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**From:** Hickox\_Molly <hickox\_molly@asdk12.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 12:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Julie Coulombe  
**Cc:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140 and SB 52

Representative Coulombe,

I am writing to encourage you to support SB 140 that comes before you today. Digital equity is so important for our students across the state. During our statewide principal meetings, I am always shocked by the lack of access that some of my colleagues are dealing with at their schools. Our students deserve better.

I am also reiterating my request that you hear and support SB 52. We must have stable, long term funding to reach our goals, in particular the reading goals associated with the Alaska Reads Act. We are finally in a position to make some forward momentum, but we must have stable funding to plan beyond year to year. Again, our students deserve this!

Thank you for your consideration and your service, and please feel free to reach out to me anytime if you have questions about public education and what it looks like at the school level in your district.

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Molly Hickox, Principal  
Huffman Elementary School  
Anchorage School District  
907-742-5650  
<https://www.asdk12.org/huffman>



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**From:** Jared Garlick <jgarlick@swrsd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 12:47 PM  
**To:** Rep. Bryce Edgmon; House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140 and SB 52

Good afternoon representative Edgmon!

I am writing today to voice support for SB 140 and SB 52. Here are my reasons for voicing support:

#### **SB 140**

- Digital equity is needed
- Alaska's students need and deserve the full transformative power of technology and equitable access to online resources.
- Students, teachers and school leaders of Alaska, some of whom live in the most remote areas of the world, require access to modern technology in order to transform learning, create efficiencies, provide online health services, and keep pace with their peers globally.
- This funding leverages federal e- rate funds at up to 8:1 and provides Alaska's students and educators fair access to the digital world.
- Reliable access to the internet is a critical component of modern learning. Many Alaskan students can't access the internet at levels which meet FCC minimum connectivity goals.
- Districts apply for discounted internet through the E-rate program, the annual filing window to apply is the end of March each year – which is before the legislature finishes its business. It's important to pass the bill THIS YEAR so NEXT SPRING the department of education can tell BAG eligible recipients they can apply for 100 megabits per second rather than 25.
- We want to help ensure all schools, no matter their geography, have equitable access to educational opportunities
- Quality education requires connectivity, passing this bill will help us achieve our goal of ensuring every Alaska school has the access they need to provide our students with the education they deserve

#### **SB 52**

Why an increase to the BSA is the best way to fund education:

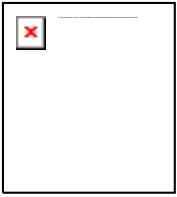
- Creates stability and predictability for schools
- Plan future budgets with better actuary
- School districts can know what funding to expect
- Create long-term fiscal plans that best support teachers and the classroom.

Impacts of one-time funding – while one-time funds are appreciated...

- One-time funding would cause uncertainty heading into the following fiscal year
- With one-time funding districts will focus on cuts in their next fiscal year
- One-time funds aren't reliable beyond FY24

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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Jared Garlick  
Principal  
Manokotak Nunaniq School  
PO Box 130  
Manokotak, AK 99628  
907-289-1013 Office  
[jgarlick@swrsd.org](mailto:jgarlick@swrsd.org)

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**From:** T. Tallant <tallant57@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 8:15 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** BSA/Internet Bill (SB52/140)

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask you to bring SB52/140 to the floor for a vote. The bills contain an increase in the Base Student Allocation that must be passed.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tallant  
Anchorage, Alaska

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**From:** Irene Bortnick <ibortnick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:55 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Finance education

Please move the combined BSA/internet bill to the floor for a vote before time runs out this legislative season. Alaskan families need to know that their children will be able to have the education they deserve not just next school year, but going forward. School districts and principals need to know what their budget will be. Teachers need to know that they will have a job next year.

Please do the right thing and move the combined BSA/internet bill to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Irene Bortnick (retired ASD teacher, mother of 4 ASD graduates)

Anchorage

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**From:** Tim Silvers <timothysilvers@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 10:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please move bsa/internet bill to floor

House Finance Committe Members, please move the BSA/internet bill to the House floor for a vote. Investing in our children's future though increased public school finding is critical to the success of our state. Thank you!

Tim Silvers  
East Anchorage

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**From:** Joseph Vondoloski <jvondoloski@aebsd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 12:41 PM  
**To:** Rep. Bryce Edgmon; House Finance  
**Subject:** Urgent Action Required: Vote NO on SB 140 and SB 52

## - Controlling Spending and Seeking New Income Sources

Dear Representative's Edgmon and House Finance folks,

I hope this email finds you well. As the Principal of Sand Point School in Alaska, I am writing to urgently request your support in voting NO on two critical measures, SB 140 and SB 52.

I have seen gross use of funds across Alaska Public schools. In the real world if you lose money you go out of business. Why is it with schools, we spend even more money on broken systems?

SB 140: Internet for Schools, proposes an increase in the cap for Broadband Assistance Grants from 25 Mbps to 100 Mbps. While the objective of providing equitable internet access to schools is important, I firmly believe that it is necessary to HIRE good teachers instead of sending students to more computer time. Spending is already spiraling out of control, and we must explore new income sources before burdening taxpayers further.

Here are the reasons why I oppose SB 140:

Spending without generating new income: It is essential that we prioritize generating new income rather than increasing spending. We cannot continue to burden taxpayers with additional expenses without exploring alternative avenues to finance these improvements.

The need for fiscal responsibility: While digital equity is a worthy goal, we must exercise fiscal responsibility and carefully consider the long-term impact of our spending decisions. Increasing the cap for Broadband Assistance Grants without a solid plan for sustainable funding sets a dangerous precedent.

Now turning our attention to SB 52: Edu Info; Increase Base Student Allocation, this measure proposes raising the BSA by \$680 per student, increasing per pupil transportation funding, residential schools funding, and introducing a new DEED data website. Although supporting education is crucial, **we must find sustainable funding options that do not exacerbate the problem of uncontrollable spending.**

Here are the reasons why I oppose SB 52:

Controlling spending and planning for the future: It is important to create stability and predictability for schools by implementing measures that allow for better financial planning. Increasing the BSA without a solid funding strategy can lead to uncertainty in future budgeting and compromises the ability of school districts to support teachers and provide quality education.

The drawbacks of one-time funding: While one-time funds may be appreciated in the short term, they create uncertainty for the following fiscal year. Relying on one-time funding forces districts to focus on budget cuts, affecting the quality of education in the long run. It is crucial to find reliable and sustainable funding sources beyond FY24.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB 140 and SB 52. It is imperative that we prioritize controlling spending and explore new income sources to ensure the long-term fiscal health of our education system. If you require any further information or have any questions,



please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and our students.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. VonDoloski Sr.

[Sand Point Principal](#)

The Standard is the Standard.



**Joseph Vondoloski**

School Principal

Sand Point School

Email: [jvondoloski@aebsd.org](mailto:jvondoloski@aebsd.org)

Office:

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**From:** John & Jo Ann Gruber <gruberak@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 10:20 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Sen. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Jamie Allard  
**Subject:** SB 140 (Internet for Schools) & SB 52 (Increase BSA)

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

Earlier this evening I watched as you combined SB52 (Increase Base Student Allocation) with SB140 (Internet for Schools) and then set the entire bill aside for some reason.

I am writing to urge you to move the newly combined bill to the floor for a vote as quickly as possible because it is extremely important that our public education system and its students have stable and dependable funding. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jo Ann Gruber  
Eagle River, AK

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** John & Jo Ann Gruber <gruberak@yahoo.com>  
**To:** representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov <representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov>; representative.delena.johnson@akleg.gov <representative.delena.johnson@akleg.gov>; representative.neal.foster@akleg.gov <representative.neal.foster@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** House.Finance@akleg.gov <house.finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jamie Allard <rep.jamie.allard@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kelly Merrick <sen.kelly.merrick@akleg.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 at 12:39:12 PM AKDT  
**Subject:** SB 52 (EDU INFO;INCREASE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION)

Dear Representatives Edgmon, Foster, and Johnson,

Last week the Alaska Senate passed SB52. As co-chairs and leaders of the House Finance Committee, I am writing to you today to urge you to hear SB52 and pass the bill from your committee.

Our public education system and its students need and deserve stable, dependable funding. I expect no less for them.

Please get this bill heard and passed from your committee as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jo Ann Gruber  
Eagle River, AK

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**From:** Dave Snider <voiceofdave@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 10:15 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Move the BSA / internet book to the floor

Legislators

Please move the critical funding bill for Base Student Allocation and the internet to the floor for a vote.

Don't delay.

Also, my son graduated tonight. And it still matters.

Thank you,  
Dave Snider  
Eagle River, AK  
--

Dave Snider  
#: 907-980-6759

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**From:** Jonathon Marsh <jonathonxm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 10:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** BSA increase bill

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE.....please move the combined BSA/Internet bill to the floor for a vote! The people of Alaska deserve to have their representatives represent them in a vote! Please make this happen!

Jonathon Marsh

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**From:** Jenny Blanchard <j.haggard@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 10:02 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Jennie Armstrong  
**Subject:** BSA bill

Hello-

I'm writing to encourage moving the bill with the BSA increase forward. Increasing the BSA is one of the most critical issues this legislative session, and we are failing all of Alaska's children if you don't pass a significant increase this year. Please vote to approve this bill and move it to the full House.

Jenny Blanchard  
Anchorage resident

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Devin Finch <deveelele@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 9:57 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** BSA

To whom it may concern:

As a parent of an ASD student I URGE you to move the combined BSA/internet bill to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Devin Finch  
Anchorage, AK 99507

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Megan Peltier <mkpeltier@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 4:11 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Supporting BSA Increase

Hello House Finance Committee Members,

I have written to you previously this session, but as we approach the end of the session and critical votes on the budget, I would like to reiterate my support for SB 52 and inflation proofing and increasing the Base Student Allocation. Providing a quality education for our children is important for Alaska's future. Please work to pass this bill out of the Finance Committee and to the House Floor for a vote.

I will also restate that I am in support of paying out a smaller PFD to Alaskans or even establishing a state sales tax to help pay for this school funding increase.

Thank you,  
Megan Peltier  
5831 Chisana Way, Anchorage, AK 99507

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**From:** Jack Walsh <jwalsh@aebsd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 3:56 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Bryce Edgmon  
**Subject:** Help with sustainable education funding for Alaska

Members of the House Finance Committee,

As the legislative session winds down there seems to be an important area of our state budget and commitment that remains undecided, and it is unfortunate that this continues to be one of the last items ever addressed by the body. Education is one of the few items identified in our constitution as a duty of the state and yet we always seem to treat it not as a priority, but rather as a bargaining chip. That is not in anyone's best interests, especially the 120,000 students across the state who are counting on an education to help them fulfill their dreams and to take on the roles they will have as workers, as learners, as parents, and as leaders.

I urge you to consider the impact that no change to the BSA has had over these past 6 years, while the costs of everything have continued to rise and inflation has been in all time high ranges. These are not the best circumstances for the state, and even less productive and supportive of the schools and districts that are dedicated to serving our youth.

I remain hopeful you can still do the right things during the session. Please vote in support of SB140 to increase broadband access and also approve SB52 to increase the BSA. Both of these are critical to education, and the future of Alaska. Thank you for your time and consideration. Every family, and every student in this great state deserve your support.

Thanks again for all of your work during the session and on behalf of Alaskans, everywhere. Jack Walsh, Interim Chief Schools Administrator-Aleutians East Borough School District



**Jack Walsh**  
Interim Chief School Administrator  
AEBSD District Office  
Email: jwalsh@aebsd.org  
Office: 907-383-5222  
Ext: 7001

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**From:** Jason Johnson <jason.johnson@galenanet.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 3:54 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please Support SB 52 and SB 140  
**Attachments:** House Finance Comm. SB140 and SB52 Support Ltr. - GCSD - 5-13-2023.pdf

Dear House Finance Committee,

Please find attached the Galena City School District's respectful request that the committee support and move both SB 52 and SB 140 forward.

Sincerely,

Jason

Jason R. Johnson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Galena City School District  
907-656-1205

Vision – To provide the highest quality educational options for families, ensuring our graduates are well-educated individuals able to maneuver effectively in a dynamic world

Mission – We will provide an engaging, inspirational, and impactful learning environment for every student, in every content area, every day, through recruiting and retaining exceptional staff, actively partnering with our learning community, and serving the whole child

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**From:** Margaret Gray <margaret.gray@bssd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 1:48 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; House Finance  
**Subject:** Support for SB 52  
**Attachments:** SB52 BSA Increase.pdf

To Whom It May Concern:

Please see attached letter regarding support for increasing the base student allocation (BSA).

Thank you,

--

**Maggie Gray**

NACTEC Program Coordinator  
Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center  
907.443.7572  
PO Box 131  
3.5 Mile Nome/Teller Highway, Nome-Beltz Complex  
Nome, AK 99762  
Email: [margaret.gray@bssd.org](mailto:margaret.gray@bssd.org)  
Website: [www.nacteconline.org](http://www.nacteconline.org)

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**From:** Susanne Smock <susanne.smock@sva.bssd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 1:35 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 52 :

**SB 52 :**

Why an increase to the BSA is the best way to fund education:

- Creates stability and predictability for schools
- Plan future budgets with better actuary
- School districts can know what funding to expect
- Create long-term fiscal plans that best support teachers and the classroom.

Impacts of one-time funding – while one-time funds are appreciated...

- One-time funding would cause uncertainty heading into the following fiscal year
- With one-time funding districts will focus on cuts in their next fiscal year
- One-time funds aren't reliable beyond FY24

With Thanks,

Susanne

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**From:** Annie Woods <[awoods@bssd.org](mailto:awoods@bssd.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 1:29 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; House Finance  
**Subject:** Fwd: School internet speed

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Annie Woods** <[awoods@bssd.org](mailto:awoods@bssd.org)>  
Date: Wed, May 10, 2023 at 11:12 AM  
Subject: School internet speed  
To: <[house.finance@akleg.gov](mailto:house.finance@akleg.gov)>  
Cc: Susan Nedza <[susan.nedza@bssd.org](mailto:susan.nedza@bssd.org)>

Dear Alaska Legislature,

I am writing this email to request your approval to increase our school internet speed from 25mbps to 100mbps. As you all know the unfortunate bear encounter in Wales this winter - if they weren't able to call us or reach us by email during the tragedy, we wouldn't be able to lend them support. Sometimes their phones don't work, but that's another matter (another company).

Many, many times throughout the school year the Wales and Diomedes internet service drops due to weather and equipment. Students are unable to take tests online. We have 15 schools and that's just an example of 2 schools.

I see this as a safety issue, and rural Alaska schools can only benefit from the increased internet speed.

Thank you for your time. Quayana

*Annie Woods*

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