

HB

20

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSSSHB 20(EDU)
 (H) Publish Date: 3/3/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
 Title: An act relating to a separate appropriation RDU: K-12 Support
bill for operating expenses for primary and secondary public... Component: Foundation Program
 Sponsor: Rep Seaton
 Requester: HESS Component No.: 141

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would establish a transmittal date for the Governor to submit a separate education appropriation bill to the legislature before the 4th day of each regular session. The legislature must act on and transmit the education appropriation funding bill to the Governor for the following year by March 15th.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, Director Phone 465-8679
 Division: School Finance Date/Time 1/24/05 4:08 PM
 Approved by: Karen Rehfeld, Deputy Commissioner Date 1/24/2005
 Agency: Education & Early Development

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair
STATE AFFAIRS

Member
RESOURCES

Member
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Member
WAYS AND MEANS



REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON
House District 35

Session:
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801
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Fax 907-465-3472
1-800-665-2689
Rep.Paul.Seaton@legis.state.ak.us

Interim:
345 W. Sterling Highway
Suite 102B
Homer, Alaska 99603
Phone 907-235-2921
Fax 907-235-4008

TO: Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair
House Health Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Representative Paul Seaton

DATE: Thursday, 03, 2005

RE: Hearing Request for CSSSHB 20

I respectfully request a hearing before the House Health Education and Social Services Committee on CSSSHB 20

Re: Early Funding of Education.

In summary, CSSSHB 20 does the following things:

- Lets school districts know by the fifth of March of each calendar year the amount of funding they will receive for the succeeding school year
- Requires the governor to submit a separate appropriations bill to the legislature for public elementary and secondary schools before the fourth day of each regular session
- Requires the legislature to pass and transmit to the governor a bill to fund education for the succeeding fiscal year

Included in the bill packet please find CSSSHB 20, sponsor statement, sectional analysis, clarification of appropriations memo, fiscal note, legal opinion, letter from Homer teacher Dotti Harness, letter from NEA Alaska, letter from Melody Douglas, letter from Wrangell Public Schools, resolutions from: Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District, Lower Kuskokwim Borough School District, and Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Staff contact: Katie Shows, 2028



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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON
House District 35

Sponsor Statement

CSSSHB 20

CSSSHB 20, "An Act relating to appropriations for operating expenses for primary and secondary public education; and providing for an effective date" would let school districts know the amount of state foundation funding they will receive for the succeeding school year by March 5th of each calendar year.

Under the current funding structure schools often do not know the state's contribution to their budget until after the end of the legislative session. This forces schools to layoff non-tenured teachers and rehire them after the budget has been approved. Schools lose good teachers who look elsewhere for a job due to the uncertain status of their employment. This layoff-rehire cycle is disruptive and demoralizing to our schools and teachers.

AS 14.14.060 requires school districts to submit funding requests to their municipal governments by the first of May every year. School districts must estimate the amount of state funding they will receive because the legislature and governor generally do not pass their operating budget until well after May 1st. This makes it difficult for school districts to prepare an actual fiscal plan and puts the additional burden of uncertainty on local government officials developing their budgets.

CSSSHB 20 solves this problem by requiring the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill to the legislature for public elementary and secondary schools before the fourth day of each regular session. The legislature must then pass and transmit to the governor a bill to fund education for the succeeding fiscal year by the fifth of March.

Alaska's children deserve the best we can give them. Early funding of education is one way the legislature can help school districts achieve their goal of providing a stable and friendly educational environment conducive to learning.



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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON
House District 35

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Committee Substitute Sponsor Substitute House Bill 20

Sectional Analysis

“An Act relating to a separate appropriation bill for operation expenses for primary and secondary public education and establishing a date by which the bill must be transmitted to the governor each year; and providing for an effective date”

Sec. 1. Requires the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill before the fourth legislative day that provides for primary and secondary public education funding. Directs the legislature to pass and transmit to the governor, by March 5, an appropriation bill for primary and secondary public education funding.

Sec. 2. Adds references to the separation appropriation bill for education funding required in sec. 1 to the statute that describes the budget.

Sec. 4. Effective date of July 1, 2005



24-LS0152\F
Cook
2/7/05

CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 20(EDU)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, Chenault, Wilson, Lynn

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to a separate appropriation bill for operating expenses for primary
2 and secondary public education and establishing a date by which the bill must be
3 transmitted to the governor each year; and providing for an effective date."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * Section 1. ~~AS 14.17.302 is amended by adding a new section to read:~~

6 Sec. 14.17.302. Appropriations for funding public education. The
7 governor shall, before the fourth legislative day of each regular session, submit to the
8 legislature a separate appropriation bill to carry out AS 14.17.400 - 14.17.490 for the
9 succeeding fiscal year. The bill may include other appropriations for operating
10 expenses for primary and secondary education, but not appropriations for other
11 purposes. The legislature shall, by March 5 of each year, pass and transmit to the
12 governor a bill making appropriations to carry out AS 14.17.400 - 14.17.490 for the
13 succeeding fiscal year. The bill may include other appropriations for operating
14 expenses for primary and secondary education, but not appropriations for other

1 purposes.

2 * Sec. 2. ~~AS 37.07.020~~ is amended to read:

3 (a) The governor shall prepare a budget for the succeeding fiscal year that
4 must cover all estimated receipts, including all grants, loans, and money received from
5 the federal government and all proposed expenditures of the state government. The
6 budget shall be organized so that the proposed expenditures for each agency are
7 presented separately. The budget must be accompanied by the information required
8 under AS 37.07.050 and by the following separate bills: (1) an appropriation bill
9 authorizing the operating and capital expenditures of the state's integrated
10 comprehensive mental health program under AS 37.14.003(a) and an appropriation
11 bill funding public education under AS 14.17.302; (2) an appropriation bill
12 authorizing state operating expenditures other than those included in the state's
13 integrated comprehensive mental health program or in the bill funding public
14 education under AS 14.17.302; (3) an appropriation bill authorizing capital
15 expenditures other than those included in the state's integrated comprehensive mental
16 health program; and (4) a bill or bills covering recommendations, if any, in the budget
17 for new or additional revenue. The budget for the succeeding fiscal year and each of
18 the bills shall become public information on December 15, at which time the governor
19 shall submit copies to the legislature and make copies available to the public. The
20 bills, identical in content to the copies released on December 15, shall be delivered to
21 the rules committee of each house before the fourth legislative day of the next regular
22 session for introduction.

23 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 2005.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: SSHB 20

1 Page 1, lines 3 - 4:

2 Delete "relating to notice of nonretention for tenured teachers;"

3

4 Page 1, line 9:

5 Delete "limited to appropriations"

6

7 Page 1, line 10, following "year.":

8 Insert "The bill may include other appropriations for operating expenses for primary
9 and secondary education, but not appropriations for other purposes."

10

11 Page 1, line 11:

12 Delete "15"

13 Insert "5"

14

15 Page 1, line 12, following "year.":

16 Insert "The bill may include other appropriations for operating expenses for primary
17 and secondary education, but not appropriations for other purposes."

18

19 Page 1, line 13, through page 2, line 3:

20 Delete all material.

21

22 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

1 Page 2, line 13:

2 Delete "AS 14.17.400 - 14.17.490"

3 Insert "AS 14.17.302"

4

5 Page 2, line 16:

6 Delete "AS 14.17.400 - 14.17.490"

7 Insert "AS 14.17.302"

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair
SENATE AFFAIRS

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HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON
House District 35

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Mark Neuman, Chair
House Education Committee

FROM: Representative Paul Seaton

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2005

RE: Hearing Request for HB 20

Attached are the following documents to supplement the request for a hearing of HB 20, submitted January 12, 2004.

- Sponsor Substitute House Bill 20
- Sectional Analysis of SSHB20
- Sponsor Statement of SSHB20
- Memorandum: Clarification of SSHB20 as an appropriation bill
- Letter of support: Dotti Harness

Thank you for your patience in accepting these supporting documents. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Staff contact: Katie Shows, 2028



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON
House District 35

Sponsor Statement

SSHB 20

SSHB 20, "An Act relating to ~~appropriations for operating expenses for primary and secondary public education, and providing for an effective date~~" would let school districts know the amount of state foundation funding they will receive for the succeeding school year by March 15th of each calendar year.

Under the current funding structure schools often do not know the state's contribution to their budget until after the end of the legislative session. ~~This forces schools to layoff non-tenured teachers and rehire them after the budget has been approved.~~ Schools lose good teachers who look elsewhere for a job due to the uncertain status of their employment. This layoff-rehire cycle is disruptive and demoralizing to our schools and teachers.

AS 14.14.060 requires school districts to submit funding requests to their municipal governments by the first of May every year. School districts must estimate the amount of state funding they will receive because the legislature and governor generally do not pass their operating budget until well after May 1st. This makes it difficult for school districts to prepare an actual fiscal plan and puts the additional burden of uncertainty on local government officials developing their budgets.

SSHB 20 solves this problem in two ways. First, it requires the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill to the legislature for public elementary and secondary schools before the fourth day of each regular session. The legislature must then pass and transmit to the governor a bill to fund education for the succeeding fiscal year by the fifteenth of March. Second, SSHB 20 changes the date that school districts are required to notify tenured teachers of layoff from March 15 to March 25. This gives the governor 10 days to act and gives schools ten days from passage of their funding to determine any necessary layoffs.

Alaska's children deserve the best we can give them. Early funding of education is one way the legislature can help school districts achieve their goal of providing a stable and friendly educational environment conducive to learning.



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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON
House District 35

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Sponsor Substitute House Bill 20

Sectional Analysis

“An Act relating to a separate appropriation bill for operation expenses for primary and secondary public education and establishing a date by which the bill must be transmitted to the governor each year; relating to notice of nonretention for tenured teacher; and providing for an effective date”

Sec. 1. Requires the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill before the fourth legislative day that provides for primary and secondary public education funding. Directs the legislature to pass and transmit to the governor, by March 15, an appropriation bill for primary and secondary public education funding.

Sec. 2. Changes the date that employers are required to notify tenured teachers of layoff from March 16 to March 25.

Sec. 3. Adds references to the separation appropriation bill for education funding required in sec. 1 to the statute that describes the budget.

Sec. 4. Effective date of July 1, 2005



Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol, Room 103
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REPRESENTATIVE Paul Seaton

District 35

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Education Committee
FROM: Representative Paul Seaton
DATE: Monday, January 24, 2005
RE: Clarification of SSHB 20 as an appropriation bill

It is important to note that SSHB 20 would allow the legislature to fully fund the foundation formula. However, SSHB20 is an appropriation bill, therefore the legislature would have to pass a separate bill in order to change the base student allocation through the foundation formula. Appropriated funds cannot be spent or distributed unless a separate funding bill passes the legislature. SSHB20 does not include the other elements of the K-12 budget, such as pupil transportation, boarding home grants, youth in detention, or special school. The legislature may still decide to fund those elements in conjunction with allocating funds through the foundation formula.

*Rep Seaton - what do you see (this
approp. Bill will look like, what items
would it include? Define operating
Expenses!*

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

January 28, 2003

SUBJECT: Appropriations for public education; sectional summary - HB19
(Work Order No. 23-LS0128\A)

TO: Representative Gary Stevens
Attn: Doug Letch

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook *TBC*
Director

Sec. 1. Requires the governor to submit to the legislature a separate appropriation bill for public education (formula funding for schools). The legislature is directed to pass and transmit to the governor by April 1 a bill making appropriations for formula funding for the next fiscal year 1.

Sec. 2. Technical change to accommodate the provision for a separate bill for formula funding.

Sec. 3. The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2003, so a separate appropriation bill for formula funding would be required first for the FY 2005 budget.

TBC:med
03-062.med

*Included are HB 19 and The Fiscal note as historical 'back up
from the 23rd legislature.*

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HB 19
 () Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
 Title "An Act relating to appropriations for operating expenses for
 primary and secondary public education; and providing for..."
 Sponsor Representative Stevens
 Requester House Special Committee on Education

Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
 BRU K-12 Support
 Component Foundation Program
 Component No. 141

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would require the legislature to make an appropriation for the Public School Funding Program (Foundation Program), by April 1, each year. An early appropriation for the succeeding fiscal year will help school districts as they prepare to submit their budgets to the local municipalities by May 1, as outlined in AS 14.14.060(c).

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager
 Division: Education Support Services
 Approved by: Ed McLain, Deputy Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Education & Early Development

Phone 465-8679
 Date/Time 2 3 03 10:56 AM
 Date 02 3 2003

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2001

SUBJECT: Forward funding of education (Work Order No. 22-LS0386)

TO: Representative Eldon Mulder
Attn: Denny Dewitt

FROM: George Utermohle *GU*
Legislative Counsel

You have asked whether the legislature may provide for forward funding of education programs. For purposes of this memorandum, I am assuming that "forward funding" means appropriating funds for education programs a year in advance of the fiscal year in which the funds are to be expended.

The answer is yes. There is no restriction on the legislature's appropriation power under the Alaska Constitution that would limit the ability of the legislature to provide for forward funding of education or any other state program.

Under art. IX, sec. 12, Constitution of the State of Alaska¹, the governor is required to prepare a budget for the succeeding fiscal year and to prepare a general appropriation bill to authorize the proposed expenditures contained in the budget. This provision of the constitution imposes a duty on the governor to prepare a budget and an appropriation bill. The legislature is not obligated to adopt the governor's budget or the governor's proposed appropriation bill. This provision does not impose a limitation on the power of the legislature to make an appropriation for forward funding the education expenses of the state.

Any statutory impediments to forward funding, if any, that may exist are susceptible to amendment and resolution by the legislature through its law-making power.

¹ Article IX, sec. 12, Constitution of the State of Alaska, states:

Budget. The governor shall submit to the legislature, at a time fixed by law, a budget for the next fiscal year setting forth all proposed expenditures and anticipated income of all departments, offices, and agencies of the State. The governor, at the same time, shall submit a general appropriation bill to authorize the proposed expenditures, and a bill or bills covering recommendations in the budget for new or additional revenues.

Representative Eldon Mulder
January 17, 2001
Page 2

If you have a particular issue in regard to forward funding of education that you would like to have me address, please advise.

GU:glc
01-021.glc



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools

148 North Bailey Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553

Phone (907) 262-5846 Fax (907) 262-9132

December 16, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting early funding of K-12 education

BACKGROUND:

At a December work session of the School Board, board members requested that a resolution in support of early funding be submitted for board action, thus this action item.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution supporting early funding. This resolution supports the District's 2004 State Legislative Priority to 'assure a quality, equitable educational experience for all Alaskan children by providing sustainable, reliable, and adequate funding for education.'

PERTINENT FACTS:

It is difficult to prepare a budget for a subsequent year's operation when educational funding is determined at the end of the Alaska Legislative Session. The District is often obligated to implement a staff reduction for fiscal purposes until the financial resources are known for the following year. This is a less than ideal way to treat valued staff; not to mention that many of them may decide to move on before we are able to rehire them (if we have the means to do so). Additionally, the District may be forced to cut valued programs to live within known revenue.

The District needs to be able to prudently develop a viable fiscal plan of operation; early funding in the amount of \$4500 would allow this to happen.

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINI
GRAHAM RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION**Resolution 03-04-3****RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EARLY FUNDING OF K-12 EDUCATION IN ALASKA**

WHEREAS, the sustainability, reliability and adequacy of Alaska's funding for public education is of highest concern to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska allocates its funding at the end of the Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, Districts must project next fall's enrollment and on that basis set a budget before the Legislature is out of session and the state fiscal year budget is enacted; and

WHEREAS, employee collective bargaining agreements require notification of continued employment before the end of the Legislative Session which necessitates a staff reduction until financial resources are known for the next year.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Kenai Peninsula Board of Education resolves to urge the Alaska Legislature:

- To require early funding of K-12 education with a Base Student Allocation of \$4500. Numerous studies have shown this amount to be the minimum needed to meet today's student achievement challenges as required by the Alaska Performance Standards and federal mandates. Appropriating and investing an adequate amount of funding for education is the responsibility of the Alaska Legislature.
- To require an annual adjustment for inflation to provide a sustainable and reliable source of funding.

Adopted by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Board of Education on this 5th day of January, 2004.

Deborah Germano, President
School Board

Attest:

Sally Tachick
Notary Public
My Commission Expires 07/25/05

January 12, 2005

Paul Seaton
State Capital, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Representative Seaton,

It's encouraging to know of your sponsorship of HB 20.

I have been one of many teachers caught in the lay-off re-hire cycle that is so disruptive to our schools.

Frustration ripples through a school, the students, their families and the community due to the uncertainty of the lay-off re-hire cycle. The amount of hours consumed by school district administrators and personnel departments is counter productive. Laid-off teachers begin looking for other jobs, selling their homes and making plans to move during the summer 'break'.

Your bill allows school districts to plan for the next school year based on solid funding by April 1st of each year. This eliminates the 'guess-estimated' approach currently used when districts are submitting budgets prior to the 'guaranteed' funding.

Thanks for encourage a stable and friendly educational environment conducive to learning.

Sincerely,

Dotti Harness
Certified teacher, Math 7-12
POBox 123
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-2303 hm



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

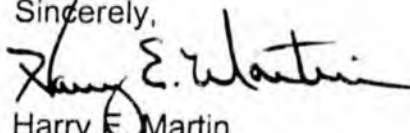
February 11, 2005

Representative Paul Seaton
Alaska State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Representative Seaton:

Our School Board was delighted to support your efforts for early funding and pushing the date back two weeks for notifying teachers concerning their contracts. Both of these issues would certainly serve us in a positive manner. I have enclosed our Board resolution passed on February 9, 2005. Thank you for your support of public education.

Sincerely,


Harry E. Martin
Superintendent



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION #05-05

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EARLY FUNDING OF K-12 EDUCATION IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, the sustainability, reliability and adequacy of Alaska's funding for public education is of highest concern to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska allocates its funding at the end of the Legislative Session; and

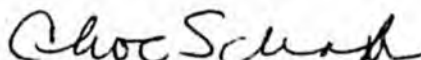
WHEREAS, Districts must project next fall's enrollment and on that basis set a budget before the Legislature, out of session and the state fiscal year budget is enacted; and

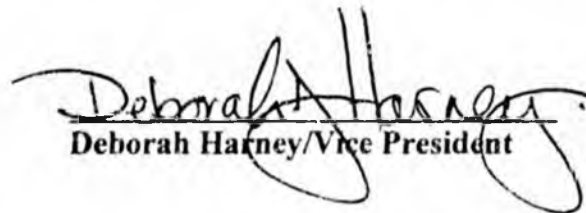
WHEREAS, employee collective bargaining agreements require notification of continued employment before the end of the Legislative Session which may necessitate a staff reduction until financial resources are known for the next year

NOW, THEREFORE, The Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District Board of Education resolves to urge the Alaska Legislature:

- To require early funding of K-12 education with a Base Student Allocation of \$4880. Appropriating and investing an adequate amount of funding for education is the responsibility of the Alaska Legislative.
- To require an annual adjustment for inflation to provide a sustainable and reliable source of funding.

Adopted by The Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District Board of Education on this 9th day of February, 2005.


Choc Schafer/Board President


Deborah Harney/Vice President



**WRANGELL
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT OFFICE**

GATEWAY TO THE STIKINE

P.O. BOX 2319
WRANGELL, ALASKA 99929
Telephone (907) 874-2347
Fax # (907) 874-3137

January 31, 2005

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Honorable Representative Seaton:

Please accept this letter in support of SSHB 20. As you know, under the current funding structure, schools do not know the state's contribution to their budget until after the end of the legislative session. This forces schools to layoff non-tenured teachers and rehire them after the budget has been approved. Often times, these teachers look elsewhere for a job due to the uncertain status of their employment. This is disruptive to our schools and does not provide continuity in the education setting. With the current teacher shortage, these teachers can also be difficult to replace, especially in the fields of math, science and special education.

AS 14.14.060 requires school districts to submit funding requests to their municipal governments by the first of May every year. Districts must estimate the amount of state funding they will receive because the legislature and governor generally do not pass their operating budget until after May 1st. This makes it difficult for school districts and municipalities to prepare an actual budget.

SSHB 20 solves these problems by requiring the legislature to pass and transmit to the governor a bill to fund education for the succeeding school year by the fifteenth of March. It also changes the date that teachers are required to notify tenured teachers of layoff from March 15 to March 25, giving the governor ten days to act and giving schools an additional ten days from passage of their funding to determine necessary layoffs.

Thank you for your support of SSHB 20 and early funding of education.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Sciabharrasi
Superintendent

SJS: kp
Cc: Alaska State House of Representatives



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Finance

Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-5867
Email mdouglas@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

VIA EMAIL

February 1, 2005

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1187

RE: SSHB 20

Dear Representative Seaton,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on SSHB 20 this morning. Please include this letter with the material related to this bill.

The concept behind this bill is commendable and would serve to stabilize K-12 education. If adequate educational funding were known earlier in the process, it would facilitate transitions between fiscal years in an efficient and effective manner. Therefore, what needed to be done relative to retaining staff would be certain rather than a guessing game. Issuing non-retention notices only to rehire those non-retained is a disturbing practice for the District, staff, students and communities.

After today's testimony, please consider moving the funding date from March 15 to March 1 and leave the non-retention notification date at March 16. This would maintain the same timing presently in place to allow Districts to participate and be competitive in teacher job fairs.

Also, please consider adding language to include funding for all K-12 programs (pupil transportation, boarding home, youth in detention, etc.) and not just foundation funding, as districts handle budgeting for all programs at the same time. Establishing different funding timelines would potentially increase the workload for Districts by requiring a lengthened budget cycle and extended legislative interactions.

Most importantly, however, is the need to ensure adequate funding occurs with early funding.

Sincerely,

Melody Douglas
Chief Financial Officer

Cc: House Special Committee on Education



Lower
Kuskokwim
School
District

Office of the Superintendent
P.O. Box 305 Bethel, AK 99559
907-543-4810 Fax: 907-543-4904

February 23, 2005

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Seaton,

The Lower Kuskokwim School District Board of Education met on February 22, 2005 in the LKSD Board Room in Bethel. The Board did approve 05-08 the Resolution Supporting Early Funding of K-12 Education in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill A. Ferguson".

Bill Ferguson, Superintendent

CC: Representative Mary Kapsner
Senator Lyman Hoffman

Lower Kuskokwim School District Resolution

05-08

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EARLY FUNDING OF K-12 EDUCATION IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, the sustainability, reliability and adequacy of Alaska's funding for public education is of highest concern to the Lower Kuskokwim School District Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska allocates its funding at the end of the Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, Districts must project next fall's enrollment, and on that basis set a budget before the Legislature is out of session and the state fiscal year budget is enacted; and

WHEREAS, employee collective bargaining agreements require notification of continued employment before the end of the Legislative Session, which necessitates a staff reduction until financial resources are known for the next year.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lower Kuskokwim School District Board of Education resolves to urge the Alaska Legislature:

- To require early funding of K-12 education with a Base Student Allocation of \$5100. Numerous studies have shown this amount to be the minimum needed to meet today's student achievement challenges as required by the Alaska Performance Standards and federal mandates. Appropriating and investing an adequate amount of funding for education is the responsibility of the Alaska Legislature.
- To require an annual adjustment for inflation to provide a sustainable and reliable source of funding.

PASSED THIS 22ND DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2005

Lucy Crow
Lucy Crow, Board Secretary

Feb. 22, 2005
Date

Bill Ferguson
Bill Ferguson, Superintendent of Schools

2 22 05
Date

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB020-EED-ESS-01-24-05
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
 Title An act relating to a separate appropriation RDU K-12 Support
bill for operating expenses for primary and secondary public... Component Foundation Program
 Sponsor Rep Seaton
 Requester HESS Component No. 141

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would establish a transmittal date for the Governor to submit a separate education appropriation bill to the legislature before the 4th day of each regular session. The legislature must act on and transmit the education appropriation funding bill to the Governor for the following year by March 15th.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, Director Phone 465-8679
 Division School Finance Date/Time 1/24/05 4:08 PM
 Approved by: Karen Rehfeld, Deputy Commissioner Date 1/24/2005
 Agency Education & Early Development