



GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUPERINTENDENT
Jason R. Johnson, Ed.D.

May 5, 2023

Re: Senate Bill 140

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Galena City School District (GCSD), I write today in support of SB 140.

While extremely grateful to Alaska's legislators for increasing BAG grant-eligible funding to 25 megabits per second a few years ago, the internet in Galena for our students and staff still, at 25 megabits per second, has limited video streaming, which, as we all know, is essential for education and business operations today. Our network administrator in Galena reports that he spends much of his time managing internet operations each day. For example, he might need to prioritize internet bandwidth to the central business office for an important virtual meeting which will mean limited, or possibly no, streaming for teachers and students during that timeframe.

In addition to GCSD's schools in Galena, we have six offices in urban areas that support the education of our IDEA homeschool families. I can attest to the unequal internet between urban and rural communities in Alaska as our IDEA offices can rely on video streaming the majority of the time.

Thank you for considering supporting SB 140 in order to provide digital equality for all of Alaska's students.

Respectfully submitted,

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