

SCOMM

137:13

# 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  
Phone 907-465-2689  
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

## 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



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**TO:** Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee

**FROM:** Representative Paul Seaton

**DATE:** March 14, 2005

**RE:** Hearing Request for CSSSHB 20

I respectfully request a hearing before the House Finance 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 from HESS please find CSSSHB 20, sponsor statement, sectional analysis, clarification of appropriations memo, fiscal note, 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, Valdez City School District and Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Staff contact: Katie Shows, 2028



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Fax 907-235-4008

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Representative Mark Neuman, Chair  
House Education Committee

**FROM:** Representative Paul Seaton

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 12, 2005

**RE:** Hearing Request for HB 20

I respectfully request a hearing before the House Education Committee on HB 20  
re: Early Funding of Education.

In summary, HB 20 does the following things:

- Lets school districts know by the first of April 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

Attached please find HB 20, sponsor statement, sectional analysis, fiscal note, legal opinion, and a resolution of support from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Staff contact: Katie Shows, 2028



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## Sponsor Statement

### HB 20

HB 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 April 1st 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.

HB 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. It also requires the legislature to pass and transmit to the governor a bill to fund education for the succeeding fiscal year by the first of April.

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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## 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.



# Alaska State Legislature

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Phone: 235-2921  
Fax: 235-4008

## REPRESENTATIVE Paul Seaton

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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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



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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



Alaska State Legislature

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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.

## 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 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 Alaska<sup>1</sup>, 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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

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 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(a) 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.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## LEGAL SERVICES

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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 backup from The 23<sup>rd</sup> 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          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

|                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 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) |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

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



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Office of Superintendent

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
148 North Binkley 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 *Donna Peterson*

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 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Germano, President  
School Board

Attest:

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

# 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  
bill for operating expenses for primary and secondary public...

RDU K-12 Support

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          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

|                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

**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) |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

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

Division School Finance

Approved by: Karen Rehfeld, Deputy Commissioner

Agency Education & Early Development

Phone 465-8679

Date/Time 1/24/05 4:08 PM

Date 1/24/2005



# NEA-ALASKA

*Affiliated with the National Education Association*

Rep. Paul Seaton  
State Capitol, Room #102  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Seaton:

I'm writing to you to express support for Sections 1 and 3 of Sponsor Substitute for House Bill 20. This legislation is meant to provide a separate appropriation bill for operating expenses for primary and secondary public education and establishing a date by which the bill must be transmitted to the Governor each year.

This weekend NEA-Alaska members will meet in Anchorage for the 49<sup>th</sup> annual NEA-Alaska Delegate Assembly. This assembly is where approximately 400 elected members of NEA-Alaska will set policy directives on behalf of the 13,000 members of NEA-Alaska.

Although the Delegate Assembly has not yet met for 2005, the members of NEA-Alaska have always supported an earlier funding date of K-12 education in order to avoid the cycle of "pink slips" being distributed in mid-April or May, to our members due to the potential of budget cuts. Often times, the legislature has come through with additional funding to avert the layoffs but members have already accepted positions in other districts, often in other states, due to the uncertainty.

While we applaud early and adequate funding of K-12 education, we do question the relevance of Section 2 of this legislation. Why do we need to address, in this legislation, the issue of changing the date of notification of tenured teachers? The March 16<sup>th</sup> date seems to have worked fine when the realization of funding was postponed until the end of a legislative session (usually early to mid-May). This section suggests that with funding coming earlier through this legislation, somehow districts will need an additional nine days to produce form letters of nonretention. This is not logical and indeed punitive for tenured teachers, who are not a part of the annual "pink slips".

NEA-Alaska will be tracking this bill through the legislative process and stands ready to discuss the legislation with you, the Co-Sponsors or anyone interested in making this legislation as good as it can be.

Thank you for your time and attention to this and all education issues. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss important issues with all of Alaska's elected officials. Please call if you have further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Bjork, President



## 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 99801-1182

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.

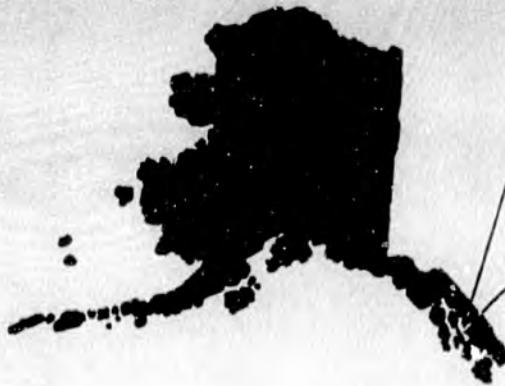
Also, please consider adding language to include funding for all K-12 programs (pupil transportation, boarding home, youth in detention, etc.) and not just foundation funding, as districts handle budgeting for all programs at the same time. Establishing different funding timelines would potentially increase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



**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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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. Sciabbarrasi  
Superintendent

SJS: kp  
Cc: Alaska State House of Representatives

## Katie Shows

---

From: Rep. Paul Seaton  
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2005 12:28 PM  
To: Katie Shows  
Subject: FW: SSHB 20

Rep. Paul Seaton  
House District 35  
Capitol Building, Rm. 102  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Ph: 907-465-2689  
Fax: 907-465-3472

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Ferguson [mailto:bill\_ferguson@lksd.org]  
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2005 10:45 AM  
To: paul\_Seaton@legis.state.ak.us  
Subject: SSHB 20

Representative Paul Seaton

We just received your letter concerning SSHB ,20, Early Funding for Education, and the LKSD Board of Education is in full support of it. It is difficult to prepare a budget for the following year's operation when educational funding is determined until the end of the Alaska Legislative Session. The LKSD Board will have a meeting on February 22 and they will be considering a resolution in support of SSHB 20.

Thank-you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Bill Ferguson  
Superintendent  
Lower Kuskokwim School District  
Box 305  
Bethel, Alaska 99559

*Lower Kuskokwim*



**WRANGELL  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
DISTRICT OFFICE

GATEWAY TO THE STIKINE

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

**Resolution 05-04**

**A Resolution of the Wrangell Public School Board  
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 Wrangell Public School Board; and,

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

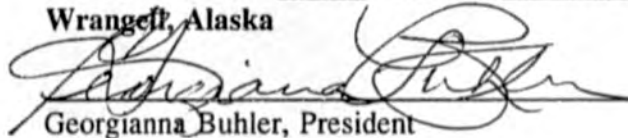
**Whereas**, school districts must project next fall's enrollment and on that basis set a budget before the Legislature is out of session and the state fiscal year budget is enacted; and,

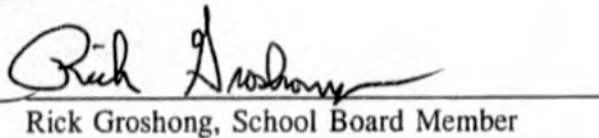
**Whereas**, employee collective bargaining agreements require notification of continued employment before the end of the Legislative Session which necessitates a staff reduction until financial resources are known for next year;

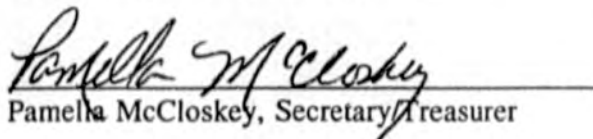
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Wrangell Public Schools strongly urges the Alaska Legislature:

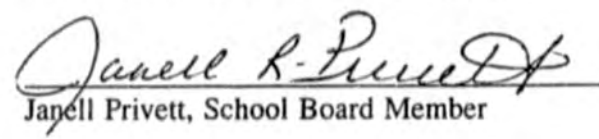
- To pass and transmit to the governor a bill to fund education for the succeeding school year by the fifteenth of March.
- To change the date that districts are required to notify tenured teachers of layoff from March 15 to March 25.

ENACTED THIS 28th DAY OF February, 2005.  
Wrangell, Alaska

  
Georgianna Buhler, President

  
Rick Groshong, School Board Member

  
Pamela McCloskey, Secretary/Treasurer

  
Janell Privett, School Board Member



**WRANGELL  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DISTRICT OFFICE**

GATEWAY TO THE STIKINE

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

**Resolution 05-05**

**A Resolution of the Wrangell Public School Board Supporting Increased State Funding of the Alaska Public School Funding Program**

**Whereas**, state funding for public schools is essential to maintain an education system that meets the needs of the children of Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS**, Governor Frank Murkowski has recognized the importance of increasing public school funding by recommending that foundation formula funding for public schools be increased; and

**Whereas**, increasing student achievement and improving school performance (required by both the *No Child Left Behind* Act and Alaska statute and standards) will require schools to go beyond status quo operations and institute new or improved programs over the long term to address the specific unique needs of each student; and,

**WHEREAS**, adequate education programs will require a significant increase in state education funding to allow school districts to have the education resources to meet student needs; and

**Whereas**, Wrangell Public Schools recognizes that improving student achievement will require a combination of the following strategies at a minimum:

- Sustain successful student achievement with programs such as Direct Instruction (reading, writing, decoding), Read 180, Lindamood-Bell, Slingerland, Accelerated Reading & Math
- Continue to engage families and communities in schools
- Find a balance between managing and instructional leadership
- Promote data driven decisions at the district, school and classroom levels
- Promote the use of data analysis to show growth as an indicator of student performance
- Provide continued staff/professional development
- Share strategies and best practices to meet student needs

**WHEREAS**, school districts are experiencing increased fixed costs in their retirement systems and in other area including fuel and electricity; and

**WHEREAS**, improvements to the public school system require a combination of strategies including improving instructional quality, decreasing class sizes, providing safe and efficient transportation, and providing adequate employee compensation; and



**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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harry E. Martin".

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 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 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2005.

  
Choc Schafer/Board President

  
Deborah Harney/Vice President



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,

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

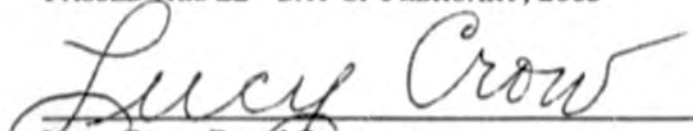
**WHEREAS,** Districts must project next fall's enrollment, and on that basis set a budget before the Legislature is out of session and the state fiscal year budget is enacted; and

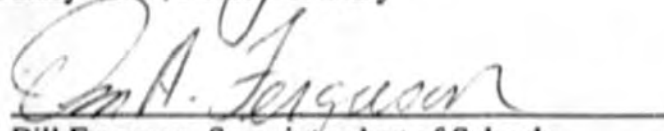
**WHEREAS,** employee collective bargaining agreements require notification of continued employment before the end of the Legislative Session, which necessitates a staff reduction until financial resources are known for the next year.

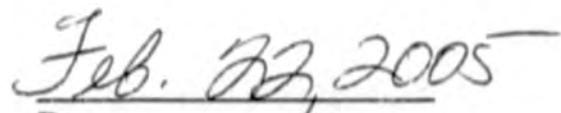
**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Lower Kuskokwim School District Board of Education resolves to urge the Alaska Legislature:

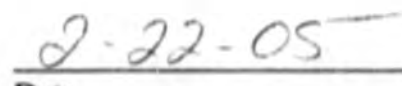
- To require early funding of K-12 education with a Base Student Allocation of \$5100. Numerous studies have shown this amount to be the minimum needed to meet today's student achievement challenges as required by the Alaska Performance Standards and federal mandates. Appropriating and investing an adequate 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 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2005

  
Lucy Crow, Board Secretary

  
Bill Ferguson, Superintendent of Schools

  
Date

  
Date

**VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education**

**Resolution 05-06**

**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 Valdez City School District Board of Education; and,

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

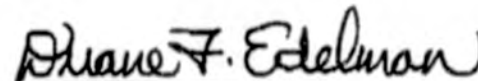
**Whereas**, Districts must project next fall's enrollment and on that basis set a budget before the Legislature is out of session and the state fiscal year budget is enacted; and,

**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 be it resolved** that the Valdez City School District Board of Education urges the Alaska Legislature:

- To require early funding of K-12 education as outlined in SSHB 20.

Signed and dated: February 28, 2005

  
Board President

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT****Office of Superintendent**

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
148 North Binkley 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 *Donna Peterson*

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 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Germano, President  
School Board

Attest:

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



**NOME BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION # 05-02  
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 Nome Board of Education; and

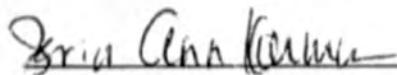
WHEREAS, the State of Alaska allocates its funding at the end of the Legislative Session; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nome School Board urges the Alaska Legislature:

- To require early funding of K-12 education and an amount sufficient to meet the needs of students across the State of Alaska.
- To appropriate 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 Nome Board of Education this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2005.

  
Gloria Ann Karmun  
President, Nome Board of Education

  
Lori Head  
Clerk, Nome Board of Education