



Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Peter A. Micciche, Mayor 
Bill Elam, Assembly Member 

DATE: February 23, 2024

SUBJECT: **LAYDOWN** Resolution 2024-008, Requesting the State Legislature Transfer a Grant Awarded to the Kenai Peninsula Borough for Construction of a School Facility in Kachemak-Selo from the Department of Education and Early Development to the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (Mayor, Elam)

This Resolution requests the State Legislature transfer a grant awarded to the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) by the State through the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) for the planning, design, construction and equipping of a new K-12 school facility in Kachemak-Selo to the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (DCCED).

Grant GR-17-001 was awarded through DEED in the amount of \$10,010,000 for the construction of the K-Selo school facility. This grant requires a 35 percent local match. In 2018, KPB voters did not approve the ballot proposition to issue \$5,450,000 of general obligation bonds to pay the required local match. Subsequently, the KPB was able to execute a grant agreement with DEED and obtained a 7-year extension to meet the grant's local match requirements. The extension expires June 29, 2024.

This process has been 12 years in the making. The community and school-aged children in Kachemak-Selo deserve a functional, quality school facility. The KPB administration has an agreement in principle for the land for a facility campus and is continuing to actively pursue all options to build a school for this community, the bottom line is that a school facility cannot be built in Kachemak-Selo with current funding that meets DEED school design and construction standards. This reality is due to many unique circumstances and challenges related to building and supplying a K-12 school in the Kachemak-Selo area. The only way the KPB will be able to build a school with the currently available funding is through the State Legislature authorizing the transfer of the DEED grant GR-17-001 to DCCED to allow the KPB to build a school and community center that will fulfill school purposes as well as general community purposes in the area.

This Resolution is provided as a "laydown" item because the local representatives in the State Legislature have requested that this request to transfer the Kachemak-Selo school facility grant come via Assembly action to be considered during this State Legislative session.

Your consideration is appreciated.