

**Coalition for Education**



**Coalition for Education Equity**  
*presentation for Senate Education Committee*

Sarah Sledge, [sarah@ceequity.org](mailto:sarah@ceequity.org), Executive Director, CEE

**January 25, 2023**

# About Us



Founded in 1996 as Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children (CEAAC)



Litigated Kasayulie and Moore lawsuits while also seeking change through legislative action



Became Coalition for Education Equity in 2015

*Mission: Coalition for Education Equity champions a quality, equitable and adequate public education for every Alaska child through **advocacy**, **policy development** and **legal action***

# Top CEE Priorities for 2023



Adequate investment in public education



Recruitment and retention of quality educators



School Construction and Major Maintenance funding

# Examples of fixed cost increases for school districts

## District cost increases FY22 to FY23

- Fuel: up 46%
- Utilities: up 38%
- Cost of new construction: up approximately 20%
- Travel: up 40%
- Supply costs: up 10-20%
- Insurance: up 26%

## District cost increases FY17 to FY23

- Total cost increase of 21% from FY17 to FY23
- Maintenance costs: up 12%
  - Electricity: up 45%
  - Heating fuel: down 3%
  - Liability insurance: up 61%
  - Health insurance: up 30%
  - Workers Comp: up 48%

## District cost increases FY21 to FY22

- FY21- Oil purchase to keep our facilities heated- \$569,870
- FY22- Oil purchase to keep our facilities heated- \$870,900
- Electricity costs increased by an estimated 30%.
- No carry over funds in our CIP account

# Adequate investment in Alaska's public education system and public schools

- ▶ Stable, sustainable, and predictable education budget
- ▶ Education funding decisions made in a timely manner that enables school districts to plan efficiently and responsibly
- ▶ A fiscal plan with diversified revenue to ensure education funding sources are reliable and adequate
- ▶ Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to close the funding gap created by inflation

## Education funding affects teacher retention



- ▶ Salaries
- ▶ Available instructional resources and support staff
- ▶ Building conditions
- ▶ Available housing



# Teacher and other staffing shortages

- ▶ Recruiting and retaining quality educators has a significant impact on student outcomes
- ▶ Challenge filling teacher vacancies
- ▶ Volatility in principal and superintendent retention

# Factors affecting teacher recruitment and retention



Teacher housing



Retirement systems



Lack of perceived value of education  
and respect for educators



# School Construction & Major Maintenance

- ▶ Major Maintenance Priority Lists
  - This year FY24: 97 projects @ \$217,694,131
  - FY23: 97 projects @ \$196,637,613
  - FY22: 108 projects @ \$187,285,413
  - FY21: 102 projects @ \$148,986,253
  - FY20: 72 projects @ \$113,787,100
  - FY19: 84 projects @ \$142,892,281
- ▶ Over the same time period, \$39,984,000 in major maintenance funding
- ▶ Significant investment for school major maintenance is needed

# School Construction & Major Maintenance

- ▶ CIP Process
  - ▶ Ongoing costs
- ▶ Impact of projects not getting funded
  - ▶ Burgeoning need, worsening conditions in school facilities
  - ▶ Sunk costs of applying multiple years







# Thank you!

**Sarah Sledge**

Executive Director  
Coalition for Education Equity



[sarah@ceequity.org](mailto:sarah@ceequity.org)  
907-227-1704