

eComments

Resolution 2026-025

Maureen Todd

Location:

Submitted At: 1:47 pm 05-05-26

Prioritizing education funding is a proven strategy for community prosperity, supported by economic research: Protecting Property Values: Research from the National Tax Association shows a 10% increase in school spending bolsters student achievement and increases home prices. Funding to the cap acts as "homeowner insurance," protecting the equity of every resident by keeping the Peninsula a desirable destination for families. The Business Imperative: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce notes that quality education is a "business imperative." To keep our fishing, tourism, and healthcare industries competitive, we must provide a workforce with modern skills. Funding now prevents a "skills gap" that local businesses would otherwise pay for later through high recruitment and training costs. Reducing Future Tax Burdens: Research from Nobel Memorial Prize-winning economist James Heckman demonstrates that investing in quality education is one of the most efficient ways to drive economic growth. His work shows that these investments significantly reduce future social costs—such as police, judicial, and remedial expenses—while increasing the tax base through higher graduation rates and a more capable workforce. Driving Economic Growth: Foundational economic research (such as Gary Becker's Human Capital) confirms that our residents' skills are our most valuable assets. Strategic investment in our students leads to higher productivity, a more robust tax base, and a stronger local economy. Funding to the cap is a pragmatic strategy to ensure the Kenai Peninsula remains a viable and competitive region for both families and industry.

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Resolution 2026-025

Natalia Aulenbacher

Location: Soldotna

Submitted At: 9:23 pm 05-04-26

Dear Members of the Borough Assembly,

I'm writing as a Soldotna parent with two kids in our local schools to ask you to fully fund our school district to the statutory cap.

Our district works hard and it shows. Our students consistently perform well compared to districts across the state, and that doesn't happen by accident — it happens because of dedicated teachers, involved families, and kids who genuinely care about their education. My own children are two of those kids, and I see it every day. That kind of momentum deserves to be supported, not undermined by funding shortfalls.

Asking teachers to do more with less year after year isn't sustainable. Class sizes grow, resources shrink, and programs disappear — all while expectations stay the same or go up. That's not fair to educators, and it's not fair to students.

I also want to be clear: it's not right to shift the state's funding responsibilities onto local taxpayers. Families in our community shouldn't be left holding the bill for decisions made at the state level.

Our peninsula has already watched schools close — decisions that disrupted communities, uprooted students, and left families with fewer options. That was hard enough. To now also face opposition to fully funding the schools that remain is honestly difficult to comprehend. Our kids have already absorbed so much. The least we can do is make sure the schools they're in are properly resourced.

Our kids show up every day committed to their futures. I think we owe it to them to meet that commitment with the funding and resources they need.

I respectfully ask you to approve the 2026–2027 School District budget as presented and to prioritize the long-term success of our students and educators. I also want to thank you for your engagement throughout this process — the community hearings, the work sessions, the joint meeting with the School Board. That kind of involvement matters, and it's appreciated.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community.

~ Natalia ~