairbanks' numbers found in the document:

Operating Fund FB - This is accurate, we are at \$0.00.

Pupil Transportation - \$4.7M listed, actual is \$3.5M. These funds are committed to our transportation services and we currently run a \$3.0M annual deficit in transportation and will be close to \$0.00 in fund balance at the end of FY24. Transportation funding has remained unchanged for eight consecutive years.

Capital Projects - \$2.3M is accurate. These funds are committed to capital projects in our district in cooperation with the Borough.

Other Gov funds - \$13M is accurate. These funds are committed to pay for health and other insurance claims, our food service operations, and our equipment replacement program that replaces nearly 20 thousand student and staff technology devices over a 4 year timeframe.

COVID Funds Remaining - \$16.1M listed. \$4.3M actual. These funds are already committed to our FY24 budget.

Therefore the grand total available to Fairbanks for FY24 is not \$36 M, rather it's \$4.3 M.

I would encourage Senators' staff to reach out to their respective districts to get current and accurate figures and to get insight regarding the various funds identified in the DEED document. I would guess that actual COVID funds available for FY24 are FAR lower than the \$236 M listed.

Thank you again to members of the committee and for your dedication to the State of Alaska and to a strong public education system.

Andy DeGraw

Doniece Gott

From: Donovan Egoak <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 4:02 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: students SB 52 testimony

Hello,

We are students from Joann A Alexie Memorial High School and are writing to you as a concerned student to testify in support of SB 52 budget increase.

The village of Atmautluak is composed of about an average of 277 people. Our school includes preschool through 12th grade and 8 teachers. A small sized school like ours has limited resources for in-person learning classes. The village of Atmautluak would like more teachers and more classes that are more relevant or practical to our daily life. These classes are valuable because we can use these skills both at home and for work, both during school and after graduation. Courses that would be meaningful to us as students include: music classes, shop, driver's education, welding, woodwork, shop mechanics, flight simulator, construction, engineering, electrician and other trade skills.

Education, learning is fundamental to developing and maintaining a better community that is part of Alaska, United States of America and supporting SB 52 is a necessary component to improving and protecting our community.

Sincerely,

Donovan Lott Carlton Angullugaar Kunuq'aq Egoak
Brenton Jon Robert Kunuq'aq Dull
Joshophine Albrite
Mirah Ann Tac'aq Egoak
Dakota Jolene Maaqaq Taacaq Paul
Trenton Egoak
Tyrone Nicholai
Agnes Nicholai

Doniece Gott

From: Beth Sandefur <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 4:24 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA Increase

First, I would like to thank you for doing the work to make Alaska a wonderful place to live and work. I have been an educator here since 2011. I hope that you will fight for our schools and our kids during this crucial time as the Legislature considers increasing the Base Student Allocation.

Due to inflation and especially increased costs in energy and shipping, there are several critical programs in our schools that are suffering as our funding has to be diverted to pay utilities bills, increased costs for the every day supplies used in classrooms, and maintenance materials. Things that directly impact our students, like MTSS services, trauma informed practices, project based learning materials, and art and music supplies, are being cut so we can keep the busses running and the heat on in our buildings. Teachers and paraprofessionals are being laid off, and some schools may even be closed. I urge you to take bold and immediate action to provide relief to school districts through a BSA increase and develop long-term education funding solutions.

Since 2017, inflation has risen by 15% which has steadily diminished school districts' buying power. Meanwhile, the BSA has only increased by 0.5% over that same period. Some estimates have suggested that in order to keep up with inflation, the BSA should be \$1,300 more than it is right now. Regardless of how we calculate inflation or the right amount for the BSA, one thing is clear: our public schools need help now.

On a personal note, my current position as a Dean of Students will be cut if we do not see a BSA increase. I work with students daily on restorative justice and fostering positive behavior and community standards. I maintain safe conditions in my building because everyone deserves to feel safe when they are at school. I oversee our RTI and Special Education programs to make sure our struggling students are having their needs met. I support our classroom teachers in myriad ways so they can deliver the best education possible to our students. The work I do is integral to creating a thriving learning community and is moving us forward towards our school improvement goals. Sometimes when we look at budgets, we can forget that these numbers represent something more than money. They correlate to people, like me, and to services our kids need.

I urge you to do everything in your power to set aside political differences and focus on providing relief to our public schools. Governor Dunleavy and legislators of all political persuasions have indicated their openness to increasing the BSA. I hope I can count on you to join them in finding common ground to pass a meaningful budget increase.

You can be a hero for Alaska's public schools this legislative session. Please don't let us down.

Beth Sandefur
Dean of Students
Schoenbar Middle School
[REDACTED]
Fawn Mountain Elementary School
[REDACTED]
beth.sandefur@k21schools.org

Doniece Gott

From: Elizabeth Herron-Ruff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: increase student base allocation

Good Morning,

I would like to write in support of the increase in the student base allocation. Education, like many other areas, has gotten more expensive, yet the rates for the base allocation for student learning have not increased in several years. In order for schools to support teachers and student learning, resources need to be purchased and provided to students. Districts need to make sure that many aspects of learning are supported, like teacher housing, salaries, and teacher retention strategies. Districts need additional funding... so I'm writing to ask you to support the increase in student base allocation.

Quyana,

Dr. Elizabeth A Ruff
Site Administrator, Mertarvik Pioneer School
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Doniece Gott

From: Caroline Storm <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 5:27 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: In support of SB 52

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I was on the phone to testify, but had to disconnect at 3:20pm as I was boarding a flight back to Alaska.

I am a self employed registered architect living and working professionally in Anchorage for the last 21 years.

I want to echo all the points made in support of SB 52 from the last hour and 20 minutes of testimony and add that when I moved to Alaska in 2002, Alaska was ranked number 1 in the nation for schools and education. Teachers were flocking to Alaska to teach and our students had every opportunity in the world because of their education.

That is no longer the reality.

Why have we deprioritized our children to such a degree? I see that we have consistently balanced the budget in the backs of our children instead of creating a sustainable fiscal plan.

As an architect, I know that every architecture and engineering firm in Anchorage is short staffed and cannot meet the professional demand for our services. I also know that there are many building contractors and sub-contractors that cannot staff up to build projects that they are already under contract to build. We are about to leave a lot of infrastructure funding on the table due to lack of workforce. So why are we so short staffed? Because we can't recruit with the perception that Alaska does not value education. That's it. Professionals have left, and new professionals cannot be recruited due to lack of educational opportunities for their children.

Please, pass SB 52.

We have to provide stable and predictable funding for school districts and stop relying on one-time stop gap funding. Our children and the future of Alaska's workforce is worth it.

Thank you,
Caroline Storm
Registered Architect
Great Alaska Schools volunteer.

Sent from my phone

Doniece Gott

From: Kimberly Bakkes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:14 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Bill 52

I am writing to strongly support a vote to increase BSA.

Thank you for all that you do!

As a parent in Sitka, I am very alarmed at the prospect of losing 15 teachers from our school system. This would hugely impact my two school-aged children.

My husband and I (two professionals) really appreciate the school system experience for our children here in Sitka.

It is time for an increase to the base school financing.

Thank you!

Kimberly Bakkes
[REDACTED]
Sitka

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: kasia zych <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:32 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School Funding

Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I no longer support public education. Public education no longer is concerned with teaching the basics of reading, writing, and math. This is evidenced by Alaska schools' proficiency rates ranking near the bottom of national rankings. Public schools' primary objective is apparently brainwashing our children to accept extreme destructive ideologies.

Anchorage School District is expending precious resources to make gender neutral bathrooms. Obviously they have such a surplus of capital that they can pursue such insane expenditures.

Please do everything in your power to reduce State of Alaska funding for public education.

Katarzyna Robotkay