

Introduced by: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert,
Johnson, Mayor, Tupper, Tunseth
Date: 01/02/24
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2024-002**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA MAKE A
MEANINGFUL AND TIMELY INCREASE TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION
(BSA) FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and
- WHEREAS,** 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; and
- WHEREAS,** AS 14.17.470 currently stipulates that the base student allocation (BSA) provided by the State is \$5,960; and
- WHEREAS,** the State is currently providing about 56% of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District education funding and local, Kenai Peninsula Borough contributions make up a majority of the outstanding balance; and
- WHEREAS,** education is the single largest budgetary item for the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and
- WHEREAS,** without a BSA increase or one-time funding the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District will again be facing a budget deficit of over \$13 million for FY25 which will most likely require an increase to class size and the elimination of programs important to our students and community members; and
- WHEREAS,** a stagnant BSA amount coupled with a constant upward inflationary trend has eroded away the effectiveness of the formulated Basic Need amount; and
- WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough has continually increased local contributions to keep pace with these rising costs and has reached the maximum allowable amount resulting in a need to decrease school district spending on programs essential to our students' growth for this upcoming fiscal year; and
- WHEREAS,** the dollar amount of the BSA directly affects, not only, how much the State will fund the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, but how much the Kenai Peninsula Borough is allowed to contribute as well; and

WHEREAS, the State has not made meaningful base student allocation increases since fiscal years 2015 through 2017 totaling an additional amount per student of \$250; and

WHEREAS, the State has given, much appreciated, one-time funding to Alaska’s schools for the past several years; and

WHEREAS, these one-time funds do truly help relieve budget deficits for a current year, they in no way contribute to a permanent solution, effectively “kicking the can down the road” to be discussed again each year; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2023, the Legislative Finance Division Director stated to the House Finance Committee that "today, the base student allocation is the lowest it's been in the last 20 years — adjusted for inflation"; and

WHEREAS, the FY12 value of the BSA in today’s dollars would be approximately \$1,200 more than Alaska school districts are currently receiving; and

WHEREAS, an inflationary increase matching this amount would ensure Alaska school districts could continue current educational programs with no anticipated cuts; and

WHEREAS, last year Alaska State Senate and House members proposed bills to begin addressing this inflationary deficit with increases to the BSA; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Senate forwarded a bill to the House of Representatives increasing the BSA to \$6,640 per student; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State House will now have the opportunity to consider this BSA increase as well; and

WHEREAS, if passed by the legislature, Governor Dunleavy will be in the position to accept or veto the proposed increases to the base student allocation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Assembly requests that the State Legislature pass a meaningful increase to the base student allocation in a timely manner to permanently reduce the fiscal gap created in the Alaska educational system due to a lack of inflationary increases to the BSA over the last several years. Additionally, the BSA will be adjusted every year in an amount equivalent to the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Alaska (CPI) for the December ending previous to the fiscal funding year.

SECTION 2. That the Assembly petitions Governor Dunleavy to implement a permanent increase to the base student allocation, to include an annual inflationary adjustment, as brought forth by the Alaska Legislature with no vetos exercised that would reduce or eliminate the State budget funds needed to successfully make the increase a reality.

SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Dunleavy, the Kenai Peninsula legislative delegation, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, all members of the Alaska State Senate, and all members of the Alaska House of Representatives.

SECTION 4. That copies of this resolution also be sent to all Kenai Peninsula Borough incorporated cities.

SECTION 5. That this resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 2ND DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson

No: None

Absent: None