

SB

13

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Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Legislature

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Memorandum

Date: January 18, 2005
To: Senator Fred Dyson
Chair, Senate FESS Committee
Fr: Senator Gary Stevens
Re: SB 13

I respectfully request a committee hearing be scheduled at your earliest convenience for SB 13, "An Act requiring a separate appropriation bill for funding public education; providing for an increase in the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of establishing a date by which the bill funding public education must be transmitted to the governor; and providing for an effective date."

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Stevens', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Senator Gary Stevens

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MEMORANDUM

January 12, 2005

SUBJECT: Public education funding; sectional summary (Senate Bill 13)

TO: Senator Gary Stevens

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director *TBC*

Sec. 1. Requires the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill funding primary and secondary public education before the fourth legislative day. Directs the legislature to pass and transmit to the governor a bill funding primary and secondary public education by April 1.

Sec. 2. Increases the base student allocation to \$4,869 from \$4,576.

Sec. 3. Adds references to the separate education funding bill required in bill sec. 1 to the statute describing the budget.

Sec. 4. Effective date of July 1, 2005.

TBC:med
05-024.med



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Sponsor: Senator Gary Stevens
Current Version: SB 13
Contact: Doug Letch, 465-4925

Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 13

Short Title: EDUCATION FUNDING

Summary:

- Requires the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill for funding public education by the fourth legislative day of each session.
- Requires the legislature to pass the education funding bill by April 1 of each year.
- Increases the base student allocation from \$4,576 to \$4,869, an increase of \$293 per student.

Benefits:

- Makes education funding a top legislative priority.
- Helps school districts and local governments prepare a local education budget well in advance of the end of their fiscal year.
- Prevents school districts from losing personnel who have been laid off due to budget uncertainties.

Background:

School districts are required to submit funding requests to their municipal governments by May 1 each year. In many instances, the legislature and the governor have not passed the operating budget until well after May 1, making it difficult for school districts to prepare actual budgets. Over the years, this uncertainty has caused school districts to lay off high quality teachers until administrators could determine adequate funding would be available to hire them back. This has caused educators to seek other employment opportunities.