

Public Comment  
FY27 Funding KPBSD to the Cap

Name	Community (if given)	Support	Neutral	Oppose
Liza Spencer		✓		
Dr. Nicole Gricius		✓		
Liza Spencer	[duplicate - support]			
Allyson Larned		✓		
Tara Craytor			✓	
Ash-Lee Waddell	Homer	✓		
Heather Fernstrom		✓		
Connie Ferguson		✓		
Marlene Lang	Sterling	✓		
Christie Abbott	Sterling	✓		
Ben Hulbert	Sterling	✓		
Robert Wall	Sterling			✓
Courtney Reeves	Sterling	✓		
Michele Swensen				✓
[No name given]				✓
Charlie Franz				✓
Kevin Hall				✓
Diane Bush				✓
Michele Hartline	Nikiski			✓
Victoria Askin				✓
Patricia Bouton	Soldotna			✓
Sandra R Swank				✓
Ronn F Swank				✓
Jeanne Reveal				✓
John Ledger				✓

Public Comment  
FY27 Funding KPBSD to the Cap

Name	Community (if given)	Support	Neutral	Oppose
Giner Self				✓
Wayne Ogle				✓
Mark Clemens				✓
Katy Jones				✓
Kelly Wolf				✓
Sharon Gherman	Soldotna			✓
Vince Lowery			✓	
Ed Oberts				✓
Elizabeth Moundalexis	Seward	✓		
Andrew Holland	Sterling		✓	
[No name given]				✓
Sonshine Konovalov				✓
Corin Cooper	Nikiski			✓
Rose LaHatt	Nikiski			✓
Jocelyn Cox	Nikiski			✓
Breanna Cooper	Nikiski			✓
Travis Miller	Kasilof			✓
Christina Miller	Kasilof			✓
Donovan Smith	Kenai			✓
Lila Henderson	Nikiski			✓
Misty Cole	Nikiski			✓
Ameye Carpenter	Nikiski			✓
Lena M Flensburg				✓
Frances Annette Reese	Seward			✓
Stephanie Haseltine	Kenai		✓	
Richard Derkevorkian				✓
Lila Henderson	[duplicate - oppose]			

Public Comment  
 FY27 Funding KPBSD to the Cap

Name	Community (if given)	Support	Neutral	Oppose
Jamie Miller				✓
Margaret Phelps				✓
Pascal Dilley				✓
Joe C Dilley				✓
Harold J Martin				✓
Stanley Vogel				✓
Debra Gagnon				✓
Cheric LaViolette				✓
Dwayne Clute				✓
Rachel Allmendinger		✓		
[illegible]				✓
Lisa Riley				✓
[illegible]				✓
Bernice Simpson				✓
Dorothy Cunningham				✓
Fay Lowe				✓
Don Lowe				✓
Kevin Lowe				✓
Kenry Knoll				✓
Sandra Atnip				✓
Fred J Wiedman				✓
Cheryl Graves				✓
Sandra J Bell				✓
Noreen Sullin				✓
Annette Henry				✓
Sandra Ohio				✓
Carole Hobart				✓
Fern Covey				✓
Cathy Sturman				✓
Dennis Gagnon				✓
Janet Stacey				✓
Donald Boston				✓

Public Comment  
FY27 Funding KPBSD to the Cap

Name	Community (if given)	Support	Neutral	Oppose
Brandon McCauley				✓
Mark Hall				✓
Joseph Freel				✓
Joan Corr				✓
Tom Corr				✓
Jennifer DesErnia	Seward	✓		
Jennifer DesErnia	[duplicate - support]			
Patricia Bouton	[duplicate - oppose]			
Michele Hartline	[duplicate - oppose]			
Mary Sturman				✓
Tom Woodford				✓
Erica Fitzpatrick			✓	
Cleta Ellafritz				✓
Frank Goldthwaite				
Rebecca L. Hinsberger				✓
Keith V Nushart				✓
Dawn E Nushart				✓
Ron Bessel				✓
DW Marlowe				✓
Royce Marlowe				✓
Naomi A Bowie				✓
Carol J Cooper				✓
Allen D Parker				✓
CH Gillick				✓
Lila Lee Little	[duplicate - support]	✓		
Billeen Carlson			✓	
Heather Fernstrom	[duplicate - support]			
Nancy Whitmore	Soldotna		✓	

As of 04/21/26

14

7

84

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**From:** Liza Spencer <lizaspencer.ak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 5, 2026 10:05 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund our schools

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Dear Members of the Borough Assembly,

I am writing to urge you to fully fund our school district to the statutory cap.

Our district consistently demonstrates strong academic performance, with test scores that rank high compared to other districts across the state. These outcomes are not accidental. They are the result of dedicated educators, engaged families, and students who show up every day ready to learn and work hard. Continued success requires continued investment.

Teachers cannot be expected to do more with less. Year after year of funding shortfalls places an unsustainable burden on educators, staff, and ultimately students. Class sizes grow, resources shrink, and critical programs are put at risk — all while expectations remain the same or increase. That is neither fair nor realistic.

It is also unreasonable to transfer the state's funding responsibilities onto local taxpayers. Local communities should not be forced to shoulder debt created by decisions made at the state level. Doing so undermines trust and places families in an impossible position.

Finally, closing and consolidating schools will not solve the massive funding gap facing education. These actions disrupt communities, harm students, and create long-term costs that outweigh any short-term savings. Consolidation is not a substitute for adequate, stable funding.

Our students deserve the best. They demonstrate every day that they are committed to their education, their futures, and their communities. It is our responsibility as leaders and residents to meet that commitment with the funding and support they need to succeed.

I respectfully ask you to fully fund our school district to the cap and to prioritize the long-term success of our students and educators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Liza Spencer

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**From:** Nicole Gricius <nikki.a.gricius@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 6, 2026 10:47 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>School Funding Decisions Affect Real Families

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Dear Assembly Members,

I'm writing as a parent and community member to urge you to do everything you can to fully fund our public schools and halt harmful cuts, consolidations, and further degradations. My kids are current students at Paul Banks and West Homer elementary. They swim on the swim team, receive services from the schools, contribute to the community, and have thrived in the KPSD school system.

There's a well-known rule in the outdoors: leave the campsite better than you found it. It's a simple ethic to govern how we show up to care for our public resources, but a powerful one, and I think it applies here. When it comes to our schools, cutting resources does not follow the campsite rule; it leaves lasting harm for the children and communities who come after us. When you accepted a role as a public servant, was that your goal? Is your legacy going to be defined by ethics problems and shutting down vibrant, high performing schools, taking teachers out of classrooms, and leaving everything a little worse than you got it? I hope not.

Our schools are foundational infrastructure, not a line item on a budget. There is no fat left to be trimmed, anything you take away is meat and potatoes. Strong schools define communities: they anchor neighborhoods, attract families, support working parents, and give children stability, opportunity, and hope. When schools are weakened, the effects ripple outward—on student outcomes, teacher retention, family well-being, and the long-term health of the entire area. If you want there to be good doctors and nurses willing to live here and provide care for you in your old age, focus on education of local children now.

There is also a direct connection between school quality and economic health. My own family is part of that story. We chose to move here and invest in this community while holding out-of-state remote jobs *because* the schools are excellent. The lion's share of our income comes straight from the lower 48 and into the local economy, from the Credit Union that carries our mortgage to local spending, property taxes, hockey fees, and the like. The connection between the economic health of the community and the school system isn't vague or theoretical, it is concrete and immediate. If the schools didn't impress us, we wouldn't be here. Do you want to hurt the economy of your local community, or do everything you can to better it?

Balancing budgets and advancing agendas on the backs of children and educators is not a neutral act. In the face of hard choices, be thoughtful. If you are complicit in stripping the schools of what they need to thrive, you are complicit in causing real, preventable harm to your community that may never be undone and that will ripple for years. Also, make sure someone checks your math. The solutions proposed don't actually seem to be backed up by long term cost savings. If your solutions don't make sense in ten years, they don't make sense.

Fully fund the borough's portion of the school budget. Don't consolidate Paul Banks and West Homer, don't consolidate Seward's middle and high schools, don't close the pools, don't cut staff, and fix the dysfunctional budget calendar and further increase the BSA now. Leave things better than you found them.

Thank you for your time and for considering the long-term impact of these choices. Your reply to this message is appreciated.

Dr. Nicole Gricius

RECEIVED  
FEB 12 2026

OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH CLERK  
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH



Kind servants of the  
Borough Assembly

ALASKAN FRONTIER  
10 FEB 2026 PM 1 L



Please consider funding  
to the cap. Our kids  
deserve a quality educa-  
tion. They continue to  
not perform the rest of  
the state in testing &  
should have your  
full support. It is not  
their fault that the  
state won't fully fund.

KPB Assembly  
144 N. Binkley St.  
Soldotna, AK  
99669

Lisa Spurr

SWEETZER  
& ORANGE

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**From:** Allyson Larned <allyson.larned@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2026 9:28 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Prioritize Funding Public Education Please

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Allyson Larned. I am a parent of two young children enrolled in a Kenai Peninsula Borough School District school. I grew up in Soldotna where my mother has been a teacher in the district for many years. She has decided to retire this year at 83 years old! A couple of years ago my husband and I had an opportunity to move to Alaska from Montana and couldn't have felt luckier. I believe I had a uniquely wonderful childhood and a huge part of this is due to the communities on the Kenai Peninsula. These communities surrounded by astounding beauty and opportunity produce well-rounded and grounded children capable of thriving in our communities. The idea of our children starting school in the same district I attended was a big selling point for us moving our family to Alaska. To contrast, my husband's primary education in a rural county in Montana was an experience he did not want his own children to have, thus the move was a calculated decision for us.

I am writing today because I am greatly troubled by the funding issues of our schools and thus the future of education for our youth. I understand the financial situation of Alaska in general, tied to oil revenue and low prices, is not in a great place. But, I am also aware there are decisions made that can prioritize education, supporting and investing in our youth; conversely, there are decisions made that seem to penalize an already stressed system at the detriment of our children and their education. I believe investing in the future of our community is done by investing in educating our youth. If we expect these children to have the ability to make financial decisions and run the businesses that keep our communities thriving in the future, we need to ensure they have a good foundation that starts with excellent education. It feels incredibly short-sighted to continually take funding away from schools with consequences that will have lasting impacts on our communities and our state.

The topic of education budgets and funding has been on the minds of many of my fellow parent community members. A solid, high quality education will keep hard-working families in our community. In contrast, an underfunded, low-quality school system will force families to seek higher quality elsewhere. I understand we use test scores as an indicator in quality, and the KPBSD has consistently done well as far as testing. Imagine what we could do with a fully funded public education system! We have an opportunity here to change our priorities and invest in our youth and their education. If we want doctors, lawyers, fisherman, roadbuilders, and entrepreneurs in the future with emotional ties that may keep them wanting to live in our small, remote communities, now is the time to invest. Please, I urge you, as an elected official, to prioritize public education for the future of our state and communities!

Thank you for your public service and with kindest regard,



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**From:** Tara Craytor <taracray@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 9:35 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk; Mayor's Department; KLyons@kpbsd.k12.ak.us;  
KDendurent@kpbsd.k12.ak.us; CHolland@KPBSD.k12.ak.us  
**Cc:** ksorensen@cityofseward.net; sewardsfolly25@gmail.com  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Seward Pool Status

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Dear Borough Mayor, Assembly Members, and School District Leadership,

I am hoping to get an answer regarding the status of conversations regarding operations of the borough owned pools currently being operated by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. I've become increasingly concerned that no forward progress is being made on the decision of what entity will take over these pools once the school district stops operations. I would like some reassurance that the KPB is working to set a rent so that interested municipalities and organizations can take the steps necessary to take on operation.

I am a lifeguard and a Seward Tsunami swim coach at the pool in Seward so I am acutely aware of the value our pool, a pool also utilized by the communities of Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, and Hope, as it is their nearest pool.

I attended the KPBSD budget meeting in Seward on Tuesday night and was in Kodiak at a swim meet this last weekend and after conversations with other stakeholders I became very worried these decisions have been placed on the back burner. I was able to speak with Seward City Manager Kat Sorensen yesterday and she told me she hasn't been in any conversations in a month or two and the information the City of Seward has been given is the same information being presented in the public meetings. This does not seem adequate. Because the pool is in a borough owned building, the pool will need to be rented, thus rent will need to be set by the borough for a municipality or a local agency to take it on. The two slides from the PowerPoint presentation given to the school board on Seward pool's revenue and cost aren't adequate for any entity to determine what is needed to take on operations.

Additionally, with the Coast Guard set to make a decision at the end of March regarding the stationing of one of several new ice breakers here in Seward, a move that would move an estimated 4,500 people to Seward, an operational pool is going to be an important factor in their decision making - the Coast Guard currently relies on the Seward pool for trainings, as does AVTEC and the Alaska SeaLife Center.

The concerned pool users of Seward would greatly appreciate an update on the status of conversations and assurance that information will be made available in an expedient manner as the end date of KPBSD funding rapidly approaches.

Thank you,

Tara Craytor  
907.362.1555

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 4:17 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Ash-Lee Waddell

**Your Email:** ashleewaddellhomer@gmail.com

**Subject:** Budget

**Message:**

Dear KPB Assembly Members,

I am writing in my personal capacity, as a KPB citizen and the parent of a KPBSD student. Although I am an elected member of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, this message is not an official statement of the KPBSD Board and should not be interpreted as an official statement nor as a direction to district administration or staff.

My intent is to provide a clear request for the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly to consider during budget deliberations.

Request: Please adopt borough school operating support at the maximum local contribution allowed by law ("fund to the cap").

I recognize the intersecting pressures driving local budget instability: rising facility maintenance and utility needs, enrollment-driven revenue variability, and state-level funding processes that are under active scrutiny and revision.

The state's funding formula and major maintenance list has been described publicly as a statewide crisis, and recent appropriations have not fully covered identified needs. KPBSD has reported FY27 projected enrollment of approximately 8,104 students, and state documents presented to lawmakers describe additional statewide enrollment decline, both of which affect formula-driven revenue planning.

I am not asserting that additional local funding solves all structural issues. I am asserting that FY27 decisions should prioritize continuity and predictability for students and staff while longer-term repairs are pursued: (1) state-level adjustments to the funding process, and (2) sustained work on facility maintenance, budgetary analysis, and right-sizing strategies over multiple years.

If the Assembly chooses a level below the maximum allowed contribution, I respectfully propose for consideration that the adopted budget materials document (1) the state-funding assumptions used in the borough budget build and (2) the major tradeoffs implicated by a below-cap local contribution (perhaps summary-level impacts to education services alongside other borough priorities). This helps

the public track cause-and-effect across decisions.

Legislative context (uncertainty statement, not a prediction): Alaska's public school foundation formula is defined in AS 14.17, and HB 261 is one example of ongoing work intended to stabilize budgeting by adjusting how the student count is used (e.g., prior-year or multi-year averaging options). Because the final outcome, timing, and implementation details are not assured during the borough's FY27 budget adoption window, funding to the cap functions as a stabilizing bridge while state-level restructuring continues.

Thank you for considering this request during budget deliberations.

May the odds be ever in favor of sustaining our public education system and providing all of our students the opportunities to achieve the greatest of outcomes,

Ash-Lee Waddell  
Homer

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 9:40 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Heather Fernstrom

**Your Email:** fernstrom.heather@gmail.com

**Subject:** Please fully fund education

**Message:**

Dear KPB Assembly Members,

As a mother of a third grader and a kindergartener in the KPBSD, I implore you to please fund our local schools to the fullest extent possible.

Our children are our future, and we must invest in them. I am very concerned about the calls to increase the teacher to student ratio, consolidate schools, and cut programs and services, as I fear these strategies will not improve the learning conditions for our students. Please prioritize funding for our schools; our children will be our future Assembly Members, mayors, doctors, builders, teachers, entrepreneurs, and utility operators. We must invest in them.

Thank you for your service.

Warmly,

Heather Fernstrom

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**From:** Connie Ferguson <connieraven@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 6:21 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund our schools to the Cap!!!

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Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

We have higher property taxes, if we have to pay them then we should have a say in where you spend them. Please let the public know that you are going to fund education to the cap because you care about the children in our communities! We are hearing rumblings about school closing and staff being cut when the KPB Assembly has the ability to tell our children you will fund to the cap and we can be considering how to improve our schools instead of closing them. Thank you for helping us all spend our time improving schools instead of worrying about the future of our KPB schools.

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**From:** marlene langcfzfxsxc <marlang99672@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 9:54 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Please fund the maximum Cap

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Dear Assembly Members,

As a Sterling resident and a parent at Sterling Elementary, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed consolidation of our school with Soldotna Elementary.

Our community cannot afford to lose its only school. Forcing our children onto the Sterling Highway for longer commutes is a safety risk we aren't willing to take, and overcrowding Soldotna schools is not a solution—it's a step backward for our kids' education.

I am calling on the Borough Assembly to:

- Fund the KPBSD to the maximum allowable cap.
- Protect neighborhood schools like Sterling from closure.
- Prioritize our children over budget cuts.

We chose to live and pay taxes in Sterling because of this school. If the school closes, our property values and our community's future will suffer. Please do the right thing and provide the funding necessary to keep Sterling Elementary open.

Thank you,

Marlene Lang

907-394-4984

36581 Lake View street

Sterling Al 99672

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**From:** Christie Abbott <christieutrup@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 7:50 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund Sterling Elementary to the cap

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Dear Assembly Members,

As a Sterling resident and a parent at Sterling Elementary, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed consolidation of our school with Soldotna Elementary.

Our community cannot afford to lose its only school. Forcing our children onto the Sterling Highway for longer commutes is a safety risk we aren't willing to take, and overcrowding Soldotna schools is not a solution—it's a step backward for our kids' education. I for one would be pulling my child from the district for IDEA homeschool if Sterling Elementary does not remain open. And I know I'm not the only family that would do so.

I am calling on the Borough Assembly to:

- Fund the KPBSD to the maximum allowable cap.
- Protect neighborhood schools like Sterling from closure.
- Prioritize our children over budget cuts.

We chose to live and pay taxes in Sterling because of this school. If the school closes, our property values and our community's future will suffer. Please do the right thing and provide the funding necessary to keep Sterling Elementary open.

Thank you,

Christie Abbott

38959 A Private Rd/ PO Box 864, Sterling, AK

(907)398-9082

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Ben Hulbert <benhulbert86@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 7:00 AM  
**To:** Griebel, Scott; Tunseth, Ryan; Niesen, Lenora; Truesdell, Sargeant; Eicher, Dale; Ecklund, Cindy; Hicks, Michael; Cooper, Kelly; Dunne, William; Mayor Peter Micciche; G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund to the Cap!

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Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

I am a parent at Sterling Elementary and a resident of the borough. I am writing to implore you to fund the School District to the maximum allowable "cap."

The recommendation to consolidate Sterling Elementary with Soldotna is unacceptable. Our school is the heart of our community, and closing it would force our children into dangerous highway commutes and overcrowded classrooms. Please prioritize our neighborhood schools and provide the funding necessary to keep Sterling Elementary open.

Thank You,

Benjamin Hulbert  
36331 Feuding Ln  
Sterling, AK 99672

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** rkwallak@reagan.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 4:31 PM  
**To:** Turner, Michele  
**Cc:** Griebel, Scott; Tunseth, Ryan; Niesen, Lenora; Truesdell, Sargeant; Eicher, Dale; Ecklund, Cindy; Hicks, Michael; Cooper, Kelly; Dunne, William  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Assembly notification: Oppose funding to the CAP. Wall, Robert Sterling

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Miss Turner,

Please provide the entire Assembly and the Mayors office with my testimony as follows:

Greetings Assembly Members, and Mayor Micciche,  
Thank you all for your service and hard work for our World Class Borough,

I live in Sterling Precinct 085. I've lived here since 1981.

I am adamantly and vociferously opposed to funding to the CAP for the Education Budget.

We have many societal issues that could be seen building over the last 30 years. The lack of job creation has been a main driver in weakening our neighborhoods. The support of the NEA and some Assemblies for economic growth has been sporadic, at best, and at times they've been down right hostile to projects that could have grown our private economy.

The Kenai Peninsula residents are already paying a high percentage of their income into the Education system. If we continue to fund to the CAP, taxes will be close to double in 8 to 10 years. This would further shrink our population.

The School District reported last year that if they were funded to the cap, they would get their spending under control. They did not. The School Board has proven to be unable to come to grips with the empty seats in the brick and mortar schools, and this does not inspire the tax payer's confidence.

So here we are - the system is broken. What can be done? We must prioritize growing our private economy.

In the meantime, the School District needs to cut its budget. The Education Department management is still top heavy. Our students need to show improving metrics and lower truancy rates. Focus on the class rooms and stick with one solid curriculum.

Finally, when the next mining or drilling project comes along, or gas pipeline, encourage all the teachers and employees in the Education system to be strong public supporters, rather than fight against its success. Jobs create the ability for families to thrive and grow, this leads to human flourishing. The Kenai can flourish, so I encourage all 10 of you folks to not fund to the CAP, and require some measurable and achievable goals for our Superintendent and his Education Team. More money is not working.

Respectfully,  
Robert Wall  
Sterling

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**From:** Courtney Reeves <courtney.reeves@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 9:05 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk; sgriebel@kpbsd.us; Tunseth, Ryan; Niesen, Lenora; Truesdell, Sargeant; Eicher, Dale; Ecklund, Cindy; Hicks, Michael; Cooper, Kelly; Dunne, William; Mayor Peter Micciche  
**Cc:** boardofeducation@kpbsd.k12.ak.us; EKvamme@kpbsd.k12.ak.us  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>URGENT: Save Sterling Elementary – Vote for Maximum School Funding

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Dear Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to fund the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to the maximum level allowable by law. Doing so is critical to preventing the closure and consolidation of small community schools like Sterling Elementary School.

Sterling Elementary is now being considered for consolidation with Soldotna Elementary School. At the same time, Soldotna Elementary is already preparing for additional consolidation changes once the new prep school project is complete. This would mean multiple major transitions in a short period of time for very young children. That is a tremendous amount of instability for students who rely on routine, familiarity, and strong relationships with staff.

For my own son, Sterling has been life-changing. Before coming to Sterling, he attended Soldotna Elementary, where he struggled deeply. During that time, he often felt isolated and unsupported. As a child who spent time in foster care and carries significant trauma, stability and connection are not luxuries for him, they are necessities. When those needs were not met, he came home emotionally overwhelmed and defeated. His confidence eroded, and so did his desire to learn.

When we moved him to Sterling about a year ago, the difference was immediate and profound. The smaller environment, the attentive staff, and the genuine relationships he built there transformed his experience. His love of learning returned. He no longer tries to convince me he cannot go to school. Instead, he gets ready willingly and confidently because he knows he has what feels like a personal fan club in his teachers and support staff. They know him, understand his history, and meet him where he is.

Forcing him back into a building where he previously struggled and then asking him to transition yet again into an even larger consolidated school would be incredibly harmful. Children who have experienced trauma depend on predictability and trusted relationships. Repeated disruption can undo hard-won progress and push them backward emotionally and academically.

Sterling is more than a building; it is a community. I know many students who would not be where they are today without the extraordinary staff at Sterling Elementary. Smaller schools provide

connection, safety, and individualized attention that many children, especially those who struggle with transitions or need additional support, depend on. Losing this school would be devastating to many children in our community, but especially to children like mine who could easily become lost in a much larger system.

I hope that hearing just one of the many stories that reflect Sterling's impact will encourage you to pause and consider what is truly at stake. I respectfully ask that you prioritize education funding and bring the borough contribution to the allowable cap. Investing in our schools is an investment in our children's stability, growth, and long-term success.

Thank you for your time and for considering the real and lasting impact these decisions will have on families like mine.

Respectfully,  
Courtney Reeves  
Parent of a Sterling Elementary Student

---

**From:** Mark & Michele Swensen <mmswensen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:46 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Cc:** Mayor's Department  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School Funding

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Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,  
Thank you for serving our community.

As a resident and taxpayer of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, I request that you choose to fund education in such a way that will be sustainable into the future and NOT funding it to the cap Michele Swensen

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** alzskadb@alaska.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 9:53 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>

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Stop giving any money to government school system until they make systemic changes to actually educate our children.. if you are unable to stop all funding at least STOP FUNDING TO THE CAP.

---

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 11:55 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Charlie Franz

**Your Email:** kachemakcharlie@gmail.com

**Subject:** Education Funding

**Message:**

Assembly Members, and Mayor Micciche,

I have lived in Homer since 1995 and have closely watched the increased spending and declining performance of our schools. I am opposed to funding the Education Budget to the cap.

The Kenai Peninsula residents are already paying a significant portion of their income into the Education system. If we continue to fund education to the cap, taxes will be close to double in 8 to 10 years. This would further shrink our population and make supporting the education system at the level they expect and demand even more burdensome to the remaining residents.

Last year, the School District reported that if they were funded to the cap, they would get their spending under control. They did not. The School Board has proven to be unwilling or unable to come to grips with the declining enrollment in the brick-and-mortar schools, and this does not inspire the taxpayer's confidence that things will ever change.

We need to face the fact that the system is broken. We must prioritize growing our private economy to develop a tax base that can adequately support the education our children deserve.

In the meantime, the School District needs to cut its budget. The Education Department stays overstaffed at the management level. Our students need to show performance improvements and lower truancy rates. Focus must be on supporting teachers in the classrooms, and the district must stick with one solid curriculum.

Finally, when the next mining or drilling project comes along, or gas pipeline, encourage all the teachers and employees in the Education system to be strong public supporters, rather than fight against its success. Jobs create the ability for families to thrive and grow; this leads to humans flourishing. The Kenai can flourish, so I encourage the Assembly not to fund to the cap and require some measurable and achievable goals for our Superintendent and his team. More money has not solved the problems in the past and will not solve them in the future.

Respectfully,  
Charlie Franz

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**From:** Kevin Hall <kevnden@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 5:04 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Funding

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My name is Kevin Hall. My folks homesteaded in Naptowne in 1956. I grew up there and raised my own family there. My wife and I are retired and continue to live on that homestead.

No one in my wide circle of friends are in favor of funding to the cap. Most of us agree that it is unsustainable and fiscally irresponsible.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Kevin Hall

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 6:20 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Diane Bush

**Your Email:** mumzrs@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Funding to cap

**Message:**

I would like to voice my opinion regarding funding to the cap. I am otally against this, each year this issue comes up, you fund to the cap and nothing changes!! It's time to live within our means and stop bleeding Peninsula residents dry with no different results.

---

**From:** Michele Hartline <hartlines@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 6:04 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Please DO NOT fund KPBSD to the cap

---

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Dear Assembly members,

I urge you to NOT fund the KPB schools “to the cap” this year. They (the KPBSD) said that if WE funded to the cap last year they would get their excessive spending under control. They did not.

THEY DID NOT:

1. Improve student scores. Instead, they brag incessantly that KPB scores are the best in the state. (Which in itself is false. The Matsu has proven to have much better scores than the KPBSD.) Our state ranks at the very bottom of all US states. Should we be proud that our school district is better than others in Alaska? Essentially, we are acknowledging that our children are earning the grade F+ among all other US peers. Puhleez! We can do so much better. Reference the great scores of our own charter schools NOT being managed by the KPBSD.
2. Show improvement in student retention with consistent reduction in enrollment each year. Parents have learned their children are not getting educated at KPBSD but the parents are smart enough to find and provide their students with a better quality education through other resources. Why can't the highly paid and educated KPBSD professionals figure that out?
3. Show any leadership as “grownups” by reducing costs, including closing and repurposing schools that have low attendance. Fairbanks, the Mat-Su, and even Anchorage have closed schools despite the crying and gnashing of teeth by emotional parents and teachers. These teachers and parents are undoubtedly saturating your emails with pleas and tears to not cut their beloved school. It's we, the silent majority that are expected to step up and pay for their mental distress. Please do not fall for this immature manipulation. You are not robbing the kids of their education you would simply be offering them a very expensive education in a different location.
4. Trim the top heavy expensive management, who are unwilling to stop changing expensive curriculum every few years. Dick, Jane and Puff taught us how to read for generations and decades. KPBSD regularly spend millions on “new” curriculum and yet every year graduates of KPBSD have proven they cannot even read a simple menu. (See bullet 1 above).

Thank you for taking the time and reading my concerns and asking you, our elected assembly leaders, to NOT fund the school district to the cap. Please DO fund our school district to the limits proposed by Mayor Micciche, and send a clear message to our indulgent school district that they need to be more responsible and accountable of taxpayers money.

Michele Hartline

Nikiski

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 7:18 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Victoria Askin

**Your Email:** ectt@ptialaska.net

**Subject:** School Funding

**Message:**

Please DO NOT vote for funding to the cap for our schools. It is financially unsustainable and irresponsible. We have several schools that are at 50% capacity or less, yet all are fully staffed. The most egregious disservice, in my opinion, is our scores. We simply cannot continue this path of mediocrity. Last year, we were told it was a one-time ask, but nothing changed.

---

**From:** Patty Bouton <blaze99712@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 1:01 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Cc:** Niesen, Lenora  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>oppose funding to the cap

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KPB Assembly

March 5, 2026

Greetings Assembly members:

I am opposed to KPB funding to the cap.

Education needs to do a better job of managing their funds. Continuing to fund to the cap is not sustainable. The Borough is losing students; there's been no change in proficiency scores. At some point we have to live and spend within our means.

I suggest putting a community committee together, made up local business people. No biases, no emotion, just plain financial common sense. Go through the budget by line-item. Cut or reduce spending based on common sense and numbers...not emotion, numbers. Any school less than 50% occupancy, needs serious consideration of closing.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bouton, Soldotna

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 1:14 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Sandra R Swank

**Your Email:** h2obuddie@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Education Cap Funding

**Message:**

I live in Sterling Precinct 085. I adamantly oppose the funding to the CAP for the Education Budget. Increased funding for the Education system has been increased over and over again with the promise that the KPBSD would get their budget under control if we will just give them more money. As a taxpayer I am sick of the empty promises from KPBSD.

I believe that the School District remains top heavy. Do not take out more teachers or close schools that are vital to our communities to save high paying and redundant positions. Our classrooms need improved metrics and lower truancy. The school district needs to focus on teachers and classrooms and stick with with a good curriculum instead of continually changing curriculums without improving metrics..

The Borough would be better served to increase our population by approving projects that bring work to our areas and developing measurable and achievable goals for the Education Department and holding them accountable rather than spending money on funding to the CAP.

---

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 1:22 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** RONN F SWANK

**Your Email:** mercytrainer@outlook.com

**Subject:** Funding to Education CAP

**Message:**

I live in Sterling Precinct 085.

I am adamantly opposed to the funding to the CAP for the Education Budget. Increased funding for the Education system has been increased over and over again with little change in the educational metrics for student improvement. In past years, the KPBSD promised they would get their budget under control if we will just give them more money and each year they are back asking for more money. They are threatening to close 2 schools to try and get more money. Both schools they want to close are vital to their communities and would result in a hardship for students and parents. As a taxpayer I am sick of the empty promises from KPBSD.

I believe that the School District remains top heavy and their budget needs to be looked at critically with this in mind. Do not take out more teachers or close schools that are vital to our communities to save high paying and redundant positions. Our classrooms need improved metrics and lower truancy. The school district needs to focus on teachers and classrooms and stick with with a good curriculum instead of continually changing curriculums without improving metrics.

The Borough would be better served to:

- 1) increase our population by approving projects that bring work to our areas, thus more tax dollars; and
- 2) developing measurable and achievable goals for the Education Department and holding them accountable rather than spending money on funding to the CAP.

---

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2026 8:39 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Jeanne Reveal

**Your Email:** Bearsabove@msn.com

**Subject:** Funding to the cap

**Message:**

Dear Mayor and Assembly,

I am shocked that after last year, we would consider funding to the cap. Education is in great need of overhaul. Throwing more money at the defunct outdated system is not the answer. Many teachers and students deserve more.

There are many places in the budget to cut. With languishing student populations, it s33ms the Board is trying to make up for attrition with funding instead of cutting.

Please , do not fund to the cap.

Jeanne Reveal.

---

**From:** John Ledger <FullMetalMiningAk@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 7, 2026 8:37 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Education Cap

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Don't fund to the Cap!

John Ledger

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 7, 2026 4:59 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Ginger Self

**Your Email:** gingerself1959@gmail.com

**Subject:** Schools

**Message:**

Please don't fund to the cap. The KPB residents can't keep funding to the cap every year!! The school district needs to cut starting at the top and working down. Not from the Otto

---

**From:** Wayne Ogle <who\_enterprises@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 7, 2026 9:20 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>FUND TO THE CAP

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Dear Assembly Members:

In my six years on the Assembly I struggled with the perennial mantra from KPSD to 'FUND TO THE CAP'. They seem to take it for granted each year that the Assembly will succumb to their wishes without hesitation. I had voted for and against the cap in my tenure. However, I did so after being reminded by wise members of the Assembly that my primary duty was to the financial well being of KPB and NOT the school district.

I see that Mayor Micciche does not recommend 'funding to the cap' this year. (And last year, too!) Our Mayor is a smart businessman and is concerned that a sizable amount of funds going to KPSD which 'funding to the cap' represents is not in the best interests of the Borough financially. As stated previously, your duty lies with KPB. I admit I have not been following the financial details of KPB and KPSD as you have. However, my frustrations with KPSD is that every year seems to be an irreconcilable financial crisis with no realistic and long term solution ever offered. Add to that, a declining enrollment rate and test scores that are not noteworthy.

My bottom line advice: listen to the Mayor's financial concerns about KPB and base your decision on what is best for the Borough. That is what the voters elected you to do.

Thank you for all the hard work you do in being our people's representatives!

Wayne Ogle  
who\_enterprises@yahoo.com

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**From:** Mark Clemens <mclemens59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2026 1:48 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>School funding

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Life long peninsula resident here.

Funding our schools to the CAP will place an unreasonable and unaffordable expense on our residents.

While I'm not happy about our middle school in Seward being potentially closed, if we don't have enough students to fill the class rooms at the appropriate funding level what can we do? How many expenses can be cut to save the proposed 4-schools being closed?

If we fund at the CAP , then the CAP will have to be readjusted and increased which will also place more future tax burdens on us residents.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Katy Campbell <katycampbell@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2026 8:34 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>School funding

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Hello,

I am writing to inform your team that my family and I do not support raising the amount of funding for public education in any way.

I would like to see an audit of what the current spending level is supporting. Where is that money being spent and on what? If the taxpayers are funding it, that should be a viable option.

The communities are turning to homeschool in overwhelming numbers due to the curriculum that's being taught not allowing our students to learn needed skills for the future, as well as not aligning with the personal values and beliefs of the parents in our communities.

Best regards,  
Katy Jones

---

**From:** yrc@acsalaska.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2026 1:35 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> To the assembly from Kelly Wolf

---

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To the honorable assembly members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

It's way past time that the school district begins consolidating schools. District expenses continue to rise as students enrollment declines. Because of poor curriculum choices by the district. As consolidation happens, so should the consolidation within the ivory tower of the district office and administration. Parents are removing their children from school because of woke and DEI programs embedded within the curriculum and being taught. Simply parents don't trust the educational system any longer. While charter schools who operate on 75% of the funding granted by the state and borough are wildly successful.

If you continue to blindly fund education to the cap and because of that poor choice of spending without accountability. Then property taxes will increase to the point the population will move away and revenue will decrease as well as student population. Inability causing schools to be shuttered and businesses closed.

Don't fall for the scam that the LNG project will increase populations of the Kenai Peninsula as the workforce necessary to build the facilities and pipeline will be shuttled in to Alaska on a rotational basis during construction this is simply because the educational system has not kept up with vocational trades demands. There is no skill workforce surplus anymore not Alaska not in America.

sincerely

Former state representative Kelly Wolf and former KPB assembly member

---

**From:** Sharon Gherman <sgherman677@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 6:04 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School Funding

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Assembly members,

I support the mayor's budget number for education funding. I do NOT support funding education to the cap. We are spending TOO MUCH to educate our youth.

*Sharon Gherman*  
*32730 Riverwind Drive*  
*Soldotna, AK 99669*  
*[sgherman677@gmail.com](mailto:sgherman677@gmail.com)*

---

**From:** V Lowery <skpthat@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 10:30 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Smarter Approach to Local Revenue

---

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Dear Assembly Leadership,

As discussions continue about potential ways to increase local revenue, I would encourage the Assembly to consider a more strategic approach that focuses on discretionary spending and tourism, rather than taxes that impact residents' basic cost of living.

Taxes on necessities—such as housing-related costs, utilities, or other everyday expenses—place the greatest burden on families who may already be struggling. When governments rely heavily on those sources, the people most affected are often the ones with the least financial flexibility.

A more balanced approach would be to examine areas where spending is optional and tied to disposable income. For example, certain industries already exist partly as revenue generators. Marijuana is one example. Legalization was widely promoted as a way to create taxable revenue streams for state and local governments, and with the number of retail locations per capita in Alaska, this sector represents a potential area for thoughtful revenue policy.

Another area worth evaluating is tourism-related spending, particularly by non-residents. Alaska is a destination state. Visitors routinely travel long distances and spend significant amounts of money to participate in activities such as guided fishing trips, hunting excursions, sightseeing tours, and visits to state or local sites.

Rather than simply raising prices across the board, the Assembly could explore targeted tourism-related taxes or fees tied to specific activities or visitor services. Examples might include certain guided recreational experiences, visitor-oriented packages, or non-resident activity permits. Many states successfully use tourism-related taxes to generate revenue while minimizing the financial impact on local residents.

The broader principle is straightforward: avoid taxing survival, and instead focus on discretionary spending and visitor-driven economic activity. By prioritizing those areas, communities can generate revenue while reducing the burden on working families and homeowners already facing high costs.

I appreciate your time and consideration as you evaluate options for responsible fiscal policy.

Vr,  
Vince Lowery

SKP THAT@outlook.com

"I do not have the time", is not a statement of fact. It is a statement of your priorities.

Are we doing the right things? Are we doing them the right way?

---

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:24 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Ed Oberts

**Your Email:** edoberts@kw.com

**Subject:** School District Funding

**Message:**

Please don't fund the school district to the CAP.

The market place proves there are cheaper options. From private schools to home schooling parents are finding better options than enrolling in our local schools. The school district either needs to learn to compete and provide what parents want.

Ed Oberts  
907-398-8039

---

**From:** Elizabeth Moundalexis deCastro <seawaterpup@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2026 4:42 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>FUND education to the cap

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PLEASE fund to the cap.

I have been an Alaskan resident for over 20 years. The disregard for the students in our communities which negativity affects our community as a whole is despicable and needs to stop. I have been writing and fighting for this year after year after year. Your disregard and disrespect for our students, their families, and the communities they live in needs to stop now.

As a mother, I have been part of year after year of staff layoffs, school uncertainty, and loss of staff/classes/extracurriculars in Seward schools. Amazing teachers have left our community. We are lacking in core classes and classes in the arts and music. The constant uncertainty places a strain on our family. What classes will be available? The consistent answer is LESS than the previous year. Are we losing our strongest teachers to states with more stability? Absolutely. Are our students suffering because of these uncertainties? Yes.

As a small business owner, I see that quality schools are a huge draw to our communities. People want to live in places that support their families with first-rate schools and activities. More people in the community means more opportunities for business and business growth for my business, our Borough, and the state.

I pay property tax and sales tax to the Borough through my business as well as owning a home and buying goods. I feel that my tax dollars are BEST spent on education. An educated community is healthier in many ways. Mentally healthy - as it provides opportunities for positive activities for the community. Safer - as it creates stronger interpersonal connections reducing crime. Skilled workforce - as it provides an adaptable workforce attracting businesses to the area. Stability - as well-educated communities contribute to stable, resilient communities over time.

Instead of focusing on my business and my family, I spend time going to meeting after meeting after meeting to talk about budgets. This is YOUR job not mine. You are elected and paid to do this in a way that supports your constituents. You should trust your constituents when they say that education is of utmost important to them. You should see the value that education gives to our communities. I should not have to bring you story after story or beg you letter after letter to do this. Do the right thing. Fund education to the maximum amount. I should not have to literally beg for the bare minimum of an education for my child or the children in my community.

Please address my concerns.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth deCastro  
Seward resident

---

**From:** Andy Holland <ydna7@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2026 11:01 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Comment about education funding

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Hello,

I am currently unable to use my tax dollars to fund my children to go to CIA. I currently pay around 9k per year per child for a Christian private school. This is an enormous financial burden, but we see a huge value in it.

I am writing because it doesn't seem fair that I'm also paying borough property tax which includes public school funding. Therefore, I'm paying twice.

My suggestion is to allow a stipend to help with the costs of private school.

There is a growing trend away from public education that needs to be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrew holland  
Sterling, AK 99672

---

**From:** snowwizard <snowwizardak@proton.me>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 10:45 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>School district funding

---

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To Whom It May Concern: My wife and I do not want to see funding to the cap for the school district. It is unsustainable, even if our taxes are increased. We want demonstrable changes made in school district budgeting, to reflect positive outcomes for the students. Thank you.

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

---

**From:** Sonshine Konovalov <sonshinek@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 11:43 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Budget 2026

---

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Hi I am writing you today to address the issue of the Budget. Although I Support Adequate KPB Funding of Education, Please Support the Mayors Budget. Taxpayers of the KPB simply can't afford to Fund to the CAP. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sonshine Konovalov

---

**From:** Corin Cooper <corincooper.98@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:55 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School District Funding

---

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Dear Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,

I am writing to express my concern regarding an upcoming financial decision. I am asking you to exercise fiscal restraint by controlling spending and choosing not to fund to the CAP. I am a father of 4 beautiful girls, and their education is a big concern of mine. But funding to the cap is irresponsible spending, and will only hurt your constituents, both present and future.

Thank you for your time and for considering my position on this matter.

Best regards,

Corin Cooper  
Nikiski Alaska

---

**From:** Rose Hardesty <roselahatt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:55 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>CAP

---

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Dear Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,

I have concern regarding a financial decision coming up. I am asking you to exercise fiscal restraint by controlling spending and choosing not to fund to the CAP.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider my concerns.

Sincerely,

Rose LaHatt  
Nikiski Alaska

---

**From:** Jocelyn Cox <mrsjocelyncox@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:46 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Spending

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the KPB system. Please use caution when responding or providing information. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, know the content is safe and were expecting the communication.

---

Dear Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,

With upcoming spending decisions, please do not fund to the CAP. Overspending as a habit becomes a problem for many people individually. The government is no different. Money doesn't just come out of nowhere. Please be responsible adults and spend less than you make.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Cox  
Nikiski Alaska

---

**From:** Breanna Cooper <bre.cooper907@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:44 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>CAP

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Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,

I am writing to you today as a resident of Nikiski to express my concerns regarding the upcoming financial decisions facing the Borough. I respectfully ask that you exercise fiscal restraint by controlling overall spending and specifically choosing not to fund the Community Action Plan (CAP).

It is important that our local government prioritizes budgetary discipline at this time. I appreciate your dedication to our community and thank you for taking the time to consider my position on this matter.

Thanks for your time,  
Breanna Cooper of Nikiski, Alaska

---

**From:** Miller Contracting <millercontracting@live.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:38 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Spending Cap

---

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Dear Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,

I am writing to express my concern regarding an upcoming financial decision. I am asking you to exercise fiscal restraint by controlling spending and choosing NOT to fund to the CAP.

Thank you for your time and for considering my position on this matter.

Best regards,

Travis Miller  
Kasilof Alaska

Sent from my Galaxy

---

**From:** travis and christina miller <christytrav@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:37 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Spending cap

---

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---

Dear Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,

I am writing to express my concern regarding an upcoming financial decision. I am asking you to exercise fiscal restraint by controlling spending and choosing NOT to fund to the CAP.

Thank you for your time and for considering my position on this matter.

Best regards,

Christina Miller  
Kasilof Alaska

Sent from my Galaxy

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**From:** Donovan Smith <donovanms@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:31 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Concerns regarding School District Funding

---

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Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to "funding to the cap" for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the upcoming FY27 budget.

While education is important, consistently funding at the maximum legal limit is fiscally unsustainable for our taxpayers. I believe the Borough must prioritize more efficient spending and live within its means, rather than automatically hitting the funding ceiling. Continually increasing the local contribution puts an unfair burden on property owners and risks future tax hikes.

I urge the Assembly to seek a more balanced budget that reflects fiscal responsibility and protects the financial health of the entire Borough.

Thank you for your time and for considering the concerns of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Donovan Smith

Kenai, AK

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**From:** Lila Henderson <hendersonsblessed@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:27 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please cut spending

---

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**Dear Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,**

**I am writing to express my concern regarding an upcoming financial decision. As a longtime Alaskan, born and raised on the Peninsula, I am asking you to exercise fiscal restraint by controlling spending and choosing not to fund to the CAP.**

**Thank you for your time and for considering my position on this matter.**

**Best regards,**

**Lila Henderson  
Nikiski Alaska**

---

**From:** Richard Cole <rtmdcole@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:24 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Budget

---

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**Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,**

**I am writing to express my concern regarding an upcoming financial decision. I am asking you to exercise fiscal restraint by controlling spending and choosing not to fund to the CAP.**

**Thank you for your time.**

**Best regards,**

**Misty Cole  
Nikiski Alaska**

---

**From:** Ameye Carpenter <2ameye@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 1:07 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School District Funding

---

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Dear Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,

I am writing to express my concern regarding an upcoming financial decision. I am asking you to exercise fiscal restraint by controlling spending and choosing not to fund to the CAP.

Thank you for your time and for considering my position on this matter.

Best regards,

Ameye Carpenter  
Nikiski Alaska

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**From:** Lena Flensburg <flens.5@acsalaska.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2026 4:50 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP

---

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Please share with the Mayor and Assembly members-- Thank you!

Getting a good solid education is indeed important for our children's future but the continued battle to keep grabbing more money while we have less students and poorer outcomes is out of line. I support Mayor Pete Micciche's desire to keep education costs lower and to work and find other ways to cut costs. Do not fund to the CAP--Lena M Flensburg

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2026 5:05 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** FRANCES ANNETTE REESE

**Your Email:** annette\_reese@hotmail.com

**Subject:** NO FUNDING TO CAP

**Message:**

(Please distribute to each KPB council member and the mayor's office.) I am adamantly opposed to funding to CAP for the Education dollars. The Borough can afford the curve, just stay on the curve. Sincerely, a Seward area KPB resident, Mrs. Annette Reese

---

**From:** Stephanie Haseltine <stephanie.haseltine@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 4:50 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Kenai Pool Closure

---

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Dear Assembly Members,

I am writing to address the Kenai pool. My family of seven recently purchased a home in Kenai. We are moving from a rural community in Southeast Alaska. We have been fortunate for many years to be a part of a swim club and have a pool. Unfortunately, due to structural issues, those days may come to an end. When we began looking for places to move, having a swim club and a pool was very important to our family. When we found a home so close to the pool we were very excited.

We have three simmers hoping to join the swim club/use the pool often with two more who will join when they are old enough. It is such a great sport. Most importantly though, I have wanted the kids to be strong swimmers. We make our living on the water. As commercial fishermen that participate in numerous fisheries, it is imperative that our children know how to swim. The first step is learning to swim. I was very pleased to see so many options for swim lessons offered. However, having my children out working on the boat, my peace of mind comes from being so strong and confident in the water from swim team.

Not only work, but we also spend time fishing for recreation on the ocean and in the river. Kenai offers great recreational opportunities we are excited to enjoy. It is so important for a community to preserve and support community programs that protect youth/teens.

Born and raised in southeast and working and playing on the water our entire life, we have experienced the tragedy of losing loved ones because of not having access to good water safety programs.

We are looking very much to our move and being part of the Kenai community. My entire family encourages you to make the right decision and keep the Kenai pool funded and open.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie Haseltine

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**From:** Richard <derkevrs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 8:05 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk; Mayor Peter Micciche  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>DO NOT fund KPBSD to the cap

---

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To the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly:

Assembly President Ryan Tunseth, Vice President Kelly Cooper, and Members Scott Griebel, Lenora Niesen, Sargeant Truesdell, Dale Eicher, Cindy Ecklund, Michael Hicks, and Willy Dunne,

I am writing to you as both a parent of children enrolled in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and as a landowner and taxpayer on the Kenai Peninsula. I am urging each of you to support the Mayor's proposed budget for the school district and to vote against any measure that would fund the district beyond that proposal, up to the funding cap.

I love this community and I want my children to receive a quality education. BUT I also need to be able to afford to continue living here. Property taxes are not an abstract number, they are the difference between families being able to afford to stay on the Peninsula or being forced out. The Mayor's proposed budget represents a responsible, measured approach to funding our schools. Funding the district to the cap goes further than necessary and places that additional burden squarely on the backs of land owners who are already stretched thin.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has had ample opportunity to make the difficult but necessary decisions required to live within its means, they have lost 2k kids from the district and 3k kids from brick and mortar schools over the last 20 years and have more schools open now than ever... If the Mayor's proposed funding level requires the district to make operational cuts and spending prioritizations, then that is exactly what district leadership should be doing. That is their job. It is not the Assembly's responsibility to shield the school board from accountability by maximizing the funding available to them.

Funding the district to the cap does not solve the underlying problem of a school board unwilling to make decisions. It simply rewards that avoidance while passing the cost to taxpayers. The Mayor's budget gives the district adequate resources while sending a clear message that fiscal discipline is expected.

I respectfully urge each of you to hold the line, support the Mayor's proposed budget, and vote against funding the school district to the cap.

Thank you,

Richard Derkevorkian

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**From:** Lila Henderson <hendersonsblessed@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2026 6:38 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please listen!

---

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To the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly:

Assembly President Ryan Tunseth, Vice President Kelly Cooper, and Members Scott Griebel, Lenora Niesen, Sargeant Truesdell, Dale Eicher, Cindy Ecklund, Michael Hicks, and Willy Dunne,

I am writing to you as both a parent of children here on the Kenai Peninsula and as a landowner and taxpayer on the Kenai Peninsula. I am urging each of you to support the Mayor's proposed budget for the school district and to vote against any measure that would fund the district beyond that proposal, up to the funding cap.

I love this community and I want my children to receive a quality education. BUT I also need to be able to afford to continue living here. Property taxes are not an abstract number, they are the difference between families being able to afford to stay on the Peninsula or being forced out. The Mayor's proposed budget represents a responsible, measured approach to funding our schools. Funding the district to the cap goes further than necessary and places that additional burden squarely on the backs of land owners who are already stretched thin.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has had ample opportunity to make the difficult but necessary decisions required to live within its means, they have lost 2k kids from the district and 3k kids from brick and mortar schools over the last 20 years and have more schools open now than ever... If the Mayor's proposed funding level requires the district to make operational cuts and spending prioritizations, then that is exactly what district leadership should be doing. That is their job. It is not the Assembly's responsibility to shield the school board from accountability by maximizing the funding available to them.

Funding the district to the cap does not solve the underlying problem of a school board unwilling to make decisions. It simply rewards that avoidance while passing the cost to taxpayers. The Mayor's budget gives the district adequate resources while sending a clear message that fiscal discipline is expected.

I respectfully urge each of you to hold the line, support the Mayor's proposed budget, and vote against funding the school district to the cap.

Thank you,

Lila Henderson  
Nikiski, AK

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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**From:** Jamie Miller <jamiemiller15@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2026 7:28 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Budget proposal

---

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Good evening Borough Assembly,

My name is Jamie Miller and I'm a mother of 4 children here on the peninsula. All our children are currently enrolled in KPBSD brick and mortar schools, with one in Connections. I wanted to reach out in support of Mayor Micciche's budget proposal and think it would be a mistake for the borough to "fund to the cap". I've been attending board of ed. meetings and have heard again and again the need for more funding and to pressure the borough. I think encouraging this behavior by granting additional funding would be a mistake. Clayton Holland's goal for KPBSD schools is to prepare students for life outside the classroom. Why would we drop the logical conclusion for those managing the district? If they cannot take an honest look in the mirror and address the reasons that parents are pulling students from their schools, hence the massive loss in enrollment, then nothing will improve. It is irresponsible to keep schools with 40% capacity open. If we remove the consequence, those serving on the board of ed. will never learn this important lesson and future leadership in managing district schools will be grim.

Thank you for your time, Jamie Miller

March 30, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

I am asking you to please NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

I have watched spending increase over the years, and the school performance has declined. I want to see results before they get more money. Until we see improvement, DECREASE THEIR SPENDING.

DON'T FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

Margaret Phelps

March 30, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

I am asking you to please NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

I have watched spending increase over the years, and the school performance has declined. I want to see results before they get more money. Until we see improvement, DECREASE THEIR SPENDING.

DON'T FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

Pascale Dilley  
Joe C. Dilley  
Harold J. Martin

Pascale J. Dilley  
Joe C. Dilley  
Harold J. Martin

1  
March 30, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

I am asking you to please NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

I have watched spending increase over the years, and the school performance has declined. I want to see results before they get more money. Until we see improvement, DECREASE THEIR SPENDING.

DON'T FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

Stanley Vogel  
"Back To Basics"<sup>71</sup>

March 31, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

Kenai Peninsula residents are already paying an incredible amount of money for our education system! They get all the sales tax, and I noticed in the assessment brochure this year, almost half of our property taxes! It is not sustainable for us to fund to the cap. Our taxes will soon be double!

DON'T FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Gagnon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'D'.

March 31, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

Kenai Peninsula residents are already paying an incredible amount of money for our education system! They get all the sales tax, and I noticed in the assessment brochure this year, almost half of our property taxes! It is not sustainable for us to fund to the cap. Our taxes will soon be double!

DON'T FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cherie LaViolette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Cherie  
LaViolette

March 31, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

Kenai Peninsula residents are already paying an incredible amount of money for our education system! They get all the sales tax, and I noticed in the assessment brochure this year, almost half of our property taxes! It is not sustainable for us to fund to the cap. Our taxes will soon be double!

DON'T FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely, *Dwayne Clute*  
*Dwayne Clute*

---

**From:** Rachel Allmendinger <rachel.allmendinger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2026 9:35 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>fund to the cap - support communities

---

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Dear Assembly,

Thank you for serving our communities. I am writing to implore you to fund schools to the cap. As a parent of a current KPBSD student and soon to be KPBSD student, I am afraid that the continuous and purposeful defunding of our schools will lead to even more brain drain in our communities. Schools are the backbone of a community and if the borough does not take on it's role in funding, cuts will continue and families will leave. There is a high cost of living on the Peninsula, jobs in certain sectors are few or low paying, a home is astronomical. If the borough doesn't fund to the cap and support schools you can add poor schools to the list - schools without libraries, without programs for kids who are gifted or who need more academic support, shuttered pools and this is just what is under attack now - what other cuts will the future hold? Before long it won't be small cuts to classrooms, it will large cuts that leave our kids in huge classrooms with a rotating staff because retaining teachers becomes even more difficult in a atmosphere that puts school and communities last. KPB budgeting leads one to believe that it is purposefully shirking its duty to use property tax funds to fully fund schools. My property is assessed at \$500k and I'm wondering why my money is not being used to fund schools. And, if it is not used for schools, where is it going? The Borough says they have budget constraints, but the district has a larger staff and the district is making cuts left and right and has been for years. What cuts are the borough making? Additionally, the Borough is pointing at the district saying to close Paul Banks, for example, because the building has millions in deferred maintenance. So what will happen to the building? Will the need for maintenance just disappear if it is no longer a school? The mayor needs to think beyond the formula that shifts the weight of funding to the borough, and consider the long-term implications of choosing to actively defund schools. I implore you fight to fund to the cap.

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

Last year the people that testified for funding to the cap said that if the borough funded to the cap then, they would not ask to fund to the cap this year. Do we have a bunch of liars teaching our kids? Does keeping one's word mean nothing? Make them keep up to their promise!!

DON'T FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely, 

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

I think we may need to go back to the one-room schoolhouses in remote areas. These expensive buildings are not sustainable with our declining enrollment. The amount of money spent on brick and mortar schools is outrageous!

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

*Lisa M. Riley*

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

Our school system needs to cut its budget! I think the administration is overstaffed. The teachers are the ones who need to be supported, not the management. Changing curriculum every two to five years costs millions of dollars. You want to save a few million? Use the same books for 10 years or more like charter schools and private schools.

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "New L. Petrucci". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "N" and "P".

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

More money thrown at the education system has not improved it. In fact, the more money that has been given to education, the lower our kids' scores have become. Money doesn't solve problems. Cut administration and curriculum, not teachers.

Please, do not fund to the cap.

Sincerely,

*Bernice Robinson Lipson*

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

Last year the people that testified for funding to the cap said that if the borough funded to the cap then, they would not ask to fund to the cap this year. Do we have a bunch of liars teaching our kids? Does keeping one's word mean nothing? Make them keep up to their promise!!

DON'T FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

*Dorothy Cunningham*  
DOROTHY CUNNINGHAM

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

I think we may need to go back to the one-room schoolhouses in remote areas. These expensive buildings are not sustainable with our declining enrollment. The amount of money spent on brick and mortar schools is outrageous!

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

Fay Laves  
Dan Laves  
Kevin Laves

April 1, 2026

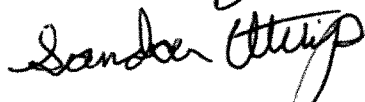
Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

Our school system needs to cut its budget! I think the administration is overstaffed. The teachers are the ones who need to be supported, not the management. Changing curriculum every two to five years costs millions of dollars. You want to save a few million? Use the same books for 10 years or more like charter schools and private schools.

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,



Sandra ATNIP

Fred J Wiedman

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

Our school system needs to cut its budget! I think the administration is overstaffed. The teachers are the ones who need to be supported, not the management. Changing curriculum every two to five years costs millions of dollars. You want to save a few million? Use the same books for 10 years or more like charter schools and private schools.

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Thomas*  
*Sandra J. Bell*  
*Nancy Sullivan*  
*Annette Henry*  
*Sandra Philo*  
*Carol Hobart*  
*Tammy Love*

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

More money thrown at the education system has not improved it. In fact, the more money that has been given to education, the lower our kids' scores have become. Money doesn't solve problems. Cut administration and curriculum, not teachers.

Please, do not fund to the cap.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Sturman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

Last year the people that testified for funding to the cap said that if the borough funded to the cap then, they would not ask to fund to the cap this year. Do we have a bunch of liars teaching our kids? Does keeping one's word mean nothing? Make them keep up to their promise!!

DON'T FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely, 

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

I think we may need to go back to the one-room schoolhouses in remote areas. These expensive buildings are not sustainable with our declining enrollment. The amount of money spent on brick and mortar schools is outrageous!

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP !!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Stacy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

April 1, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

More money thrown at the education system has not improved it. In fact, the more money that has been given to education, the lower our kids' scores have become. Money doesn't solve problems. Cut administration and curriculum, not teachers.

Please, do not fund to the cap.

Sincerely, DONALD BOSTON

*Donald Boston*

Brandon McCawley

*Brandon McCawley*

~~Mark Hall~~  
Mark Hall

Joseph Freely

*Joseph Freely*

---

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2026 12:28 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Joan Corr

**Your Email:** corrjoan@hotmail.com

**Subject:** DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!

**Message:**

35000 Poppy Ridge Road  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
April 3, 2026

Re: DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly members:

I would like children who go to school here to have some examples of integrity. I remember clearly last year how so many of the people testifying said, if you fund to the cap this year, we won't ask to fund to the cap next year. These are not people of their word. They are asking to fund to the cap again this year! I don't care how deep in debt they are. The school district has been offered help to go through their budget and make it more workable. Help has been turned down. The school district has been given examples of ways to cut their spending, like quit buying curriculum every year. That would save millions of dollars. This funding to the cap is not sustainable. I don't want anyone's property taxes doubling, which is what will happen. It is not sustainable to keep funding to the cap. The mayor has tried to stay on a curve of reducing taxes, and working to make it conducive for our young people to stay here. So please, keep that curve up.

When I looked at the assessing brochure sent out with the assessment papers, I was shocked to see that, not only does the school get the sales tax, they also get about half of our property taxes! I had not noticed that before. This is ridiculous.

Why can we not go back to the one-room schoolhouses like Alaska and so much of the United States had at one time. I remember when Hope had 8 students back in the 70s. They had a 3 ½ million dollar school built! Ridiculous – an outrageous sum back then. If someone wants to live out wherever, there are correspondence courses, or like the community here on Kalifonsky Beach Road. The Territory told the residents if they built a school and found a teacher, the territory would provide to pay the teacher and books. Everything else was on the residents. So they built a log schoolhouse, and one of the homesteaders donated the land where Short Stop now sits. I'm sure there was an outhouse, not flush toilets. Inconceivable today.

Another thing that has been pointed out at school board meetings, that until they improve their curriculum and start teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the kids improve academically, we don't want to pour more money into a broken system, which is still teaching DEI and CRT. They have taken no steps to improve -- just buy more woke curriculum. Some kids are smart, but we have a lot of kids who can't read and can't sign their name to an application or driver's permit. I've got lots of more reasons, but I don't need to go on past one page.

Please, do not fund to the cap!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Joan Corr

---

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2026 1:01 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Tom Corr

**Your Email:** corrjoan@hotmail.com

**Subject:** DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!

**Message:**

35000 Poppy Ridge Road  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
March 31, 2026

Re: DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP

To Mayor Micciche and Assemblymen:

When one makes a deal, one should stick with it. Last year the school district, or those testifying, promised if they were funded to the cap, they would not ask this year to be funded to the cap again. They are not sticking to their word. They need to keep their word, and also, live within their means like families are expected to.

Please, do not fund to the cap!

Sincerely,

Tom Corr

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 4, 2026 6:03 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Jennifer DesErnia

**Your Email:** kirkandjenn\_des@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Please fund education to the cap!

**Message:**

Hello, Assembly Members.

I am writing to request that you vote to fund KPBSD education to the cap. This request is especially important this year as our school district faces extreme budget challenges and our local middle school faces closure. Every single school year, departments are cut, schools lose positions, PTR increases, and programs lose funding. In Seward, each one of these losses has a significant impact in our schools and community. The school staff has been whittled down below the quick. There is nothing left to give. There is no fat to trim. If the school district is not funded by the Borough Assembly to the cap, Seward Middle School will close and we will lose more positions and programming in our 3 schools.

Our children are our greatest resources and we need to support them to the fullest, so they are set up for success by our school district. Please do not hobble an entire school district's children over politics. I hope that your vote reflects your full support of the Kenai Peninsula children by funding KPBSD to the cap.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jennifer DesErnia  
Seward area Resident  
907-491-0607

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 4, 2026 6:12 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Jennifer DesErnia

**Your Email:** kirkandjenn\_des@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Seward Middle School building

**Message:**

Hello, Assembly Members.

I am writing to promote a concept regarding the Seward Middle School building, if the school closure moves forward by KPBSD. It is my understanding that the building may be sold by Borough administration, but I think that is a mistake. I am requesting that the Borough Assembly not sell the building immediately, but rather enter into a lease arrangement for at least the next several years.

There is the strong possibility that the community of Seward could face some population changes in the near future, which could affect school enrollment. If we have sold the building of Seward Middle School, then we have fewer options for our students. I think it is wise to maintain ownership and perhaps lease it for several years, therefore you have the option to re-occupy if it is needed in the future. Otherwise, we would then have to spend more money to build another building and that would not be a wise use of taxpayers dollars when we have a perfectly useful building in our assets currently.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this concept,  
Jennifer DesErnia  
Seward area Resident  
907-491-0607

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**From:** Patty Bouton <blaze99712@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2026 2:00 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Cc:** Mayor Peter Micciche  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Letters of Opposition to funding to the CAP  
**Attachments:** Do Not Fund to the CAP-opposition file 1.pdf; Do Not Fund to the CAP-opposition file 2.pdf

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Mayor Micciche, and Borough Assembly:

The attached files are opposition letters from many people in Soldotna, requesting you do NOT fund Education to the CAP.

Education and KPB Assembly stated last year, that KPB would not fund to the CAP this year. Mayor Micciche explained how funding to the CAP every year is NOT sustainable and would not happen this year. Now Edu is requesting more money and requesting the Assembly again fund to the CAP.

Many of these people will not be able to attend the Assembly meeting on Tuesday, April 07 to offer their opinion on disagreeing with funding to the CAP.

I was asked to scan and forward these letters to Mayor Micciche, and the Borough Assembly.

I scanned into two separate files for ease and file size. If you have any questions, please contact me, Patricia Bouton at [blaze99712@yahoo.com](mailto:blaze99712@yahoo.com).

Thanks for your time in reading each of these letters and opinions. Thank you for confirming receipt of this email.

Warm wishes,

Patricia Bouton

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**From:** Michele Hartline <hartlines@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2026 3:56 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Common Sense Funding

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Hi Michelle, could you please forward this to all the Assembly members? Thank you!

Dear Assembly members,

Hypothetically, if you owned your own business, and you hired an employee who confidently assured you they were qualified, hard working and in alignment with your company's goals and objectives, therefore deserving to be paid higher than peers in their field, but in time have actually failed to produce satisfactory results, would you then give them a raise? Or continue to overpay them for their poor work product?

Or Fire Them?

Common sense says "you're fired".

Common sense says **do NOT** fund to the cap.

Thank you,

Michele Hartline

Nikiski

Sent from my iPhone

Apr 10, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members:

Please, DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP.

More money thrown at the education system has not improved it. In fact, the more money that has been given to education, the lower our kid's scores have become. Money doesn't solve problems. Cut administration and curriculum, not teachers.

Please, do not fund the cap.

Sincerely,

Mary Sturman  
Mary Sturman  
Tom Wolfford  
Tom Wolfford

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**From:** Erica Fitzpatrick <ericabayes@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2026 3:58 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk; Mayor Peter Micciche  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please fund public education to the maximum allowable amount

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Dear Mayor Micciche and KPB Assembly,

I'm writing to urge you to fund public education to the maximum allowable amount. If school district is forced to cut programs, cut staff, and/ or close schools, our children's education will suffer. Our schools need stable multi-year funding they can count on. We're going to lose talented teachers and fail to attract new ones if we continue to underfund our schools.

My husband and I greatly value the education we received in this school district, and the education our 3 children have received/ are receiving here. In addition to academics, we greatly value the theater and music facilities and teachers, the swimming pool and staff, and school sports.

Some of us are fortunate enough to not struggle with poverty and to have strong extended family support as we raise our children. It is the less fortunate among us who suffer the most when public schools are underfunded. I worked at Chapman Elementary years ago, and for some of the students I met there, that school was their safe haven. At school, they got two meals/ day, they got fresh air and exercise, they got to socialize, and their brains got a break from screen time. They got access to speech therapy, occupational therapy, special education services, and caring, professional educators. Sure, I'd be saddened for my own children if schools close or services get cut, but I'm really worried about those kids whose parents are unable to fill the gaps, for whatever reason.

I hope you'll think of those children in disadvantaged situations-- those who are most gravely impacted when we underfund schools--when you consider school funding.

Thank you,  
Erica Fitzpatrick

Apr 14, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members:

I am asking you to please DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!!

I have watched spending increase over the years, and the school performance has declined. I want to see results before they get more money. Until we see improvements, DECREASE THEIR SPENDING!

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anita Caputo".

Apr 14, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members:

I am asking you to please DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!!

I have watched spending increase over the years, and the school performance has declined. I want to see results before they get more money. Until we see improvements, DECREASE THEIR SPENDING!

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Goldthwaite", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Goldthwaite

Apr 14, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members:

I am asking you to please DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!!

I have watched spending increase over the years, and the school performance has declined. I want to see results before they get more money. Until we see improvements, DECREASE THEIR SPENDING!

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Hensberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Apr 14, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members:

I am asking you to please DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!!

I have watched spending increase over the years, and the school performance has declined. I want to see results before they get more money. Until we see improvements, DECREASE THEIR SPENDING!

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!

Sincerely,

Keith J. Nushart

Keith J. Nushart

4-17-26

Dawn E. Nushart

Dawn E. Nushart

4/17/26

Tom Beal ROBESE

4/17/26

Apr 14, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members:

I am asking you to please DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!!

I have watched spending increase over the years, and the school performance has declined. I want to see results before they get more money. Until we see improvements, DECREASE THEIR SPENDING!

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!

J W Marlowe  
J W Marlowe  
Royce Marlowe

Sincerely,

Apr 14, 2026

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members:

I am asking you to please DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!!

I have watched spending increase over the years, and the school performance has declined. I want to see results before they get more money. Until we see improvements, DECREASE THEIR SPENDING!

DO NOT FUND TO THE CAP!

Sincerely,

Naomi A. Bowie

Naomi A. Bowie

Carol J. Cooper

Carol J. Cooper

Allen D. Parker

Allen D. Parker

C H Gyllstedt

C H Gyllstedt

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**From:** Lila Lee Little <lilaleelittle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 5:20 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Parent Request: Protect Student Supports and Class Sizes

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the KPB system. Please use caution when responding or providing information. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, know the content is safe and were expecting the communication.

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Dear Borough Assembly Members,

Thank you for the time and effort you are putting into the district's budget and for continuing to advocate at the state level.

I am a parent of four students in our district, with kids at Paul Banks, West Homer, Homer Middle School, and Homer High School. I am an involved parent who gives both time and financial support to all four schools. I see firsthand the strength of the educational teams in our district. We are incredibly fortunate to have the staff we do.

My children represent a wide range of student needs. I have one child with an intensive needs IEP, one with a 504 plan for ADHD, and two children who do not receive accommodations. Because of that, I see how these decisions impact all students, from those needing significant support to those who are more independent.

I support your effort to be thoughtful about not fully funding to the cap in order to maintain local tax stability and continue pushing the legislature for long-term, sustainable funding. At the same time, I am asking you to consider a balanced approach by using approximately \$2 million in reserves to bring the education appropriation to \$66,685,024.

Without that support, the impacts will be felt quickly in our schools. Class sizes will increase. There will be fewer paraprofessionals and fewer intervention supports. The district will have less capacity to meet the needs of students, especially those who need the most support.

These changes are not abstract. They directly affect what happens in classrooms every day. Students receive less individual attention. Behavioral challenges increase when needs are not met. Inclusive opportunities become harder to sustain.

For students like my child with an intensive needs IEP, services are not optional. They are legally required. When staffing is reduced, it becomes much harder to deliver those services as written. That creates stress for staff, impacts students, and can lead to larger issues for the district over time.

I am also concerned about the proposed reductions to librarians and distance education. These are critical supports that serve many different types of learners. They help keep students engaged, support literacy, and provide flexible options for families.

With the recent decision to close four community schools, we are already facing the possibility of declining enrollment. Reducing access points like distance education and library services risks pushing more families to look outside the district. When families leave, it is very difficult to bring them back, and that loss affects future funding.

Using a portion of reserves in this way is not a long-term solution, but it is a necessary step to help stabilize our schools while larger funding issues are addressed at the state level. It allows the district to continue prioritizing direct support for students during a very challenging time.

I am asking you to consider funding at this level to help maintain the consistency and quality of education that our students deserve.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Subject:**

FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Reminder: We're in a Marketplace (Whether We Like It or Not)

**From:** Billeen Carlson <billeenc@gmail.com>

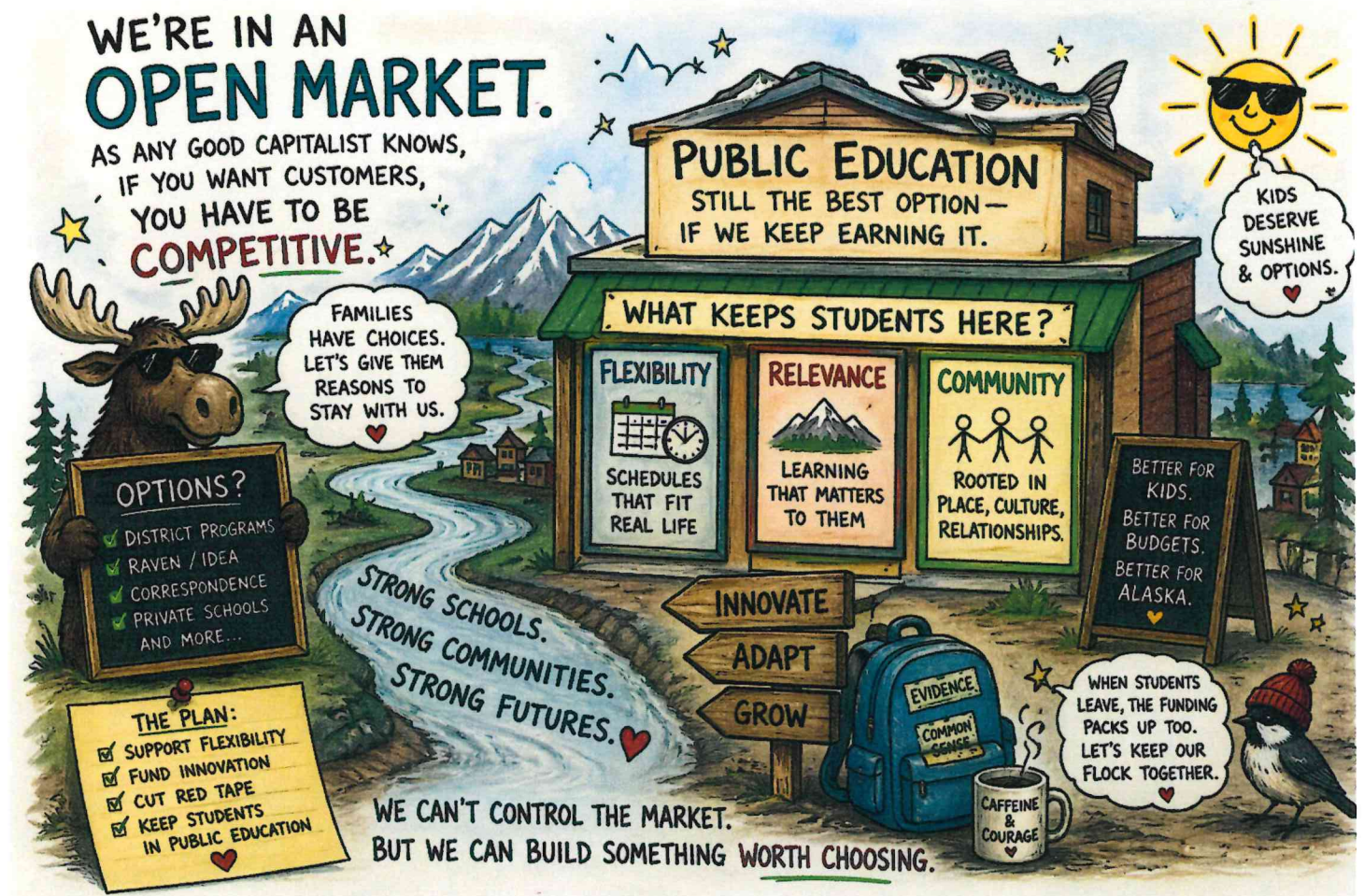
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 11:09 PM

**To:** boardofeducation@kpbsd.k12.ak.us; Senate.Education@akleg.gov; House.Education@akleg.gov;

G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk <G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Reminder: We're in a Marketplace (Whether We Like It or Not)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the KPB system. Please use caution when responding or providing information. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, know the content is safe and were expecting the communication.



Hi all,

I'm going to say the quiet part out loud—because at this point, it's not actually quiet (for some reason):

**We are operating in an open market.**

I know “marketplace” isn't always a comfortable word in public education, but families didn't ask our permission before acting like consumers. They already are.

And as any good capitalist (or Alaskan with common sense) knows:

**If you want customers, you have to be competitive.**

Right now, our “customers” are students and families who have options—lots of them. District programs, correspondence programs, statewide options like Raven and IDEA, private programs... and they're choosing based on what works for their lives.

Not what's most convenient for us.

---

 **What I Found (Yes, I Did My Homework)**

I went digging into national trends because I wanted to make sure this wasn't just a “vibes” take.

It's not.

Across the country, districts that are holding onto students—and even growing—are doing three things:

**1. Flexibility**

Not “sit in this chair from 8–3 or else.”

Actual flexibility:

- schedule
- pacing
- delivery

**2. Relevance**

Kids will do hard things. They will not do meaningless things.

**3. Community Connection**

Programs that reflect local values, relationships, and identity—not one-size-fits-all systems.

Wild concept, I know.

And here's the kicker:

This isn't some radical new philosophy. It's literally what our own standards already call for—real-world learning, inquiry, and connection to community, along with culturally grounded, place-based education.

So we don't have a *knowledge* problem.

We have an **implementation problem**.

---

## **The Part We Really Can't Ignore**

When students leave, the funding leaves.

They don't send us a thank-you card on the way out. They just... go.

And here's the frustrating irony:

The students most likely to leave are often the exact students we're *best equipped to serve*—the ones who need flexibility, personalization, and real connection.

If we don't provide it, someone else will.

And they are.

---

## **The Slightly Awkward Truth**

We already have the answer.

We're already doing this work:

- flexible learning structures
- one-on-one support
- scalable courses that don't burn out teachers

We have models where **one strong course can serve multiple schools** without sacrificing quality.

That's not just good for kids. That's good for budgets.

(Which I assume we still care about.)

---

## **What I'm Asking (Nothing Wild, I Promise)**

I'm not asking you to burn the system down.

I'm asking you to help us **evolve it on purpose instead of watching it erode by accident.**

Specifically:

- Support flexibility in scheduling and attendance
  - Protect and fund scalable, high-quality digital/hybrid courses
  - Give districts room to innovate without getting tangled in compliance knots
  - Back models that keep students *in* public education instead of pushing them out
- 

## I Brought Receipts

I'll link:

- My **Flexible Learning Network video**-

<https://youtu.be/9pcEpwCwq94?si=HxWsJaeyVfqA4UO>

- A **research folder** with the national data-

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SzAQ55An9jKwAn1Hvg3Ft5EKBK3dJ98Z>

(Yes, I'm that person. I came with evidence.)

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## Final Thought

This isn't about chasing trends.

This is about **keeping public education strong, relevant, and financially viable** in a world where families have choices.

We can either compete thoughtfully...

Or keep acting surprised when students leave.

I'd strongly prefer the first option.

---

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 4:39 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Heather Fernstrom

**Your Email:** fernstrom.heather@gmail.com

**Subject:** Fund our schools

**Message:**

Dear Assembly Members,

For many families, one of the most important factors in deciding what property to buy is proximity to the closest school. The day after my family and I closed on our new property in Kasilof, we found out the neighborhood school, Tustumena Elementary will be closing after this school year. I found out that instead of an 8 minute drive to school, my children now have a 24 minute drive to school; and if they take the bus, this would likely translate into an almost 60 minute ride to school.

The decision to close several of the schools in the KPBSD is alarming and extremely upsetting. We must keep neighborhood schools open; they serve as more than just a school in our small towns across Alaska; they are centers for the community.

Please do your part to uphold the state Constitution, which mandates that we maintain a system of public schools open to all children in the state. To force young children to ride nearly an hour bus ride each way just to reach the closest school is outrageous.

Additionally, I understand the KPB Board of Education recently suggested closing some of the school libraries as a cost-cutting measure. We must do better than this. If we have any hope to increase literacy outcomes for our youth, they must have regular access to libraries. Our most socio-economically disadvantaged families may not have the ability to visit public libraries, and so in closing school libraries, we are preventing our most vulnerable from accessing one of the best resources out there for improving literacy and cultivating the joy of reading.

We must increase funding allocated to our schools. Please fund to the CAP! We must continue to invest in our children, and our schools. Workforce development does not occur in a vacuum. The workforce relies on families, and families need to have access to strong public schools (in their neighborhood).

Thank you for your service,

Heather Fernstrom  
Kasilof Resident

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 6:20 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Nancy Whitmore

**Your Email:** nancywhitmore@gmail.com

**Subject:** Please fund our pools

**Message:**

Dear Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

We are writing as parents, grandparents, and long-time Kenai Peninsula Borough residents, now residing in the Soldotna-area, to share our perspective on the importance of maintaining public pool access in our community—not only for today's families, but for generations to come.

When our children were growing up, access to well-run public pools played a meaningful role in their development. We watched their confidence grow with every lesson, every practice, and every hour spent in the water. What began as a basic life skill became a source of discipline, resilience, and self-assurance. Those facilities were more than just places to swim—they were places where our children learned perseverance, built friendships, and developed a lifelong appreciation for health and fitness.

Now, as grandparents, we want the same opportunities for our grandchildren. We want them to have access to safe, reliable, and well-maintained aquatic facilities where they can build confidence, learn critical water safety skills, and experience the same sense of growth and belonging that meant so much to our family.

With the school district stepping away from funding and operating these pools, we understand that responsibility must fall elsewhere. We strongly urge the Borough Assembly to step in and ensure these facilities remain open and accessible. Losing or reducing access would mean denying future generations the same opportunities that helped shape our own family's experience.

This issue is not only about recreation—it is about safety, community health, and the long-term vitality of the Kenai Peninsula. In a region surrounded by water, swimming is an essential life skill. Public pools provide a controlled environment where children and adults alike can learn and practice those skills safely.

We ask you to consider the long view. Investments in these facilities are investments in our children, our families, and the strength of our community. Please take decisive action to preserve and support public pool access so that our grandchildren—and all children in this Borough—can benefit as ours once did.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nancy and Craig Whitmore  
Soldotna Area Residents