

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President
Members, KPB Assembly

FROM: Cindy Ecklund, Assembly Member (C/E) for CE
Willy Dunne, Assembly Member (W/D) for WD

DATE: March 16, 2026

SUBJECT: **LAYDOWN** Resolution 2026-018, Urging the State Legislature to Pass House Bill 374 Relating to the Base Student Allocation (Ecklund, Dunne)

The State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to establish and maintain a system of public schools. as per AS 29.35.160, the Kenai Peninsula Borough is required to form a borough school district and to establish, maintain, and operate a system of public schools on an areawide basis AS 14.17.470 currently stipulates that the base student allocation (BSA) provided by the State is \$6,660. HB 374 will increase the BSA to \$7,290

The State is currently providing about 57% of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District education funding and local, Kenai Peninsula Borough contributions make up a majority of the outstanding balance. Education is the single largest budgetary item for the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Without continuing to provide school districts with predictable funding levels while incorporating policy measures that enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Alaska's education system, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District will still be facing a budget deficit of \$8.6 million for FY27 which will require consolidating schools, increasing class size, and eliminating programs important to our students and community members. Any long-term education package must provide both stable, predictable funding increases and strategic improvements in student achievement and school operations.

Your consideration is appreciated.