

HB

154

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HB 154
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March 5, 2003

The Honorable Pete Kott
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Kott:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill which clarifies local school district programs for under school age children.

Pursuant to existing statutes, a district may enroll a four year old child, referred to as an "under school age student." The intent of this bill is to prohibit districts from constructing curriculums that offer two years of kindergarten as a standard program. Early entry of four year olds into the school system should be a rare event and reserved for the truly exceptional child.

This bill would remove a school district's ability to offer early entry as standard practice to access the foundation formula and provide state funded pre-school programs. Currently, districts can enroll four year olds and then enroll them again as a kindergarten student in the next school year. This action effectively provides a child with two years of kindergarten with very little in the way of extra expense to the district. The result to the state is an additional year of per pupil funding equating to approximately \$3.9 million.

Enrolling four year olds as the current statute provides should be retained. However, early enrolled children should be expected to advance through to the next grade level or grade level equivalent.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank H. Murkowski".

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

Testimony for the House HESS Committee
Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Madam Chair, Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Community Education across the state of Alaska. As the current President of the Alaska Association for Community Education I urge you not to repeal the Community Schools Grant Program.

Each school district receives state grant monies to support their community education program. These monies validate the programs and give us leverage to seek grants, matching funds from cities or municipalities and donations. We are able to build upon the state funding to create a statewide network of activity.

Are Community Schools a need or a want? Let's find out! The Mat-Su Borough receives \$47,000 in state grant funds to support winter safety clinics, swimming lessons, Driver's education and open gym activities. It also funds GED classes, preschool classes, and computer classes. 77 activities provide 1221 youth and 724 adults with 2077 contact hours.

\$26,000 in state funding for the Lower Kuskokwim School District provides over 20 sites with standards based education in reading, writing and math, gym nights, computer lab, peer tutoring as well as many other activities. 9800 youth and 3400 adults participated!

In Wrangell \$2,894 helped provide GED testing, UAS &UAF college courses, community choir and orchestra, CPR & first aid training, youth court, computer classes, and technology workshop among others. 530 youth plus 580 adults were engaged in these activities.

Whether you argue the intent of the legislation to be the initial establishment of community education or the maintenance and operation of community education, it is clear community schools is vital to the growth and development of Alaskan citizens. Life long learners engaged in healthy activities in safe environments raise the quality of everyone's life. Let us be proactive to strengthen the community/school network in our communities not tear it down.

Respectively,

Rebecca Reichlin
P.O. Box 1009
Girdwood, AK 99587
907-783-2374
907-783-1209 fax

March 18, 2003

Rep. Peggy Wilson, Chair
and members of
House Education and Social Services Committee

Dear Rep. Wilson

I am writing to implore you and the rest of the committee members to NOT cut funds for the community schools programs as proposed by HB 165.

In Sitka, I know the program touches the lives of every single citizen through indoor and outdoor recreation programs for all ages, education, senior citizen/youth interactions, workshops, after-school activities, sponsoring community-attended events, coordination of a community calendar and scheduling community use of school facilities. All of these facets are of vital importance to the health and well-being of our community. As you well know, raising responsible, drug- and alcohol-free youth is better accomplished by offering them alternative activities.

Many of the programs offered through Community Schools in Sitka are run by an army of volunteers. There is no fat in our Community Schools' budget. It is not wasted money.

The school district budget is already stretched to the point of breaking and would not be able to make up any shortfall should you cut funding.

I would imagine the community schools program is just as important in other towns throughout the state as well.

Again, please do not cut funding for community schools programs throughout the state. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Megan and Walt Pasternak
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Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-5943
mwpstnk@ptialaska.net

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walt Pasternak". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the typed name and contact information.

MAR 28 2003

4/25/03

Representative Wilson and Members of the Health, Education and Social Services Committee;

My name is Debbie Bogart, I am the Director of Community Education for the Anchorage School District. Today I am here to testify regarding the proposed budget cut and HSB 165, which would eliminate community schools, from the 2004 budget.

Continued funding for community schools is critical, elimination of funds would have a huge impact on community schools not only in Anchorage, but statewide. While funding is limited, it is important. Each school district uses funding for community schools to provide opportunity for lifelong learning. What a community offers differs, depending upon the need that each district has identified. In Anchorage, community schools offers a significant opportunity for lifelong learning and community involvement. Elimination of funds would reduce current program capabilities. Including; programs for youth, programs for adults, school enrichment, community development, facility and resource use and agency cooperation.

Community Schools has a significant role in:

- ❖ Providing tutorial and enriched academic programs for our students.
- ❖ Providing K-12 enrichment for classroom instruction during the school year.
- ❖ Providing continued education for adults in career development, personal growth, parenting skills and social skills.
- ❖ Providing safe neighborhoods for all.
- ❖ Encouraging agency collaboration in the delivery of services and meeting community needs.

In 2001-02, Anchorage Community Schools provided;

- ❖ K-12 enrichment to more than 19,800 students through classroom and school-wide events.
- ❖ Learning opportunities to more than 1500 K-8 students in afterschool enriched academic programs.
- ❖ Opportunity for 33,000 youth participated in classes and activities that were offered afterschool, evenings and weekends.
- ❖ Opportunity for 9,000 adults to participate in evening and weekend classes. (Additionally over 28,800 adults participated in activities and events which did not require registration, such as the citywide events that are offered throughout the year.)
- ❖ Opportunity for 5,400 volunteers to contribute as much as 33,400 volunteer hours. These hours provide enriched classroom instruction, afterschool tutoring and special events that support community involvement.
- ❖ Responded to over 1,000 requests from community members, organizations and groups to the use ASD facilities.
- ❖ Responded to more than 5,400 requests from instructional staff for classroom resources, which included field trips, speakers and/or classroom volunteers.

Strong schools and support of education comes from a clear understanding by our community of how they can support education. Community schools offers an opportunity for that understanding to grow. Classes and activities offered to the community encourage folks without children to enter our schools and to see our facilities, understand our growing needs and to become involved as a community supporter and partner in our efforts to "leave no child behind".

Without State funding to support community schools, strong partnerships that have been developed between schools and their communities will be impacted. Your support of continued funding for community schools is needed.

Thank you,

Debbie Bogart, Director
Community Education
Anchorage School District
(907) 742-4141
(907) 742-4191 - Fax



ASD TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2002-2003

Participation in Activities SOARI

During the 2001-2002 school year, Traditional Programs offered more than 2,800 high quality, affordable programs to students, families and communities through life-long education.

- * K-12 Enrichment - 19,800 students participated in classroom and school-wide events.
- * Youth Classes / Activities - 33,600 youth, ages 1-19 participated in afterschool, evening and weekend events.
- * Adult Classes / Activities - 9,110 participants registered for evening and weekend classes. 28,841 adults attended activities and events, which did not require registration. These included such activities as; community meetings, community school city-wide events.
- * Throughout the year, thousands of community members volunteer in the Community School program. This past year, 5,856 people provided over 27,832 hours of volunteer time.

State Goals Link to ASD Mission and Student Achievement.

Each program is required to address and meet the following specific goals for the 2001-2004 State funding period:

1. Enrich the K-12 program with community resources.
2. Support interagency cooperation with the community school.
3. Promote community development.
4. Offer additional opportunities for the involvement of youth beyond the regular K-12 Program.

5. Offer opportunities for adults/families.
6. Maximize use of school and other public facilities.
7. Promote community education.

Traditional Community School Programs achieve these goals with outstanding marks!!

When asked to respond to the 2001-2002 ASD Goal Report on how Traditional Community School Programs have helped in achieving academic excellence in Reading, Writing and Math, Traditional Community School programs were able to site specific objectives and give clear examples of their help.

OBJECTIVITIES

1. Each traditional site must offer at least one activity that will assist parents/adults to help children increase their skills in Math, Reading and Writing,
2. Each Community School is responsible to coordinate at least three enrichment opportunities for their schools.

Community Schools Supports Academic Activities

- Creekside - Annually supports the Artist in Residency program. Hosted the first "Reading Aurora program for ASD Channel 14. Hosts Family Library Night, schedules youth safety programs such as; gun safety, big road machine safety, fire safety and provides enrichment on Alaska Animals and Kindergarten preparation.
- Rabbit Creek - Author in 'the Classroom project with 10 authors throughout the year visited classrooms and worked on reading/writing development.
- Sandlake - Dimond High tutorial program, Japanese Poetry and Poetry artist for Kincaid, Salmonoid Reading program.
- Chester Valley - purchased 1,000 books for the library.
- Baxter - 2 week visit with Alaskan author - Larry Kaniut, 2 week intensive school-wide reading program - "Iditaread".
- Inlet View - supports 3 elementary schools with enrichment grants totaling \$4500. This money helps with such programs as; Battle of the Books, publishing "The Nanuq News", funds for three week Nature Studies Curriculum for Chugiach Optional. Family

Math/Science events, Library nights and assemblies are also supported financially.

- Four Valleys (Girdwood) – supports the student body with a \$5,000 enrichment budget, annually. With this teachers can request annually two field trips for their classroom. Another activity included two-week Artists in Residency program.
- Tudor – jointly purchased with PTA book for the Battle of the Books program, provided buses for field trip activities, sponsors the 100th day celebration for the 4 Kindergarten and 3 First grade classes.
- Gruening – allocates \$4,000 for enrichment opportunities/grants to ten schools in the Chugiak/Eagle River area.
- Rogers Park/Lk Otis – sponsors the school-wide Science Day, Champions Readers Club, Spanish classes before and afterschool, Family Math and Science nights.
- Fairview – sponsors before language classes in Spanish and French, provides before school tutoring and computer lab time.
- Bear Valley – provides tutorial programs in Reading and Math and with the PTA funds an Artist in Residency program each year. Provides funds for Science Fair awards, participates in Family Math and Science Nights and purchases books for classrooms.
- Campbell – provides tutoring in math, language art, reading and work habits. Hosts "Anchorage Reads" a volunteer based program that works with individuals and small groups in reading. Provides enrichment activities, of which include; Alaska Zoo visits, and Family Math and Science Nights.

Traditional Programs, on an average, contribute over \$3,000.00 for school-wide resources, annually.



Healthy Kids/Safe Neighborhoods

With hundreds of programs and activities each quarter, Traditional program sites are able to extend the use of school facilities to offer a safe location for Anchorage students before and afterschool. Five

Traditional Community School programs offered afterschool tutorial programs in 2001-2002, serving over 800 students in grades 3-10. Before school language programs are becoming more common at Traditional Program sites. Through participation in these classes, students not only learn a new language, they gain a greater understanding of the many cultures in their schools.

Summer math camps, reading programs, enrichment classes and fun recreational activities engage neighborhood children in safe/healthy opportunities that are close to their homes.

Business and Community Partnerships

Every Traditional Program reaches out into their community to build upon important resources that strengthen partnerships. Businesses, non-profit organizations and local agencies are active partners in community schools. These partnerships build opportunity for collaboration and sponsorship of citywide events, resources for K-12 enrichment, before and afterschool programs as well as evening and weekend activities for all.

Some of our partners include;

Alaska Health Fair....Americorps/Nine Star....Alaska Zoo....Imaginarium....Forest Service....Alaska Fish and Game...Boy Scouts...Girl Scouts.... Village Charter School...Anchorage Literacy Program...Anchorage Parks and Recreation Program...ALPAR....The Alaska Club...Knik Little League...Kincaid Outdoor Center...Providence Hospital...Special Olympics....Alyeska Ski Resort...Cooperative Extension Service...Alaska Earth Institute....Alaska Theater of Youth....Alaska Park Service... APU Outdoor Education...U.S. Coast Auxiliary.....GEICO Direct.....American Red Cross.....Kiwanis...Northern Medical Services...

Quality School Initiative Goals

Traditional Programs help ASD achieve Quality School Initiative Goals by providing:

- tutorial programs for students in K-12,
- financial support for staff training,
- financial support for classroom instructional materials,
- providing special learning opportunities for students,
- building and maintaining strong partnerships with communities, businesses and organizations.

2001-2002 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT SUMMARY

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PROGRAMS	CONTACT HRS	YOUTH	ADULTS	VOLUNTEERS	VOL HRS
Alaska Gateway	23	668	206	243	36	658
Aleutian Region	5	9132	137	238	9	634
Aleutians East Borough	273	359	75	7	0	0
Anchorage	2880	27,277	53,389	37,951	5856	27833
Bering Strait	35	750	19796	5544	117	413
Bristol Bay Borough	75	3750	1500	436	54	2200
Chatham	14	36	18	12	2	10
Chugach	10	150	89	75	15	75
Copper River	89	1640	3515	1149	110	1982
Cordova	157	1568	11475	10326		
Craig City	17	762	301	430	76	393
Denali Borough	42	2761.75	3179	3813	184	4874
Dillingham City	7	330	293	14	19	453.16
Fairbanks North Star	236	3182	756	1564	81	151
Galena City	2	1848	11	40	0	0
Haines Borough	23	10,000	350	350	13	205
Hoonah City	416	12,902	1,488	13,097	201	2,387
Hydaburg	5	450	150	150	12	480
Iditarod Area	178	24,629	9,470	9,691	186	11,051
Juneau	12,872	60,342	251,415	241,147	11000	54753
Kake City	7	2,070	1,009	260	31	3510
Kashunamiut	73	5003	151	205	23	189
Kenai Peninsula Borough	527	6024	9064	9562	743	6397
Ketchikan G Borough	70	4898	23	542		
Klawock City	12	33	120	55	2	10
Kodiak Island Borough	97	10826	8444	16034		
Kuspuk	150	2365	5273	4429	309	2203
Lake & Peninsula	14	4470	118	218	16	1538
Lower Kuskokwim	247	62915.5	9875	3484	240	4809
Lower Yukon	162	454	42	43	7	75
Mat-Su Borough	77	2077	1221	724	130	1973
Nenana City	240	290	220	60	3	40

SUMMARY	SCHOOL DISTRICT	FUNDING
Study hall, technology, tutoring, GED, college prep.	Alaska Gateway	\$3,383
Bingo, cultural dance activities, parent/teacher conferences.	Aleutian Region	1,543
The pool program- open and adult swimming.	Aleutians East Borough	2,230
Tutoring program, volunteerism, interagency cooperation	Anchorage	151,633
Basketball, volleyball, open gym, community potlucks.	Bering Strait	11,533
Youth activities, adult education and recreation.	Bristol Bay Borough	1,543
Carving, computer lab, fine arts.	Chatham	1,644
Character education, technology, basic skills, award assemblies.	Chugach	1,543
Potlucks, faith based activities, open gym, computer night.	Copper River	4,115
*	Cordova	2,059
Community open gym, basketball, family nights, pinewood derby.	Craig City	2,090
Community basketball, open gym, community library, dance, exercise.	Denali Borough	1,998
Basketball, wrestling, soccer, hand flappers, drill team	Dillingham City	2,993
Driver's Ed., recreation, arts and crafts, outdoor ed.	Fairbanks North Star	50,189
Healthy lifestyles for children and adults	Galena City	10,887
Adult enrichment, art, exercise, science, tech.	Haines Borough	1,546
Personal safety, art, university courses, adult education.	Hoonah City	1,543
Basketball, volleyball, open gym, children's gym.	Hydaburg	1,543
Tutoring, preschool, computer lab, extended library, cultural, sports, music, art, parent, adult voc ed, social	Iditarod Area	4,436
Youth activities, inter-agency cooperation, volunteerism.	Juneau	15,887
Kake education summit, Girl Scouts, upward bound, tutoring, extended library time	Kake City	1,543
Basketball, potlucks, movie nights, parent/teacher nights.	Kashunamiut	1,543
Youth recreation, medicine/safety/health care, agency collaboration.	Kenai Peninsula Borough	32,765
Health, computer tech, financial management, maritime.	Ketchikan G Borough	7,464
Family time, reading, community gathering.	Klawock City	1,543
Youth and adult recreation, Kodiak arts council, after school program.	Kodiak Island Borough	10,378
Open gym, adult basketball, native art instruction, community carnivals	Kuspuk	3,491
Library and internet access.	Lake & Peninsula	4,566
Reading, writing, math and native dance, gym night, study hall.	Lower Kuskokwim	26,656
Skin sewing, beading, adult computer, music instruction.	Lower Yukon	11,014
Winter safety, swimming lessons, driver's ed.	Mat-Su Borough	47,215
Gym activities, adult basketball, tai kwon do.	Nenana City	5,159

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FY2002 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS GRANTS

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SCHOOL DISTRICT	A Projected FY2001 STATE AID	B STATE AID AT .005	C COLUMN B OR \$10,000 THE GREATER OF	C COLUMN C PRO RATA AT 15.43038%
ALASKA GATEWAY	4,774,281	23,871	23,871	3,663
ALEUTIAN REGION	1,145,418	5,727	10,000	1,543
ALEUTIANS EAST	2,889,999	14,450	14,450	2,230
ANCHORAGE	198,638,935	982,870	982,870	151,833
ANNETTE ISLANDS	773,367	3,867	10,000	1,543
BEARING STRAIT	14,848,014	74,740	74,740	11,533
BRISTOL BAY	1,338,695	6,698	10,000	1,543
CHATHAM	2,131,320	10,657	10,657	1,644
CHUGACH	1,635,677	8,178	10,000	1,543
COPPER RIVER	5,324,122	26,621	26,621	4,115
CORDOVA	2,668,303	13,247	13,247	2,059
CRAIG	2,708,688	13,543	13,543	2,090
DELTA/GREELY	4,823,401	24,167	24,167	3,729
DEVALI	2,589,130	12,848	12,848	1,998
DELLINGHAM	3,878,758	19,399	19,399	2,893
FAIRBANKS	68,032,014	325,260	325,260	50,189
GALENA	14,111,284	70,566	70,566	10,887
HAINES	2,003,997	10,020	10,020	1,548
HOORAH	1,731,488	8,657	10,000	1,543
HYDABURG	951,458	4,767	10,000	1,543
IDITAROD	8,749,304	28,748	28,748	4,438
JUNEAU	20,591,935	102,960	102,960	15,887
KAKE	1,150,883	5,753	10,000	1,543
KACHEMAKI, T	1,984,045	9,770	10,000	1,543
KENAI	42,488,891	212,344	212,344	32,765
KETCHIKAN	9,674,723	48,374	48,374	7,464
KLAWOCK	1,565,615	7,778	10,000	1,543
KODIAK	13,452,077	67,280	67,280	10,378
KUSKOKUM	4,824,919	22,625	22,625	3,491
LAKE AND PENINSULA	5,919,048	29,590	29,590	4,566
LOWER KUSKOKWIM	34,560,663	172,753	172,753	26,888
LOWER YUKON	14,275,330	71,377	71,377	11,014
MAT-SU	61,197,279	303,988	303,988	47,115
NEVANA	6,886,333	33,432	33,432	5,189
NOME	5,029,540	25,148	25,148	3,880
NORTH SLOPE	9,743,316	48,717	48,717	7,517
NORTHWEST ARCTIC	19,585,159	97,928	97,928	15,110
PELICAN	421,911	2,110	10,000	1,543
PETERSBURG	3,059,350	15,297	15,297	2,360
PRIBILOF	1,090,343	5,452	10,000	1,543
SITKA	6,491,872	32,469	32,469	5,009
SKAGWAY	908,323	4,542	10,000	1,543
SOUTHEAST	2,907,452	14,537	14,537	2,243
SOUTHWEST	5,888,706	29,299	29,299	4,521
ST. MARY'S	1,884,848	9,324	10,000	1,543
TANANA	1,020,805	5,106	10,000	1,543
UNALASKA	2,012,800	10,065	10,065	1,583
VALDEZ	3,750,597	18,763	18,763	2,894
WRANGELL	2,477,458	12,387	12,387	1,911
YAKUTAT	1,480,880	7,304	10,000	1,543
YUKON FLATS	4,009,384	20,047	20,047	3,093
YUKON-KOYUKUK	5,798,174	28,981	28,981	4,472
YUPIK	3,800,804	18,003	19,003	2,932
TOTALS	6638,876,138	53,184,382	63,240,355	9800,000

Representative	District Served	Programs	Contact Hours	Volunteer Hours	Total \$ Generated through Volunteer Service	Average \$ Contributed through Volunteer Service	Funding Level Per District
Wilson	Wrangell Sitka Petersburg	348	20,052	1,680	\$ 26,241.60	\$ 167.15	\$ 9,377
Gatto	Palmer Mat-Su	77	2,077	1,973	\$ 30,818.26	\$ 237.06	\$ 49,895
Heinze	Talkeetna Mat-Su	77	2,077	1,973	\$ 30,818.26	\$ 237.06	\$ 49,895
Seaton	Homer Seward	527	6,024	6,397	\$ 99,921.14	\$ 134.48	\$ 31,865
Wolf	Kenai	527	6,024	6,397	\$ 99,921.14	\$ 134.48	\$ 31,865
Cissna	Anchorage	2,880	27,277	27,833	\$434,751.46	\$ 74.24	\$152,184
Kapsner	Bethel Nome	60	835	635	\$ 9,918.70	\$ 130.51	\$ 3,689
Statewide Total		20,157	342,556.25	211,551	\$3,304,426.62	\$ 164.06	\$500,000

Statewide Average Volunteer Contribution = 10.5 hours @ 15.62* per hour = \$164.06

*NAPE (National Association of Partners in Education)