



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
Senate Education Committee

SENATOR Löki Gale Tobin, Chair
State Capital Room 11, Juneau AK 99801, Phone 465-3704

Senate Bill 52 – Increase Base Student Allocation

Sponsor Statement

Right now, students and parents across Alaska are dealing with fewer education programs, staff shortages at their schools, and even the prospect of school closures. This is occurring because funding for public education in Alaska has not kept up with inflation. Senate Bill 52 seeks to reverse years of underfunding by increasing Alaska's Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1,000 to \$6,960 per eligible student.

Analysis from the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research 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. From 2012 to 2022, Alaska's urban consumer price index increased by 24.6 percent while Alaska's Base Student Allocation increased by only 4.2 percent.

After extensive public testimony, it is clear that Alaska's K-12 public education system is seriously underfunded. A significant investment is needed to allow school districts to recruit and retain good teachers, reduce class sizes, and give Alaska's children and young adults the education and tools they need to live fulfilling lives.

Senate Bill 52 represents a clear policy choice to make a modest investment in education after years of stagnant funding from the State of Alaska. A BSA increase will help every child and young adult who receives a public education in Alaska.