
From: Paul Seaton <pkseaton@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 12:26 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Funding to the cap.

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Please distribute this comment to all assembly members.

I am a full time resident of the Boro and request you fund the KPSD budget to the cap allowed under State law.

Our schools are under intense pressure and with anticipated cuts student education success will decline.

If new revenue is required I request an increase in the sales tax by raising the max taxable amount to \$1,000.

Sincerely,

Paul Seaton

58395 Bruce Ave.

Homer AK 99603

Willow Hetrick-Price
PO Box 7, Moose Pass, Alaska, 99631
willowhetrick@gmail.com | 907-330-9085

March 2, 2025

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District School Board
148 N Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska, 99669

Subject: Preserving Moose Pass School – A Legacy Worth Protecting

Dear Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District School Board:

My name is Willow Hetrick, and I am a proud graduate of Moose Pass School. Growing up in Moose Pass, the educational foundation I received there was more than just academic—it was deeply tied to the community, our shared history, and a way of life that has defined generations of families in Moose Pass.

In the last few years, I have been working on developing a historical walking tour of downtown Moose Pass. Last year, it was decided that the fourth sign would be of the Moose Pass School. I would like to provide you with a snippet of the history of the school, **which is the oldest contiguous school building and second oldest school on the Kenai Peninsula.**

The first school in Moose Pass was started by Mrs. Leora Estes in 1928. Leora had seven children including Ed Estes, who as an adult would become the patriarch of Moose Pass. In order to start a school, Leora needed five school-aged children to serve as students, so she boarded Jerry Ely's child Ray from the Hunter section house of the Alaska Railroad. Between 1928 and 1930, Leora held school sessions in several locations including a tent, various houses in the town site, and the Bureau of Public Roads building.

On December 29, 1930, the first official school, the Moose Pass Territorial School, opened. The school's first teacher, Ann Chisholm, had been instructed to close the school on Latouche Island, since low copper prices had shut down the mines. She was told to bring what she could of necessary supplies from Latouche to Moose Pass. Chisholm had only five students that first year (Ed Estes, Bob Estes, Alice Ebing, John A. Ebing, and Ray Ely), and no school building nor equipment, so she initially taught a 'special school' that lasted for six months. She taught for three terms in Moose Pass.

*The student population more than doubled to twelve in 1932, and the school was classified as 'regular' with a recommendation that a building be constructed. **But it was not until 1935, twenty-four years before Alaska statehood, that a two-story, one-classroom school building was erected on the shore of Trail Lake at a cost of \$4,793.00.***

The total school population varied between eight and eighteen pupils from 1935 until the school year of 1951-52, when forty-six children enrolled. A sudden influx of children from highway construction families in 1953 had not been anticipated by the territory until the

school year began. The parents of the school children donated money to floor the Quonset hut which was serving as a community hall, and created a small, heated room in it for use as a second classroom. A second teacher was employed to instruct the added pupils. The enrollment dropped slightly after the initial highway construction, but were still sufficient numbers to retain two teachers – between forty and forty-five students each year. In 1953, the old school building was remodeled to hold two classrooms.

During the 1959-60 school year enrollment again increased, due to powerline construction, and a third teacher was employed, but the school returned immediately to two-teacher size the next year. Between 1966 and 1974, seventh and eighth grade students had been bussed to Seward with the high school students. In the 1974-75 school year, seventh and eighth grades were reinstated. In the 1985-86 school year, a kindergarten program was started at Moose Pass school.

The history of Moose Pass School is a testament to the resilience and commitment of this community. Since its founding in 1928, the school has been shaped by the dedication of local families, teachers, and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure its success. From the early days when parents helped build the first playground to the cherished Christmas programs that continue to bring the town together, the school has been a cornerstone of Moose Pass. Families came together to ensure that their children had access to education despite the challenges of living in a remote area.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District was formed in 1964. In 1964, the Moose Pass School was already 36 years old. In just three short years, the Moose Pass School will be 100 years old. For this action to even be considered is distasteful as it would result in the closing of a landmark of Kenai Peninsula history.

Closing this school would not just mean the loss of a building—it would sever an essential lifeline for families who have chosen to build their lives in Moose Pass. Rural schools are more than just institutions; they are the heartbeat of small communities. The closure of Moose Pass School would be devastating, forcing young students to travel long distances, disrupting their education, and weakening the very fabric of our town. **I can attest firsthand that the 1.5+ hour bus ride from Moose Pass to Seward is awful (I went to Seward High School) and would significantly impact K-8 students.** More than that, it would send a message that small communities are not worth investing in, despite their rich history and continued contributions to the Kenai Peninsula.

Generations of students have benefited from the individualized, close-knit learning environment that a small rural school provides. **Alumni are Presidents of Alaska Native Corporations, Marines, Decorated War Heros, Fallen Soldiers, Business Owners, Lawyers, Authors, Lineman, Nurses, Politicians, Public Servants, Oilfield Workers, Librarians, Executive Directors, Game Designers, Fishing Guides and Commercial Fisherman, Dog Mushers, Professional Moutnain Runners, Hot Shot Fire Fighters, Teachers, Boat Captains, Ice Road Truckers, and Legislative, Congressional, and Senate Staffers. We are the people you want in society. And we all proudly say that we went to Moose Pass School.**

I urge you to consider the deep impact that closing Moose Pass School would have on current and future students, their families, and the community as a whole. You have a tough decision ahead, no doubt. I have two simple requests as you move forward:

- 1) Before the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District ever considers closing a rural school, in this case, Moose Pass, the home school problem should be resolved. Homeschooling within the Kenai Peninsula Borough has a profound impact on the district's funding and budgetary decisions.
- 2) If you do vote to close the Moose Pass School, **please force the Kenai Peninsula Borough must have serious conversations to dispose of the building and property directly to the Moose Pass community fee free**¹. And here is why: The Kenai Peninsula Borough benefits from keeping the Moose Pass School in its real estate portfolio, even if the school is closed, due to financial and asset management advantages. As a depreciable asset, the building allows the Kenai Peninsula Borough to account for its infrastructure in long-term financial planning, maintain balance sheet strength, and potentially leverage it for future funding opportunities. Additionally, retaining ownership ensures control over the property's future use.

However, while the Kenai Peninsula Borough may see financial benefits in holding onto the school, the greatest community benefit would come from transferring ownership to a local nonprofit in Moose Pass. A nonprofit could repurpose the school to serve as a Charter School², community center, education hub, or multi-use facility, ensuring the building continues to provide value rather than sitting vacant. By placing the asset in the hands of the community, maintenance and revitalization efforts could be managed locally, increasing engagement, economic activity, and long-term sustainability for Moose Pass.

A win-win solution would be for the Kenai Peninsula Borough to structure a transfer that allows the community to take ownership.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I expect to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Willow Helene Price

¹The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District does not own school buildings; rather, the Kenai Peninsula Borough owns and maintains the facilities. Therefore, the Kenai Peninsula Borough then decides what to do with the property. Under Kenai Peninsula Borough Code (KPB 17.10), the Kenai Peninsula Borough has the authority to dispose of real property, including former school buildings.

² In the Kenai Peninsula Borough, charter schools operate as public schools within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. They are established through a charter agreement, which outlines the school's mission, educational program, governance structure, and accountability measures. These schools have the flexibility to implement innovative teaching methods and curricula while adhering to state educational standards.

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 9:49 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: PEGGYELLEN KLEINLEDER

Your Email: peggy.ellen.k@gmail.com

Subject: Funding education

Message:

I am concerned about the proposed cuts to education in the KPBSD. I don't currently have children in school, as they are grown. Our daughter graduated from Homer High School and our son from Flex. We are so grateful for the education they received, which helped launch them into their adult lives.

We urge you to fund the schools to the maximum allowed. Please fund to the cap. Thank you for your service to our communities.

From: greta mahowald <ravensreposealaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 9, 2025 5:16 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Please fund education to the cap

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 Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

I am writing to encourage the Borough Assembly to fund education to the cap. As we saw last year, we can't count on our local representative in House District 6 to support adequate funding of public education. Representative Vance's narrative about public education is hard to hear. The idea that increasing the BSA is "throwing money" at a "failing" system that should have to prove its efficacy is untrue and cruel. In fact, the schools have been doing more with less funding when inflation is taken into consideration. As a Kachemak City resident, my children are finding success at our public charter school, Fireweed Academy, while my friends with children in all of the Homer area schools comment on the good they see in their children's schools.

Educators, school staff, and families are demoralized on an annual basis. The constant uncertainty of school funding is unreasonable—no business could operate under the same circumstances. The stakes are much higher than business. *ALL* children deserve a solid educational foundation and our schools are so much more than book learning. Many students rely on the school and staff for nutrition, stability, contact with caring adults, early identification of and intervention for learning differences, sports/physical health, and enrichment through extracurricular activities. Schools are true *investments* in our children and communities. I am all for accountability and efficiency, but thinking that decreased funding

will produce better outcomes is fantasy. The school district is actively looking at any and all cost saving measures.

High quality, adequately funded education is critical for attracting and retaining families in our borough and state. I understand that funding education to the cap would require using some property tax revenue in addition to sales tax revenue. I support efforts to enhance KPB revenue through a bed tax. While local families are struggling to afford living in Homer, in part due to the high cost of housing secondary to seasonal rentals, Homer's tourism industry is booming and it seems like a missed opportunity NOT to have a bed tax. According to Seward's Deputy City Manager Jason Bickling, that city collected more than \$840,000 from its 4% bed tax in 2023 (Dye, 2024).

As state funding continues to be politicized and uncertain, please continue to support education and our future.

Sincerely,

Greta Mahowald
Kachemak City Resident
818 Smokey Bay Way #387
Homer, AK 99603

Dye, J. (2024, November 20). Seward budget hearing covers bed tax, wages, emergency medical services. Retrieved from <https://www.peninsulaclarion.com/news/seward-budget-hearing-covers-bed-tax-wages-emergency-medical-services/#:~:text=Increasing%20revenues,and%20Casie%20Warner%20in%20favor.>

From: Ash-Lee Waddell <awaddell3377@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 12:51 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Prioritizing Education Funding for the Kenai Peninsula

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Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

I am writing to encourage the Borough Assembly to fund education to the cap. The continued uncertainty surrounding school funding places an unnecessary burden on educators, families, and communities. Schools cannot operate effectively under these conditions, and our students deserve stability and investment in their futures.

Public schools have consistently done more with less as inflation erodes funding levels. Despite this, narratives suggesting that increasing the BSA is merely “throwing money” at a “failing” system are misleading and dismissive of the hard work being done by educators and students alike. The reality is that our schools provide essential services far beyond academics, including nutritional support, stability, early intervention for learning differences, extracurricular opportunities, and safe environments that foster growth and success.

Maintaining strong public schools is essential for attracting and retaining families in our borough and ensuring a prosperous future for our community.

I understand that funding education to the cap requires the use of property tax revenue in addition to sales tax revenue. I also support efforts to enhance borough revenue through a bed tax, a measure that would ease the burden on local taxpayers while capitalizing on Homer’s thriving tourism industry. Other communities, such as Seward, have successfully implemented similar measures, generating significant revenue for essential services.

Education is the foundation of a strong, vibrant community. I urge the Assembly to prioritize stable and sufficient funding for our schools. As state education funding

remains uncertain, it is more important than ever for our borough to take a leadership role in ensuring the success of our students and the strength of our public schools.

Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Ash-Lee Waddell

Diamond Ridge Resident

P.O. Box 3594

Homer, AK 99603

From: Mareth Griffith <magpiemareth@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 7:02 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please fund KPBSD schools to the allowable cap

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 members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

I am writing to encourage you to fully fund the KPB School district up to the maximum allowable cap. I am a resident of Seward, with family members attending Moose Pass School, which, along with Seward Middle School, was one of the schools considered for closure. The school board recently removed them from the closure list, perhaps due to public sentiment, as well as a lack of other workable options for students here (the Seward High school and Seward Elementary don't have space for the Middle School students, and closing Moose Pass school would mean up to a 37-mile one-way bus ride for elementary school students.)

The finding from the state of Alaska has not kept pace with the rising costs of inflation, nor the salaries required to keep staff in demanding, people-oriented jobs. The back and forth with the budget has meant many teachers in Seward have, over the years, seen significant instability, with their positions or contract cut, then reinstated, on an almost yearly basis. We have lost electives like music and arts programs in the Seward Schools. On a larger level, a KYUK article I recently read shows that the lack of funding for essential school repairs has meant that students in Sleetmute have been attending a school with a leaky roof leading to mold and structural issues. Repairs have been unfunded for the past 19 years. That is absolutely unacceptable, and I hope the state is able to rectify that and get Sleetmute a safe school building. Here in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, I hope we can do better for our kids.

Beyond educating students and giving Alaska's citizens the best possible start in life, schools are also a hub of community events. The Seward Community Band, which I am a member of, has rehearsed and performed in the middle and high school's auditoriums for over a decade. Theatre groups, both affiliated with the school and not, use the high school theatre as a performance space. The Seward High School pool was the training ground for Alaska Olympian Lydia Jakoby - and is the only public pool on the eastern side of the Kenai. As a fishing town, we rely on that pool, and the public hours and swim classes held there, to teach kids how to swim and basic water safety - which are pretty essential skills for a coastal community with a large maritime presence.

As far as the question of funding goes - one idea that was brought up at a local discussion on housing availability was raising the mil rate by a large amount - doubling or tripling it over a period of a few years - and correspondingly increasing the exemption for homeowners living full-time - in effect, making it more expensive for people with investment properties, short-term rentals, or second homes - all of which are affecting the availability of housing for people wanting to move here or looking for long term leases. Frankly, I would happily agree to an increase in my own taxes if that means the education system can keep its schools open, pay its teachers a competitive rate, and bring back electives, AP classes, arts and music, and other things that have been cut from the schools due to budget cuts.

I hope you will keep this in mind as you develop next years' budget.

Thank you for your service to the Kenai Peninsula Borough,

Mareth Griffith
Bear Creek, Alaska
907-268-8911

From: Rachel Barton <barton.r.n@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:07 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> KPBSD Funding

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.

To the Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor and Assembly,

I am writing in regards to the School District budget. I would urge members of the Assembly and the Borough Mayor to support funding to the cap for the Kenai Peninsula School District. Many of our beloved neighbors rely on the district not only for their children's education but for their employment as well. Cuts to programs, support staff and larger classroom sizes are all probable as the current budget stands, even if the legislature does the right thing and increases the BSA. You have the power to mitigate that harm and I urge you to use it.

I hear some community members argue that the school scores don't reflect value for the money and that we should therefore cut the budget. I have to say, that is not only short-sighted, it is based on bad data.

I would encourage you to read this article from *Forbes* to gain a better understanding of why our current metrics for assessing schools and student performance is flawed:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/petergreene/2024/02/10/research-shows-what-state-standardized-tests-actually-measure/>

As you can see, testing does not reflect school performance in any meaningful way. I would think school graduation rates and adult earnings would be a better metric.

Furthermore, I would suggest this as followup reading to see why funding schools more fully is actually the best approach we can take to improve student outcomes:

<https://www.ipr.northwestern.edu/documents/policy-briefs/school-spending-policy-research-brief-Jackson.pdf>

Finally, I hope you hear from people like me. I work with kids in the private sector. I homeschool one of my kids and the other is dual enrolled in both Connections and Flex. I fully support public school funding for the good of our community as a whole, and not just because I know it's best for my kids regardless of how they participate in public school education. This year, and all years to come, please vote to fully fund the schools.

Max to the Cap.

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Barton
72600 Ester Ave
Anchor Point, AK 99556

From: Cinda Nofziger <cindanofziger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 5:35 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Education funding

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Dear Mayor Micciche and KPB Assembly,

I'm a parent with a child in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, in Homer. I'm writing to urge you to please funding for KPBSD to the cap. Our children deserve the best education we can give them. Our state and our federal government may not see the value in public education; I'm counting on the borough to do better for all our kids. A well educated population is important for our economic future on the peninsula and in the state, in addition to being important for our kids to grow and thrive. Please let our educators and our children know that they are valued by funding "to the cap."

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Cinda Nofziger

From: Abi Reid <abireid.design@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 8:43 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School Funding

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Hello,

I am based out of Homer and am in favor for full school funding.

Thank you

ABI REID
FREELANCE GRAPHIC DESIGNER + ILLUSTRATOR

908-418-0157
www.abireid.com
[instagram](#)

From: Lauren Corcoran <laurencorcoran82@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 11:08 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund to the cap for education

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KPB Assembly,

I'm a parent of a 2nd grader and soon-to-be Kindergartner at Paul Banks Elementary. I'm writing in support of the borough funding our education "to the cap". The schools are already having to make cuts due to poor BFA increases at the state level. Let's ease the burden and make our schools successful!

Thanks for the consideration,
Lauren Corcoran
Homer, AK
972-408-7610

From: Kevin Corcoran <kevinpcorcoran@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 11:14 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>FUND TO THE CAP FOR EDUCATION

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KPB Assembly,

I'm a parent of a 2nd grader and soon-to-be Kindergartner at Paul Banks Elementary. I'm writing in support of the borough funding our education "to the cap". The schools are already having to make cuts due to poor BFA increases at the state level. Let's ease the burden and make our schools successful!

Thanks for the consideration,
Kevin Corcoran
Homer, AK
972-299-5502

From: Jaime <waterfal29@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 11:15 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Funding our schools

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Hello! My children both attend schools that don't have mental health counselors (middle school and McNeil). We also have had to worry about both those schools being closed this year. I would support "funding to the cap" because I think providing quality education to our youth should be the governments highest priority. Also my oldest son just lost his favorite teacher Charlie Rininger because he committed sexual assault and having a counselor in his school at all times that he knows would be helpful. Also there is an excellent counselor at the Homer high school who may lose her job because of lack of funding and she isn't tenured (she would be in a few months). Please fund our schools to the max.

Jaime Roth

From: lindsay homerlaw.net <lindsay@homerlaw.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 2:09 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please fund to the cap

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Hello,

I am a small business owner and property owner in the borough, and have children who attend McNeil Canyon Elementary School in Homer. I am writing to advocate for funding the school district to the cap. I recently attended a meeting in Homer where an assembly member indicated that the borough has not funded to the cap in many years, but would consider doing so if enough constituents requested it. I am sure there are reasons why the assembly has opted not to fully fund the school district, but as a parent, it's hard to fathom something more important than our childrens' education, and we all know we get what we pay for. I'm happy to send my tax dollars to our public schools, and am in full support of funding to the cap this year.

Thank you for your consideration and service,
Lindsay Wolter

From: Kendall Young <kyoun725@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 1:28 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> KPBSD funding debacle

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.

Good morning.

I am a concerned parent of a student within the KPBSD.

The issues plaguing this district are numerous, and most are not due to lack of funding. The school district has continuously ignored my daughter's IEP (a legally binding document) for a great deal of her time within the school system.

This past October I brought concerns to the principal of West Homer Elementary and Clayton Holland. I was ignored by Holland, and was subjected to a bad faith investion by the OCS (on principal Waltenbaugh's doing, he confirmed this in recording.) We were immediately cleared by OCS of this retaliatory attack against our character.

I wish I could say that it has gotten better, but it hasn't, as the district consistently edits the IEP to their liking without our consent. This could easily turn into an federal OCR complaint against my autistic child. We also are not alone in this experience with KPBSD.

We have no interest in funding a school district in any way that has no accountability.

Just today, there was an article detailing the horrid actions of a teacher accused of sexual assault, (link below), and another one detailing how a former teacher union member has 55 counts of sexual crimes against children leveled against him.

Our educational failure is not financial. It is moral.

To fund this district with no accountability is a moral failure and will not go unnoticed.

The only way I could be swayed at all to fund this district a dime is this,

Fire Principal Waltenbaugh.

Fire 95% of KPBSD admin.

Audit every single penny that the district has used, and balance the budget.

Make every admin and principal position an electable position.

We cannot use the same tired diatribe of "more money, more money," to just maintain a level of educational mediocrity

Thank you,

Kendall Young

https://alaskapublic.org/news/public-safety/2025-03-18/homer-teacher-accused-of-sexually-assaulting-woman-at-her-home?fbclid=IwY2xjawJlFFdleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHdBhhJtxazcRdCwn00Yuft2syhwHKCriVDXRXID6gKf1Z17mxhbJJJo1Pwaem_HVIWSQvIWuUqWyT9bIOKeA

<https://www.kdii.org/local-news/2024-07-31/some-charges-dropped-in-erfurth-sex-abuse-case-defamation-suit-filed-against-accuser>

From: Beka Thoning <bekathoning@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 8:36 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Support for Full Funding of KPBSD Schools

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 Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,
I am writing to express my strong support for funding the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to the cap. Ensuring that our schools receive the maximum allowable local contribution is essential to maintaining the quality of education for our students.

Education is the foundation of our community's future, and adequate funding directly impacts our students' opportunities, teacher retention, and overall school resources. By funding to the cap, we ensure that our schools can continue to provide the programs and services necessary for student success. With rising costs due to inflation, it is more important than ever to provide schools with the resources they need to maintain quality programs and services without cutting essential support for students and staff.

I understand that it is essential to take a fiscally responsible approach that balances educational needs with the broader financial responsibilities of the borough. The borough has many financial obligations, and it is essential to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently across all critical services. Funding decisions consider not only the maximum allowable contribution but also the long-term financial health of our community. Allocating resources efficiently ensures that essential public services—such as emergency response, infrastructure maintenance, and economic development—are not compromised.

I urge you to prioritize education by allocating the full funding amount allowed under state law. In that, a budget should be prioritized for assisting school districts in focusing on cost-effective solutions and responsible financial planning so we don't get in this situation again. Our students and teachers deserve the best support possible, and investing in their education benefits our entire community. Investing in education is important, but it must be done in a way that is fiscally sustainable for the long term.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beka Thoning
Homer parent of 4th and 12th graders

From: Nina Faust <aknina51@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 9:09 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School Funding

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 Assembly Members:

Our KPBSD schools have been starved for funds for years because of the Legislature's failure to adequately fund our schools. We have deferred maintenance, loss of teachers due to low pay and teachers leaving when they get pink-slipped, and inflation. It is hard to maintain morale among employees when there is not enough money for education. Students are affected because of larger class sizes and because some valuable programs like art and music are cut or reduced in scope.

I urge the Assembly and Mayor to vote for fully funding to the cap this year to help with the shortfall of funds the district has been experiencing.

Educating our children is one of the most important functions of our government so let's do this.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 9:43 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Amanda Lehm

Your Email: amandalehm623@gmail.com

Subject: Education Funding

Message:

To Assembly Members,

I am writing to urge you to support funding to the cap this year, and every year, for our public schools within the borough. Our schools desperately need an increase in revenue and what we will get from the state is unreliable. Even with the proposed increase of \$1000 to the BSA we are still going to lose our elementary school counselors, QUEST will be completely eliminated, special education instructors will decrease by 50% as well as many other losses that will be hugely felt by the remaining staff and students. It is devastating to say the least. Already our school counselor is spread thin between multiple schools, but his services of social emotional learning are foundational to growing into a healthy, emotionally regulated adult. I have one child in elementary school now and one due to start in August, I spend several days a week at the school volunteering and the staff care so deeply for our kids, it is so disheartening for them to not get the support they need from our community, borough and state in the form of revenue. The kids are what we need to invest in, they are our future. Short changing them short changes us all. I truly hope you will push for funding to the cap at the upcoming meeting. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Mandy Lehm

From: savannap9@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 4:30 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please fund the cap student allocation

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 Assembly Clerk,

I am writing to advocate for increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to its maximum amount is an essential step in ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education. Here are several points that can be used to advocate for this cause:

1. **Equity in Education:** Adequate funding for the BSA ensures that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have access to the resources they need to succeed. Increasing the BSA helps to close educational gaps between wealthier and less affluent districts, ensuring all students have equal opportunities.
2. **Improved Educational Outcomes:** Increased funding allows for smaller class sizes, updated textbooks, and access to technology. These improvements directly contribute to better educational outcomes, preparing students for future success in higher education and the workforce.
3. **Support for Special Education and At-Risk Students:** More funding through the BSA can provide additional support for special education programs and students at risk of falling behind, ensuring that they receive the tailored attention and resources they need to succeed.
4. **Addressing Teacher Retention:** By allocating more funds, districts can offer competitive salaries and professional development opportunities, improving teacher retention and morale. Happy, well-compensated teachers are better equipped to support their students and stay in the profession.
5. **Economic Benefits:** A better-educated workforce leads to greater economic productivity and prosperity. By investing in the future of our students, we're investing in the future economic growth of the state or country as a whole.
6. **Rising Costs of Education:** The cost of running schools, including maintaining infrastructure, purchasing educational materials, and employing highly qualified staff, continues to rise. The BSA must keep pace with these increasing costs to avoid compromising the quality of education.

In summary, advocating for an increase in the Base Student Allocation helps ensure that every student has the resources they need to thrive academically, that educators are supported, and that communities can enjoy the long-term benefits of an educated population.

Sincerely,
Savanna Paladino

From: Sonia Tseu <soniatak@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 10:23 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Full funding

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.

Future prison needs are often assessed by the reading levels of third graders. Schools have become more complicated with special education, severely disabled children, and more family struggles than ever before! Let's fund our schools to the max!! Let's teach our kids to read, write, math, science and have fun doing it!! Essential life skills like cooking, sewing, building, and music can greatly help kids with all subjects and teach them to enjoy life. This is a great start to reducing the need to build more prisons! Thanks for reading! Sonia Sent from my iPhone

From: Caitlin Walls <caitlinkwalls@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 9:52 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Parent of KPBSD Child - Budget Comment

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 Assembly Members,

As the parent of a child who attends a Kenai Peninsula Borough School District school (Paul Banks Elementary), I am writing to urge the Assembly to prioritize our community's future by funding our local schools **up to the cap**. Our schools play a crucial role in providing quality education, fostering student success, and preparing the next generation for a bright future. By fully funding education, we ensure that students have access to necessary resources, experienced teachers, and well-maintained facilities. KPBSD children deserve a well-funded, expansive education—and our communities deserve to have children who will grow into educated, well-rounded adults who can bring their intelligence and skills to the community, whether they leave for college and then return, or remain rooted here as young adults.

Over the years, our educators have consistently demonstrated their dedication despite financial constraints, yet underfunding continues to pose significant challenges. Insufficient resources lead to larger class sizes, fewer academic programs, reduced extracurricular activities, and strained support services. These limitations hinder our students' ability to thrive and compete academically on a state and national level.

Investing in our schools is an investment in our community. Strong schools contribute to economic growth, attract families, and improve overall quality of life. Adequate funding ensures our schools can retain qualified teachers, provide enriching opportunities, and maintain a safe and conducive learning environment. I know that as a parent and longtime KPB resident, if the Borough and Alaska continue to trend the way they are when it comes to de-prioritizing education, I will consider moving away from this great region and state. A place that does not value education does not value community, positive collectivism, and the understanding that investing in the next generation of leaders and workers starts *now*—with children in elementary and secondary schools.

I urge the Assembly to fully fund our schools up to the cap. By doing so, you will be demonstrating your commitment to our children's education, well-being, and the long-term success of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your leadership and advocacy for our schools, and I look forward to seeing the Assembly take meaningful action in support of full funding.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Walls

Resident of Homer, AK and parent to a KPBSD child

caitlinkwalls@gmail.com

From: Austin Parkhill <austinparkhill@live.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 10:29 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> KPBSD Budget Input - resident/parent

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 Assembly Members,

I am a parent of a child who attends a Kenai Peninsula Borough School District school (Paul Banks Elementary), and I am writing to urge the Assembly to prioritize our community's future by funding our local schools **up to the cap**. Our schools play a crucial role in providing quality education, fostering student success, and preparing the next generation for a bright future. By fully funding education, we ensure that students have access to necessary resources, experienced teachers, and well-maintained facilities. KPBSD children deserve a well-funded, expansive education—and our communities deserve to have children who will grow into educated, well-rounded adults who can bring their intelligence and skills to the community and the state.

Over the years, our educators have consistently demonstrated their dedication despite financial constraints, yet underfunding continues to pose significant challenges. Insufficient resources lead to larger class sizes, fewer academic programs, reduced extracurricular activities, and strained support services. These limitations hinder our students' ability to thrive and compete academically on a state and national level. They further encourage educators to seek employment out of state, or find other careers that allow them to stay in Alaska.

Investing in our schools is an investment in our community. Strong schools contribute to economic growth, attract families, and improve overall quality of life. Adequate funding ensures our schools can retain qualified teachers, provide enriching opportunities, and maintain a safe and conducive learning environment. I know that as a parent and longtime KPB resident, if the Borough and Alaska continue to trend the way they are when it comes to de-prioritizing education, I will have to consider moving away from this great region and state. A place that does not value education does not value community, positive collectivism, and the understanding that investing in the next generation of leaders and workers starts *now*—with children in elementary and secondary schools.

I urge the Assembly to fully fund our schools up to the cap. By doing so, you will be demonstrating your commitment to our children's education, well-being, and the long-term success of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your leadership and advocacy for our schools, and I look forward to seeing the Assembly take meaningful action in support of full funding.

Sincerely,

Austin Parkhill

Resident of Homer, AK and parent to a KPBSD child

From: Lisa <lckrebs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 11:42 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Funding of our public schools

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 Mayor Micciche and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, I am writing about the funding for our Borough School District, and I urge all of you to meet the maximum cap for funds this year and the next.

Schools are the center of a community in Alaska. I have seen schools deteriorate in bush Alaska, where families move away and schools close. The town or village never seems to recover.

We need to retain quality teachers and their families to stay. This improves the quality of education our communities require. Increasing class size decreases the quality of education as well. Teachers cannot possibly reach all the children with an increase to number of students.

I strongly urge you to increase the Base Student Allocation to the maximum cap. Schools are a very large part of our community and most importantly, represent an investment in the future. All children deserve this opportunity.

Thank you,
Lisa Krebs

From: Brittany Wilson <blw2212@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 5:39 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School funding

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.

I'm writing to advocate for Full School Funding! My son is a student at Paul Banks Elementary school in Homer. He is currently in the special needs program. We have a long journey ahead of us, and to have support from the school with resources to be available makes all the difference in my son's development! Please vote yes!

Thank you!

Brittany Amen

From: Amanda Cherek <a.j.strittmatter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:00 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Writing in support of funding education to the maximum allowable amount

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.

I am writing in support of funding public education to the maximum allowable amount. My child has benefitted greatly from the public school system in Alaska, and it is now more important than ever for the borough assembly to fund to the cap. Please consider funding our schools to the maximum allowable amount in order to support our kids and our future.

Thank you,
Amanda Cherek

From: Jeff Meyers Jr <jmeyers13@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:55 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Public School Funding

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.

Greeting to the KPB Assembly,

My name is Dr. Jeff Meyers and I am the history professor for KPC located in Homer. I was recently in Kenai giving a talk to the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center on the Alaska Treaty of Cession.

More importantly, I am the father of an 8-year old named Lev who goes to West Homer Elementary, and a 6-year old Hugo who goes to Paul Banks. We love our schools and the people who make them what they are today. They are some of the best in the state and are a part of our community and we absolutely cannot thrive without them.

I am writing to ask you to fund the schools to the cap so we can make the peninsula a safe, clean place for young families to live in. They are the future of this state.

Thank you for your time,

Jeff Meyers

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 11:48 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Ahnie Litecky

Your Email: ahnielitecky@gmail.com

Subject: Support for education funding

Message:

I'm asking you to fund education to the maximum level this year.

I live in Homer and have three children in public school. I care deeply about the future of our kids and I believe that quality education is essential for developing an informed, skilled, and productive society.

Our schools are at a breaking point. The proposed cuts mean fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and the loss of programs that help kids thrive. Even with the proposed \$1000 BSA, our schools will still face devastating reductions. The borough's support is crucial to keeping our school doors open.

This is a moment to stand up for our children and show that their future matters. We can't shortchange them and expect strong communities in return. Please — choose to invest in our kids, in our schools, and in our future. Fully fund education.

From: Maureen Wilkinson <MWilkinson@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 3:48 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>funding to the cap

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.

Greetings,

I'm writing in support of the Borough funding to the cap for students in KPBSD. I am a teacher and know how absolutely important this is for our kids to be successful in our schools and in life. Let's do the right thing and make our children's future secure.

Thanks so much,
Mo Wilkinson

From: Travis Brown <bushasarrived@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 8:57 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please fund KPBSD to the cap

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.

Honorable assembly,

I am a parent of a student in Homer and we really value our quality schools. State funding is lacking severely and we really need your support. Please fund the school district to the cap this year.

Thank you,

Travis Brown

From: Walt Sonen <ijit31@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 9:22 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>seldovia swimming pool

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.

greetings,

i have submitted essentially same comment to the assembly website two times to have it disappear. after a conversation with ben hansen, the borough web technician, he suggested that i write to the assembly via you. apparently my computer is too old. it follows:

it is my understanding that the permanent closure of the seldovia swimming pool is being considered. i am in opposition. it was during the early '70s with the influx of oil money that many outlying communities in alaska received pools for good reason: to teach our kids how to swim. we are a harbor community and we are as closely associated with the ocean as any. we are slowly losing our school largely due to lack of funding. schools provide a sense of COMMUNITY. the loss of the pool would be yet another blow to that COMMUNITY for our full-time residents here that really do maintain our small town.

we have kids, we are a part of the borough, we pay taxes. if our pool is mothballed, it is likely that this wonderful facility would never operate again.

thank you, walt sonen, 45 year resident

From: Tracie Brown <kachemakbrowns@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 1:11 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please FULLY FUND KPBSD schools

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.

Honorable Assembly,

I am a grandparent of a student in Homer and our community really values our quality schools. They operate with integrity and transparency even though their funding has been steadily eroded due to no cost of living increases. There has been no inflation proofing added to the school budget for many years. Additionally, the Borough has failed to fund to the cap allowed. State education funding is woefully lacking and our schools really need the Borough's support.

Please fund the KPB School District to the maximum allowable cap this year, in support of all Kenai Peninsula Borough Schools.

Thank you,
Tracie Brown
907-399-4472
41145 China Poot Street, Homer, AK 99603

From: Allyson Larned <allyson.larned@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 1:53 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Funding to the cap

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.

To whom it may concern,

I am a mother of a student currently enrolled in a KPBSD school. I want to reach out and encourage funding to the cap to ensure the schools have the maximum financial assistance possible.
Thank you for your time and consideration, Allyson Larned

From: Barbara Christian <barbmike1@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 3:49 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund to the cap

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.

To all Assembly members

Having lived here 55 years, I've watched schools funded well and then moderately. In the last 20 years, I've seen them receive minimal support from the local to the state to the national levels. Seemingly, our elected officials forget kids, including their own, as soon as the elections are over.

Schools buildings and programs aren't static; like everything else involved in daily living, their utilities, upkeep, and supplies keep increasing on price. Textbooks have skyrocketed. The courses teachers take to keep their credentials go up. Modernization (as from chalkboards to whiteboards to smart boards) costs as much as your own computer tablet, phone, and service upgrades have.

Yet, the people publicly charged with maintaining quality in education are letting schools fall farther and farther behind in programs, staffing, and upkeep. What became of the pride of statehood that built education into the Alaska Constitution? How did greed for a big PFD check or fear of having to pay taxes overshadow our children's preparation for an advancing world? Someone paid taxes so I could go to school all those years ago.

It's time for elected officials to show some courage. At least ask for what is due us. Preferably, ask for more, loudly and consistently.

I'm sincere when I say that if I still had children in the local schools, I would move to a state with better educational support—even if the state has high taxes to fund it.

Elected officials need to quit pandering to the more wealthy by pushing online schools, charter schools, and funds for private schools. Get all the education money you can and put it into public education for everybody, as your Constitution requires.

Barbara Christian
Kenai, Alaska
Sent from my iPad

From: Kate Finn <hundredthmonk21@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 3:52 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>SCHOOL FUNDING—TO THE CAP!!

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.

There really is no more important place to put our money than into students, teachers, and curricula!!!
FUND TOAND BEYOND THE CAP!!

We should never be looking at how to CUT school funding!!!! Your job is to find the funding!!! Taxes?? OK!

You picked a hard job—now DO IT!!

Override Dunleavy if necessary. Future generations and your conscience will thank you!!!

Kate Finn

PIBox 3364

Homer

From: Samantha Bishop <sambishop336@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 4:06 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School funding

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.

Good afternoon,

I currently have my own kids at West Homer Elementary and at Fireweed Academy. I work as a para educator at West Homer in the Special Ed Intensive Needs program. I urge you to please fund our schools to the cap. I want my kids well educated, and I see how easily kids can fall through the cracks without adequate funding. What happens in our schools effect our communities long term. I want my taxes to go to education.

Sincerely,
Samantha Bishop
Homer, Alaska

From: Cynthia Morelli <cmorelliclay@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 4:06 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Education funding

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 Assembly Clerk,

Please put me, a Kenai Peninsula Borough resident, on record to all concerned as being in favor of funding education to the maximum amount possible. Our youth are our future. Quality education prepares them with the best base for a fulfilling life. We owe them the best we can give.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Morelli

—
Cynthia Morelli Studio
Back Porch Gallery
60159 Lookout Ridge Ave.
Homer, Alaska 99603

cmorelliclay@gmail.com
www.cynthiamorelli.com

From: Eric Knudtson <epknudtson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 4:10 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>education funding

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.

KPB Assembly Members,

I am writing to urge you to fund our school district to the cap. Our children are our future, and we must provide them with better support. Over the past decade, we have faced significant inflation, while funding for our schools has remained essentially flat. We must increase funding to enhance educational opportunities for our students. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Eric Knudtson
Homer, AK

From: Cathleen Rolph <cathleenrolph@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 5:01 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Please Fund Education to the Cap

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,

There are many priorities for the health of a society. Education should be one of our top priorities on the Kenai Peninsula and in Alaska.

Education is not just about acquiring knowledge, but also about developing skills, values, and a sense of responsibility that are essential for a thriving democracy.

"Education is one thing no one can take away from you. An educated mind is one of the most valuable resources to have in life."

-Elin Nordegren

Please fund to-the-cap for education!

Thank you,

Cathleen Rolph
34966 South Boundary Street
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 252--9950

From: Franco Venuti <fcvenuti@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 5:30 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> fund education to the cap please!

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.

Hello Assembly Members, Thank you for serving this beautiful peninsula and supporting our schools with your funding.

I taught for 35 years in the KPBSD and currently sub as an administrator in the Homer area schools. I urge you to fund the local schools to the **maximum** allowed. The funds are essential to all of the services the schools provide. It also conveys that you, as elected officials, support education. All teachers, families, and administrators need that message during these tight fiscal times. As school libraries are cut and music classes are being challenged, the schools will require funds to keep programs students need to be well-rounded and ready for a life-long learning.

As a taxpayer, I am so grateful that the money raised is being used for future generations' education. The Kenai Peninsula School District is very fortunate to have a strong Borough Assembly that is proactive for its children.

Caroline Venuti
818 Smoky Bay Way, 134
Homer, AK 99603

From: Patti Truesdell <pattitruedell@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 6:53 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Education Funding

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.

I am requesting, with urgency, that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly fund the School District to the CAP this year...

Our District is struggling (as you know) and our students and staff are going to need "all hands on deck" if we are going to provide our students the education they deserve and will need for their future.

Thank you in advance for your help.. and thank you for your service on the assembly..

Patti Truesdell
907-394-4497
Sent from my iPhone

From: Ray Buchheit <rmbuchheit@proton.me>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 9:55 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Fund to the cap

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.

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of a child in a KPBSD school, with another soon to enroll. I would urge you to please fund 'to the cap' and help signal that public education is something to be valued and a priority.

Thank you,
Ray Buchheit
Homer

From: Andy Cizek <and.czk@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 11:39 PM
To: boardofeducation@kpbsd.k12.ak.us; Rep Cathy Tilton; Robert Myers; Rep. Louise Stutes; Justin Ruffridge; Gary Stevens; Senator Mike Shower; Rep. Jamie Allard; Shelley Hughes; Jesse B; Sarah Vance; Rep. Mike Prax; Rep. Andrew Gray; Rep. Zack Fields; Robert Myers; Sen. Matt Claman; Bert Stedman; Sen Scott Kawasaki; Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov; Representative.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov
Cc: Deena Deed Com Bishop; Turner, Michele; Ed Kathy Radio Martin; Duane Liberty Action Ak Edelman; Jill Schaefer
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Michael Tavoliero: Taking back Alaska with education freedom and local control - Must Read Alaska

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.

Since every school is so called associated with a town or community why not let each town or community be responsible for their own school or schools depending on their size. No one will care for their school and it's success more then the community which is made up of parents and students as you very clearly seen at your meetings while speaking about school closures.

Eliminate all bureaucracy eventually thus sending the money directly to the student and use one computer to track every student eligible for a school education. Make a payment to that student allowing that student and parent to decide where to best educate or to send their child for the best education in their opinion. It will create competition which always makes for a better outcome for everyone involved. That way all that's needed is students, parents, teacher/s and a principal that will have a community of parents making sure things are done to their wishes for certain educational outcomes and they will be the final authority when it comes to disputes, issues and or problems. This can include optimized education depending on location and culture etc.

Give each student their allocated funding and then as a particular school earns the right to educate these students, they will in turn receive payment from the student allotment to do their job. If they want something more elaborate then the local community can raise its own local money to support itself instead of depending on another community in a different area supporting them and their educational goals. Local control. Local support.

Keep it as simple and straight forward as possible, funneling as much money as possible into the classrooms and students while saving as much money as possible for the people of the communities thus creating efficiency. It would sure be a solid basis to start from, getting input from communities to finalize the best solution for all involved.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mustreadalaska.com/michael-tavoliero-taking-back-alaska-with-education-freedom-and-local-control/__;!!E1nKBQ!40XHcuO0Lfx-cM5Utn0_40unaW2dn4BweZTY6t95HdaoU6AU4A1Kh6EE8aknnd-6Jtu5Gf91wLK6TMk1Uw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mustreadalaska.com/michael-tavoliero-taking-back-alaska-with-education-freedom-and-local-control/__;!!E1nKBQ!40XHcuO0Lfx-cM5Utn0_40unaW2dn4BweZTY6t95HdaoU6AU4A1Kh6EE8aknnd-6Jtu5Gf91wLK6TMk1Uw$)

Keep looking up!!!!

Andy

From: George Overpeck <geopeck@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2025 7:35 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Education funding

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.

I am resident of kachemak city in kenai borough. I support funding education to the cap.

Our borough and state will drain the young and the talented unless we invest in them.

Thanks, george overpeck

From: Lani Raymond <lanibirder@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2025 11:15 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Funding to the cap

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.

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

I respectfully ask you to fund education to the cap as is allowed in our Borough. Schools have been struggling financially for too many years, especially since there has been no adjustment for inflation the last seventeen years. (Even prisons in our state have an adjustment for inflation!)

Class size, adequate room in a classroom for activities--especially for younger students--and overall adequate staffing in a school make a huge difference in student outcomes. I was a teacher for many years and so can speak from experience. Students in our state are behind, but having reduced funding every year for so long, that is predictable. And that is not their fault. Students also lost lots of learning time during covid. The compassionate response to that loss would have been increased funding, not just reducing funds again and again by failing to adjust for inflation.

It is within your power to fund education to the cap. Please consider the children in our Borough who need more funding in order to learn to their potential.

Lani (Lynda) Raymond
41640 Gladys Ct
Homer, AK 99603

From: Sudan Larned <susanflarned@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2025 11:22 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Funding- Our children are our most precious resource. Please support their education by funding to the cap!

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.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Flo Larson <putts5646@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2025 1:14 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>School funding

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.

To Whom This Concerns:

Please find our schools to the cap. Education is the number one priority to keep Alaska's future vibrant and intact going forward.

Sincerely,
Flo Larson
Resident since 1969

From: Tina Seaton <tinaseaton@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2025 9:10 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please fund Kenai Peninsula Borough schools to the cap!

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.

You all know the state of our schools and how inflation has been eating into the meat of our education funding. You asked the legislature to increase education funding - thank you for that! Now, I ask you to put your money where your mouth is and fund education to the cap. With the current state revenue forecast we will be lucky to get any increase in state education funding. At best it will be less than the schools need, even if the Governor doesn't veto it. Please fund our schools to the cap!

Tina Seaton
Homer, AK 99603

From: Therese Lewandowski <thereselew@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2025 9:26 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Fund our schools

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 Assembly Members,

I just read the Peninsula Clarion's article on the KPB School Board meeting and all the scenarios, which we've been hearing, that will come, no matter the funding level.

Everyone badly wants the schools to be fully funded, none of them closed and please do not increase student to teacher ratios.

All the programs that help kids need the most help - per the Clarion "... elimination of elementary school counselors, small school counselors, Quest teachers, counseling assistants, student support liaisons .." are really critical. Pools, theatres etc contribute to the whole health of kids but not as critical.

We all know kids are the future. Communities will look dire with adults about who are uneducated and troubled. We have that now, imagine that will increase.

SJR 2 is a stagnated bill that would decrease the votes required for overriding the governor's vetoes from 3/4 to 2/3. This is the bill:

session and reconsider passage of the vetoed bill or item. Bills [TO RAISE REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION BILLS OR ITEMS], although vetoed, become law by affirmative vote of [THREE-FOURTHS OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATURE. OTHER VETOED BILLS BECOME LAW BY AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF] two-thirds of the membership of the legislature. Bills vetoed after adjournment of the first regular session of the legislature shall be reconsidered by the

It looks like all vetoes would be subject to the same votes. Perhaps a Resolution to the legislators in support of this would go a ways in curbing a veto which is likely of any school budget bill.

Thank you all for your work on behalf of our Borough and especially on behalf of public education.

Therese Lewandowski
Homer

From: Evelyn Waltenbaugh <evelyn@waltenbaugh.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2025 3:23 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Fund schools to the Maximum cap

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.

I am in favor of funding our public schools to the **maximum cap** to provide the highest quality education to our children.

1) Every student is entitled to an opportunity for a good education that can empower them to gain knowledge, skills, and critical thinking which will enrich them as individuals, prepare them for a good paying career and be an informed citizen who contributes to their community.

2) According to the Economic Policy Institute, "**a well-educated workforce is key to State prosperity.**" (Report by Noah Berger & Peter Fisher, August 22, 2013)

Major findings from this report include the following:

- Overwhelmingly, high-wage states are states with a well-educated workforce. There is a clear and strong correlation between the educational attainment of a state's workforce and median wages in the state.
- States can build a strong foundation for economic success and shared prosperity by investing in education. Providing expanded access to high quality education will not only expand economic opportunity for residents, but also likely do more to strengthen the overall state economy than anything else a state government can do.
- Cutting taxes to capture private investment from other states is a race-to-the-bottom state economic development strategy that undermines the ability to invest in education.
- States can increase the strength of their economies and their ability to grow and attract high-wage employers by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers.
- Investing in education is also good for state budgets in the long run, since workers with higher incomes contribute more through taxes over the course of their lifetimes.

Thank you for listening to a concerned Grandmother,

Evelyn Waltenbaugh
39066 Fiddlehead Circle
Homer, AK. 99603

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 2:51 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Anna Widman

Your Email: annajwidman@hotmail.com

Subject: Funding

Message:

Hello,

My name is Anna Widman, I live in Kenai. I am requesting that the Borough fund Kenai Peninsula School District to the cap to help with the enormous cuts they are facing.

Thank You,

Anna

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 4:58 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Alison Larson

Your Email: fsaey@hotmail.com

Subject: Funding public education

Message:

Hello,

I've lived in Kenai since graduating from UAF and moving here right after college. I began teaching in the district in 2001, and aside from a two-year gap (when I lost my position in 2003 due to budget cuts but was rehired in 2005), I've been a dedicated educator in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District ever since. My husband and I are raising our children here, and they attend public school. We deeply value public education. Both of us experienced the benefits of public schooling in Alaska during the 80s and 90s, and we strongly believe in providing our children with the same enriching opportunities in our local public schools.

Please fund education to the cap.

Sincerely,
Alison Larson

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 12:20 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Blake Larson

Your Email: blakelarson907@gmail.com

Subject: KPBSD Funding

Message:

As a lifelong community member and local business owner, I feel strongly about the need to continue supporting and funding education at the local level. Having attended numerous KPBSD schools during my educational years, I understand the importance of providing our schools with the resources they need to succeed.

I believe that quality education is essential not only for our students but also for the overall health and growth of our community. A well-educated workforce helps local businesses thrive, and strong schools attract families and new opportunities to the area. By ensuring that our schools have the funding and support they need, we are investing in the future of our children and the future of our community.

I urge all local leaders to advocate for continued funding at the state and local level, while making sure that our local schools receive the resources they need to succeed. The success of our students is the success of our community, and we all benefit when we invest in their education.

Thank you,
Blake Larson

From: Heidi Stokes <HStokes@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1:27 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Cc: Clayton Holland
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Urgent Plea for Full Educational Funding to the Cap: Securing Chapman School's Future

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 Honored Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

As Principal of Chapman School, serving the students of Anchor Point, I write to you with an urgent plea for the full funding of education to the cap within the FY26 Kenai Peninsula Borough budget. The future of Chapman students, and the well-being of our community, depend on it.

Chapman School, like many small, rural schools, faces unique challenges. We are committed to providing a high-quality education to every child, but we can only achieve this with adequate and consistent funding. I implore you to consider the following critical needs:

Maintaining Low Pupil-Teacher Ratios (PTR):

- Low PTRs are essential for individualized attention, effective instruction, and student success. In a small school like Chapman, where each student's needs are diverse, maintaining manageable class sizes is paramount.
- The significant gains achieved at Chapman have been made possible through consistent and adequate staffing. A reduction in staff and an increase in class sizes will severely challenge our ability to maintain these results.
- Full funding will allow us to retain and hire qualified teachers, ensuring our students receive the personalized support they need to improve and achieve proficiency.

Encouraging Employee Longevity:

- Teacher and staff retention is crucial for building strong relationships with students and fostering a stable learning environment. Historically, Chapman has faced significant teacher turnover.
- The recent improvement in student proficiency is directly attributable to the stability provided by our veteran staff.
- Currently, five certified educators at Chapman have yet to receive contracts for the 2025-2026 school year due to projected budget shortfalls. Four of these highly effective teachers are now seeking other employment.
- This potential turnover will devastate our school culture, academic excellence, and community faith in our public school system.
- Employee longevity creates a consistent learning environment and deepens the ties between the school and the community. This can only be achieved through consistent funding, with the Kenai Peninsula Borough being a significant source.

Ensuring Access to Essential Resources:

- Chapman students need access to vital resources such as counselors, mental health support, and extracurricular activities to thrive academically and socially.
- Students in Anchor Point lack the diverse opportunities available in larger communities. It is critical that these opportunities are provided through the school system to ensure our students have a level playing field when they transition to Homer for high school.
- Counselors, who provide critical support for students facing academic, emotional, and social challenges, are among the projected cuts due to the KPBSD's budget deficit.

- Extracurricular activities, including sports, arts, and clubs, which promote teamwork, leadership skills, and a sense of belonging, are also on the list of anticipated cuts.

The decisions you make regarding educational funding will profoundly impact the lives of Chapman students and the future of Anchor Point. Investing in our children is an investment in the future of our community.

To address the funding challenges, I respectfully suggest the Assembly consider the following:

- Reviewing sales tax policies, specifically the current exemption for items purchased over \$500. Increasing this threshold could generate additional revenue.
- Exploring a tax on individuals who own summer homes on the Kenai Peninsula. A significant portion of the revenue generated in the Kenai region leaves with seasonal residents. Taxing these entities could secure more consistent funding for education.

I urge you to prioritize the needs of our students and fully fund education to the cap. Your support will ensure that Chapman School can continue to provide a safe, nurturing, and enriching learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Heidi Stokes

Chapman Administrator

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

907-226-1811

hstokes@kpbsd.org

[Schedule an appointment](#)

"Quality in education is what makes learning a pleasure and a joy." -Myron Tribus

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2:48 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Jason Leslie

Your Email: jklstudios@gmail.com

Subject: School Funding

Message:

Please fully fund our schools to the cap. As a parent, I see every day that our schools need all the help and resources they can get. Thank you.

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 9:27 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Meegan Miller

Your Email: meegan.biolchini@gmail.com

Subject: School Funding

Message:

I am a parent of two students attending public school with KPBSD in Seward. I want the borough to fund schools to the cap.

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:39 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Jennifer DesErmia

Your Email: kirkandjenn_des@yahoo.com

Subject: Fund KPBSD to the cap!

Message:

Please fund the KPBSD to the cap. I have been advocating for our school district for a decade now and this year is more dire than ever. Public education is a right for all students in our district, enabling access to quality, equitable education to become the best version of themselves. We all benefit from this type of investment. Fund to the cap! Thank you.

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 7:11 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Callie Bacon

Your Email: callie.stark@gmail.com

Subject: Parents' Request - Please Fully Fund Our KPB Schools

Message:

Good morning! I am Seward Elementary parent, imploring you to please fully fund our KPB schools. We need to show our children that we value their education. We need to show our school staffs that we value the important work they do. This is not the time to cut public education funding. Our schools are counting on you.

Thank you,

Callie

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 5:43 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Kim Leslie

Your Email: kimberlynrleslie@gmail.com

Subject: Please fund schools to the cap

Message:

As a parent of a KPBSD student, I urge you to do all you can to fund our schools. My child is an excellent student and athlete who yearns to learn and play, and will hopefully return to her Alaskan community to give back later in life - but with so much at risk of being taken away, I fear her experience and love of the Kenai will falter. Supporting our youth should be one of our highest priorities. Thank you for serving and listening to our voices - we absolutely rely on your advocacy.

From: Miranda Weiss <mirandaweiss@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2:37 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>please fund education to the cap!

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,

I am a parent of two kids in my neighborhood schools in Homer. We love our schools and depend on them for so much...from academics to sports to important mentoring and relationships that my kids have with other adults.

I'm just one of many parents in the KPB who is completely stressed out about school funding and the future of our neighborhood schools. I support the state increasing the BSA to match the need and to tying the BSA to inflation. And I have voiced my opinion to our delegation.

But we also need the KPB to step in.

Please fund education to the cap. At a time like this, anything less would be irresponsible.

Thank you,
Miranda Weiss

--
Miranda Weiss
P.O. Box 1498, Homer, AK 99603
907-299-5550
mirandaweiss@gmail.com
www.mirandaweiss.com

Northern Lights column at The American Scholar

Author of *Tide, Feather, Snow: A Life in Alaska*
Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Bestseller

"A skilled and poetic witness to a place undergoing incessant change."
—Anthony Doerr, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *All the Light We Cannot See*

From: Kara Bakken Clemens <KBakkenClemens@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 4:10 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund to the cap

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.

Hello.

My name is Kara Bakken Clemens. I currently teach as a special education aide for Kenai Peninsula Borough School District at Fireweed Academy in Homer. Please fund the school budget to the cap. Our kids, teachers, and support staff are worth it!

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Kara Bakken Clemens
1605 Eagle View Drive
Homer, AK 99603

From: Becky K <booksandmountains@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 4:39 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>KPB Fund Request - to the cap

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.

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my support and request for the KPB Assembly to fund our school district to the cap. This funding is essential for KPBSD to meet the needs of all of our students throughout our communities, especially given the current instability from the State.

Sincerely,
Rebecca King
Homer, AK

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:18 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Mark Dalpes

Your Email: markdalpes@yahoo.com

Subject: Fully fund schools to the cap

Message:

Hi, I am a parent with a student child and I have concerns about the consequences of not fully funding the schools and students to the cap. Please make a choice to fund our future generation of children by providing all the support necessary. Thank you!

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 12:17 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Christopher Jenness

Your Email: Christopherajenness@gmail.com

Subject: Funding to the Cap

Message:

Good afternoon,

I wanted to write to urge you to fund to the cap for the KPBSD. As a parent of two kids in high school, I have seen directly how a lack of funding can affect our students. I know the Assembly wants the best for our students and I also fully understand the argument about not letting the legislature off the hook, but unfortunately that argument is philosophical and this crisis we're in is very real. Yes, it is the legislature's responsibility to make sure the schools are fully funded, and yes, they should forward fund the district so that this crisis doesn't fall on the shoulders of the borough every year, but, unfortunately, that's not where we are right now. We can't gamble with the livelihoods of our KPBSD employees and we especially can't gamble with our kid's education. Please fund the district to the cap this year. Thank you,

Chris Jenness

From: Elizabeth Maver <eamaver@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 12:17 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund KPBSD to the Cap

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.

Good Afternoon,
I am writing to express my support and request for the KPB Assembly to fund our school district to the cap. This funding is essential for KPBSD to meet the needs of all of our students throughout our communities, especially given the current instability from the State.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Maver

From: Traci Baumgardner <tlb727@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 1:26 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please forward this to every assembly member

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.

Kenai Burrough Assembly Members,

I tried using the public comment form online, but it would never submit. Please find my public comment below:

I am a parent to a Seward Middle School student. I find myself writing these letters pleading you to fund to the cap almost every year. Our Seward Schools have been gutted with underfunding. We NEED to be FULLY funded just to be able to KEEP the teachers we have. Not hire new ones, not buy new anything for our students or buildings - we just want to KEEP our teachers. Our students lose more and more and more every year. The money is there. Please use it to FULLY FUND OUR SCHOOLS TO THE CAP.

Thank you - Traci Baumgardner

From: Haley Balog <HBalog@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 1:35 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>KPBSD Funding

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.

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my support and request for the KPB Assembly to fund our school district to the cap. This funding is essential for KPBSD to meet the needs of all our students throughout our communities, especially given the current instability from the State. I am currently a teacher in the district and if we do not receive the funding there is a high chance I will lose my position and must move once again.

Sincerely,

Haley Balog

From: Andrew Muñiz <andrew.muniz13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 7:33 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>

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.

Good Afternoon,
I am writing to express my support and request for the KPB Assembly to fund our school district to the cap. This funding is essential for KPBSD to meet the needs of all of our students throughout our communities, especially given the current instability from the State.

Sincerely,

Andrew Muniz
USCCG Naushon
4373 Freight Dock Rd
Homer, AK 99603

From: Jessica Williams <jlwilliams1113@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 8:36 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fwd: Full funding to the cap for Chapman School

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 Assembly Members,
>
> As a stakeholder, and parent of two students currently enrolled at Chapman School, I write this to urge you to fully fund education to the cap.
>
> Both of my children are in classes, which are now sitting close to 25 students each. In order to maintain the excellence we have worked for at Chapman, it is important to me and to many other stakeholders that we have a fully funded educational budget to maintain a low pupil to teacher ratio. I hear daily from my children of the difficulties that come with larger classroom sizes, and although their teachers and the staff at Chapman do a fantastic job navigating this challenge, it does impede learning daily. I wonder what that will look like as Chapman continues to grow in enrollment? As we are not able to retain the staff we have now? As we are not able to hire the staff we need?
>
> I am concerned that we will not be able to maintain the remarkable teachers we now have. I know several of our staff member are currently seeking other employment because of the insecurity of their jobs.
>
> Chapman has historically faced many challenges, with staff and principal retention being a consistent among them. Through Heidi Stokes' steady leadership, we have been able to retain our excellent teachers, which has allowed Chapman to develop a strong sense of community, a palpable high workplace morale, and a cohesiveness between staff and parents. I believe because of this, Chapman students are EXCELLING. Through tireless efforts, students have been provided a school that values education, citizenship and community and they are thriving.
>
> Please, fully fund education to the cap. This prioritizes students, and will assure they continue to have rich opportunities to learn in a stable and excellent environment.
>
> Thank you,
>

From: marshall@xyz.net
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 9:37 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Funding education to the cap

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 Assembly members,

Given the current economic distress of our Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, I urge you to fully fund education to the cap. Our District schools offer quality education to the children of our borough. This year's deficits for the District pose a real threat to our children continuing to receive a quality education. Pure and simple, there are not enough cuts to the budget that can be made to offset the deficit our District faces.

Our District has been cutting monies for decades. In 1992, my daughter enrolled in kindergarten at McNeil Canyon School and every year throughout her public school tenure, cuts were made to programs and services. As a parent, I have been on record with our legislators that I favor education tax (similar to the one I paid into in the early 80's).

As an educator, I had the honor of working with stellar educators at West Homer Elementary, a blue ribbon winning school. Every year, I witnessed and/or experienced cuts to programs and administration, increased class sizes, losing staff positions. Our neighborhood schools represent the heart and soul of each community on the Peninsula.

Please support public school education by funding to the cap. As cliché as it sounds, "children are our future" and educating responsible citizens through the public school education system makes for viable and thriving communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns.

Most sincerely,
Karen Murdock, M.S. in Ed.
BP Teacher of Excellence 2009
55200 East End Road
PO Box 1622
Homer, AK 99603

From: Elizabeth Maver <EMaver@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 10:34 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund KPBSD to the Cap!

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.

Good Afternoon,

As a current teacher in KPBSD I see firsthand how our current budget and potential budget for next year is/will affect our schools and most importantly our students. I am writing to express my support and request for the KPB Assembly to fund our school district to the cap. This funding is essential for KPBSD to meet the needs of all of our students throughout our communities, especially given the current instability from the State.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Maver

From: Eileen Bechtol <erbechtol@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 11:40 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund to the Cap!

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 Assembly Members,

It has come to my attention that the Assembly is considering not funding education in our Borough the allowable legal limit, or to the cap set by law.

My daughter went through the Homer school system and received a top rate education. She went on to be competitive nationally in her chosen field and a lot of that was due to the entire school system. From the grade school teachers, who took personal interest and support to each child, to High School Drama Department where she took part in school productions. From the math and science teachers to the administrators, to the kindness of school nurses all of them professionally do their jobs. They deserve our support.

There are three things I think the government should provide to its citizens: education, roads and health care. We had great schools in the past, I think we can continue to provide great education, even in the face of the many other programs and areas that the Borough Assembly must address.

Please know that we appreciate the hard task the Borough Assembly members have before them, but I think education must be our first priority. Fund to the legal limit allowed by law. It's simple put as money as you can to fund education and if my road does not get plowed, oh well, education is more important.

Thank you,

Eileen R Bechtol
907.399.1624

From: Mike Illg <ignipar@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 2:15 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk; Mayor Peter Micciche
Cc: Tim Daugharty; jkelly@kpbsd.k12.ak.us
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School Funding

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.

Greetings Mayor Micciche and Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

As always, I am very appreciative of your time, energy and commitment to our borough. Your responsibilities are vast, your decisions are impactful and your leadership is incredibly valued....thanks for your service and thanks to your family and loved ones who sacrifice their time away from you so you may pursue your efforts to help steer the operations and policies of the amazing Kenai Peninsula Borough.

As a Dad of a current KPBSD student, I am sending correspondence today to plead and encourage you all to support the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District's request to fund the borough's contribution to the maximum allowed. I am well versed with the state formula , matching municipal contribution percentages, current proposed state legislation, and the unfortunate politicization of funding public education as means to an end. While it is clear there are lots of unknowns and uncertain with state and even federal funding for our public schools, it is my hope and expectation that I can always trust that our borough will do everything it can to support our kids and their education and this means funding the schools to the cap.

I am not oblivious to the other expenses and obligations the borough has and I know that the largest budget item is transferring funds to KPBSD for in kind and operations. But especially during these absolutely most difficult times, we (residents, parents, staff and most important the STUDENTS) need as much political, economical and moral support as we can. Looking back when the KPB was established as a second class borough in 1964, the primary factor to create the governmental entity was to ensure we had local control and adequate support for our public education system. for our kids. I am sure you will all agree that since 1964 our borough has done an incredible job in educating thousand and thousands of students to become very successful community members, business owners, doctors, fishermen, etc. Our school district and borough has been and is currently doing an incredible job with what we have and all the support we have received over the years. Unfortunately it is clear that regardless of our obvious success on the KPB, we are continuously penalized when lumped into all of the schools in Alaska is deemed as failing. We simply cannot control what is happening in other school districts. The KPBSD is not failing as I know some of you have are products of a KPBSD education or at least your children are. We need to make sure we have the collective continued support for our public schools at at the center of it all is funding. Please fund the KPBSD to max and in addition consider other possible new and creative revenue streams to support the future expenses of our schools as all ideas should be considered .

Again thanks for you time and service!

Sincerely,

Mike Illg
Borough Resident
Homer, Alaska

From: Lia Calhoun <liasloth@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 2:55 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Please fund KPBSD to the cap

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 Assembly Members,

Thank you for your time, energy, and service to the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Your leadership and decision-making carry real weight, and I appreciate your continued commitment to our community.

As a parent of two Kenai Peninsula Borough School District students, I'm writing to urge you to fund the KPBSD to the maximum allowable level. I understand the complexities of the state funding formula, municipal match requirements, and the uncertainty surrounding pending state and federal legislation. Despite these unknowns, I believe our borough should do all it can to support local education—starting with funding to the cap.

I recognize the borough faces many financial obligations, and that school funding represents a major portion of the budget. However, in these challenging times, our students, educators, and families need strong political, economic, and moral support. When the borough was established in 1964, one of its main purposes was to ensure adequate support and local control of public education. That mission is just as important today.

Our district has consistently delivered strong results, helping thousands of students succeed in a wide range of careers and community roles. My husband and I are both proud graduates of Homer High School, where we each earned the distinction of valedictorian. Alaska's public education system gave us an excellent foundation—one that allowed us to earn our four-year university degrees and led me to complete a Ph.D. in English. We chose to return to Alaska, the place we love, to raise our two young sons among our extended family. I now teach at the Homer campus of the University of Alaska, where I work daily with students striving to build a future here in our state.

My boys are currently enjoying an excellent education, where teachers are doing more with less each year. My 3rd grader is in a class of 27 and my kindergartener is in a class of 25. Despite the large classes, all 25 students in my son's kindergarten are currently reading! The 3rd graders in my elder son's class have written rigorous informative essays and are working on persuasive essays at this time. They are learning skills that some who enter my college writing classes don't yet have. Despite the clear successes of KPBSD, we are too often lumped into a narrative that labels Alaska's schools as failing. Because of this narrative, legislative funding has stagnated and threatened many of the programs and schools that we value.

Please fund the school district to the cap and consider exploring additional, creative revenue options to help sustain our schools into the future. My husband and I own several properties in Homer, and we will happily pay higher property taxes to fund this borough's valuable educational mission. Thank you for your service and for keeping education at the heart of our borough's priorities.

Sincerely,

Lia Calhoun

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 2:59 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Lia Calhoun

Your Email: liasloth@gmail.com

Subject: Please fund KPBSD to the cap

Message:

Dear Assembly Members,

Thank you for your time, energy, and service to the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Your leadership and decision-making carry real weight, and I appreciate your continued commitment to our community.

As a parent of two Kenai Peninsula Borough School District students, I'm writing to urge you to fund the KPBSD to the maximum allowable level. I understand the complexities of the state funding formula, municipal match requirements, and the uncertainty surrounding pending state and federal legislation. Despite these unknowns, I believe our borough should do all it can to support local education—starting with funding to the cap.

I recognize the borough faces many financial obligations, and that school funding represents a major portion of the budget. However, in these challenging times, our students, educators, and families need strong political, economic, and moral support. When the borough was established in 1964, one of its main purposes was to ensure adequate support and local control of public education. That mission is just as important today.

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My boys are currently enjoying an excellent education, where teachers are doing more with less each year. My 3rd grader is in a class of 27 and my kindergartener is in a class of 25. Despite the large classes, all 25 students in my son's kindergarten are currently reading! The 3rd graders in my elder son's class have written rigorous informative essays and are working on persuasive essays at this time. They are learning skills that some who enter my college writing classes don't yet have. Despite the clear successes of KPBSD, we are too often lumped into a narrative that labels Alaska's schools as failing. Because of this narrative, legislative funding has stagnated and threatened many of the programs and schools that we value.

Please fund the school district to the cap and consider exploring additional, creative revenue options to help sustain our schools into the future. My husband and I own several properties in Homer, and we will happily pay higher property taxes to fund this borough's valuable educational mission. Thank you for your service and for keeping education at the heart of our borough's priorities.

From: Sarah Richardson <sarahinhomer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 3:06 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Cc: Mayor Peter Micciche
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> School Funding

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 Mayor Micciche and Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

I appreciate the time, effort, and dedication you invest in serving our borough. Your leadership carries significant responsibilities, and the decisions you make have a lasting impact on our communities. Thank you for your commitment to the well-being of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and for the time you and your families sacrifice in service to this region.

As a parent of two students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, I urge you to fully fund KPBSD to the maximum level permitted by law. A strong, well-funded school district is critical not only to the success of our students but to the long-term stability of our communities. Competitive salaries and reliable funding are essential to attracting and retaining high-quality educators—both from outside the borough and from within, encouraging students who grow up here to return and invest in the future of our schools. Furthermore, sufficient funding ensures manageable class sizes, access to essential educational tools, and a safe, effective learning environment.

I understand that the borough must balance multiple financial obligations, and that school funding represents a significant portion of the budget. However, it is essential to recognize that our school district's continued success is foundational to the prosperity of our borough. Local control of education was a primary reason for the establishment of the Kenai Peninsula Borough in 1964, and we must honor that commitment by ensuring our schools receive the resources necessary to sustain the high standards our students and educators deserve.

Despite external pressures and challenges, KPBSD has consistently produced well-educated graduates who contribute meaningfully to our communities and industries. It is unfair and inaccurate to generalize Alaska's public education system as failing when our local schools continue to demonstrate excellence. Ensuring stability in funding is not only a matter of educational quality but also of economic and community development.

I urge you to fund KPBSD to the cap and to explore additional revenue sources that will sustain our schools for years to come. The future of our borough depends on a strong, well-supported education system, and I trust you will prioritize this investment in our children and our community.

Thank you for your time, service, and leadership.

Sincerely,
Sarah Richardson, MA
Borough Resident
Homer, Alaska

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 8:51 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Jessica Bamford

Your Email: fredricksonjessi@hotmail.com

Subject: Fully fund public education

Message:

I am a parent of students at Seward High School, and I implore you to fully fund public schools to the cap! Watching opportunities for our students be whittled away year after year is so disheartening. We need to invest in our future by fully funding our students to reach their potential.

From: Henri Balland <henriballand7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 2:49 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund our schools to the cap

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.

Please fund education to the cap. Thank you for requesting that the Legislators increase education funding.

From: Debbie Cary <debbiecary11@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 10:23 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk; Johnson, Brent; Brent, Johnson; Cooper, Kelly; Cox, Tyson
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Funding education to the maximum allowable

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 Assembly Members,

Year after year we fight for the same thing and that is funding the school district to the highest level possible.

Year after year I have and will continue to advocate for full funding for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Once again I am asking you to fund the maximum allowable to the district.

The district is looking at a 17 million dollar shortfall this year and that is with full funding from the borough.

We are already in April and again the legislative bodies have not funded education, in fact the Governor has come out against HB 69 which is currently moving through the Senate. I am afraid the district will end up with one time funding again. Last year the state budget wasn't even approved until June 28th with the new fiscal year beginning on July 1st that sure didn't help with retaining staff.

Year after year the district loses qualified teachers because of the uncertainty in funding in the district and state. It is time to step up and fund education for the future of our students and our state.

It is very frustrating to have to go through the same process year after year.

I realize with the economical downturn we are currently facing that there must be some community support for schools to survive and I believe most communities are willing to step up and find different avenues to

support some of the programs the school district currently fund, such as pools and sports but we need support from the assembly and the Mayor to accomplish these goals.

Funding to the "CAP" is the first step in that direction. Again I urge you all to fund education to the maximum allowable our students, teachers, staff and communities deserve the best we can offer.

Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully,

Debbie V. Cary

907 398 8308

PS I tried to submit this using the portal link and I could not.

--

Have a wonderful day,

Debbie V. Cary

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. Benjamin Franklin

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 11:34 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Daniel Linkhart

Your Email: danlinkhart@gmail.com

Subject: Don't make families move out of Alaska!

Message:

I support full funding schools to the cap. We have lived in Seward for 15 years and for the first time have to consider moving out of state to get a reasonable public education. I understand they may be removing, among other things, gifted and talented program teachers and assistants. Our child has greatly benefited from these programs and we would be heartbroken if they went away. Thank you!

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 11:49 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Cinda Nofziger

Your Email: cindanofziger@gmail.com

Subject: Funding to the cap!

Message:

Hi! I am a Homer resident and I just wanted to encourage you to fund KPBSD to the cap. It's what all our kids deserve.
Thank you for all that you do!

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Sunday, April 6, 2025 5:32 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Rhonda Bohart

Your Email: rhonda.bohart@yahoo.com

Subject: Fund the cap FULLY

Message:

Education is vital to our communities. We need to fund education to the max. Without great schools families will leave Alaska and we will not have communities. We will not have a work force. We will not have a future. Support families, support communities, support the future of Alaska!

From: Lisa Nordstrom <lnordstrom@kpbsd.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 3:41 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fund Education

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.

To create a world of learners we need to support the education of our students. Educators do much more than teach—please reach with all your might and fund education the way it should be---

We are not here for the money—we are here for the students ---we are here to help our world be a brighter place.

Please Support us~

Lisa Nordstrom

K-6 Special Education Resource Teacher

Fireweed Academy K-2 and 3-6

907-226-1260

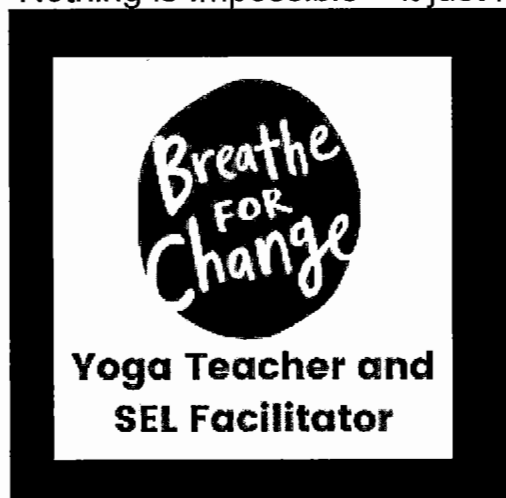
LFW

BFW ext 1263

Lisa.nordstrom@g.kpbsd.org

lnordstrom@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

Nothing is Impossible ~ it just means – “I’m possible”



~Confidentiality Notice~

This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee or it appears from the context that you have received this e-mail in error, please advise me immediately by reply-mail, keep the contents confidential, and immediately delete the message and any attachments from your system. Please do not forward this email without permission from the sender.

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 11:52 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Jan Bukac

Your Email: jbukac@gmail.com

Subject: Funding

Message:

Hi ,
My name is Jan Bukac. My family and I live in Seward, Alaska. I have two children attending the elementary and middle school here. We need you to fund our schools fully to the cap. It is past time that you stepped up and did your jobs as stewards to our public education system. Please start doing better, give our kids the funding that they need.

From: Mik Jedlicka <mikjedlicka@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2025 7:20 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Public comment

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.

Hello, I tried to send this public comment to all assembly members, but I couldn't get past the robot. Can you please send my comment?

Hello, I am a parent in Seward and I support funding schools to the cap. I have been volunteering in my son's first grade classroom this year and I see how difficult it is to be a teacher. I also see how hard these teachers and staff are working to give these children the best education they can. Please support them with the funding they need to do this most important job of educating our future leaders. Thank you

Michelle Dalpes
Mikjedlicka@gmail.com

From: Jasmine Maurer <jazmaurer@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Turner, Michele
Cc: Mayor Peter Micciche
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Support our schools to the cap

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 Major Micciche and KPB Assembly,

It is extremely distressing to me that our schools are facing such a level of budget deficit. We have two children enrolled at McNeil Canyon, one at Homer High School and one receiving early intervention speech therapy at Paul Banks. These schools provide education to our children, social activities and development opportunities, and a chance to make a better future. Closing schools, and/or not funding schools to meet the needs of students will impact my family, my neighbors, my community and our state for years to come. Every child deserves the right to a safe school that provides equal opportunity to quality education and extracurricular activities. Every student should have education tools to meet special needs or learning challenges.

I want this for my family, for the families in my community, for the families across our district and for all Alaskan families now and in the future.

I urge you to make the decision to fully fund our schools to the cap in our borough and to support increasing the student base rate and inflation proof the base rate for students this year and every year.

Thank you for standing in support of Kenai Peninsula families and the schools we rely on to provide our children with the best start to life with quality education, teachers and facilities.

Jasmine Maurer

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Thank you for standing in support of Kenai Peninsula families and the schools we rely on to provide our children with the best start to life with quality education, teachers and facilities.

Jasmine Maurer

From: Shannon McBride-Morin <shannon@alaskawildernesslodge.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 7:28 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk; Dunne, William; Mayor's Department; Cooper, Kelly
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Support Public Education Funding - Please Fund to the CAP

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.

Hello Mayor and Borough Assembly Members:

I am again reaching out to ask for your support of Public School Funding and to please Fund to the Cap.

Our Public Schools need all of our support, and I hope you will do all in your power to not only push all at the Borough level to fund to the Cap, but to advocate to the Legislature and the Governor to fully fund public schools, to forward fund and to advance bills and legislation that supports our local public schools. Thank you!

Shannon McBride-Morin
Homer

--
Shannon McBride-Morin
Co-Owner & Operator

Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge
China Poot Bay & Homer, Alaska

www.AlaskaWildernessLodge.com



Please read our [reviews](#) on



From: Tara Craytor <taracray@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:51 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Fund Public Education

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.

Good evening Borough Assembly Members,

Please fund education to the cap. I was left devastated after this evening's school board meeting. Listening to children begging for their education is heart wrenching. Children from Kenai Alt. talking about loosing the only place that has ever felt like home, the only place they've felt worthy and capable. Quest students speaking about loosing the only environment they've been able to learn in. Teaching our students public advocacy is one thing, but requiring children to beg adults to meet their basic needs is barbaric.

With the current budget proposal our schools are being gutted in Seward. One huge loss for our family will be the shuttering of the Quest program.

This decision will be particularly devastating to my third son. He was identified as needing "more" in kindergarten. His teachers approached his father and I about moving him into the first grade, but we decided to keep him with his peers because it seemed his needs would be able to be met through enrichment and Quest.

He has gone to enrichment with the Quest teacher for reading and math since kindergarten and has been officially in the Quest program since third grade. He is now in 4th grade and in accelerated 5th grade math - we have purposely asked that he be kept at only one grade ahead and enriched instead of accelerated in the curriculum further. This math class and his Quest class are the two times in his day when he can stretch and grow as a student during his school day. We're now learning that this will not be an option going forward.

I am so concerned for my son's mental health and well being. I am unconvinced that Seward Elementary will be able to meet his educational needs, and our family is being forced to look at moving out of state due to our public schools' continued inability to provide for our 4 children.

Please, please fund our public schools.

Thank you,

Tara Craytor
907.362.1555
PO BOX 803
Seward, Alaska 99664

From: Arlene Ronda <jaronda51@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 1:48 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Public Education Funding

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.

To Assembly Members:
attention Sarah Vance

I urge you to support our public education by Funding It To The Cap.

Arlene Ronda
Homer

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 10:37 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Sandra Garity

Your Email: aksandy612@gmail.com

Subject: school funding

Message:

I am asking you to fund to the cap on the School Board District budget. This is a critical time for the schools in the Borough.
Thank you

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 10:41 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Devry Garity

Your Email: coyotemt@msn.com

Subject: funding to the cap

Message:

Assembly members, I am asking you to support the school system and fund to the cap of the school districts' financial budget. They need this support.

Thank you

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 11:19 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Dori Hollingsworth

Your Email: doriollingsworth56@gmail.com

Subject: Seward Pool

Message:

I am concerned that you may even consider the closing of our pool in Seward. It is the only pool within 100 miles of Seward and we live on the coast. Our children need to learn how to swim to remain safe around the water. What's more Seward has little recreation to offer our young folks and help them to stay out of trouble, but we do have a pool. It is well used and the Tsunami Swim Club is full of youngsters that swim daily. It is my understanding that the pool is able to support itself and should not even be considered as a cut. Help keep our community safe.

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:17 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Jacob Bridges

Your Email: bridgesjak@yahoo.com

Subject: Seward High School Pool

Message:

Hearing about the possible cuts resulting in the closure of the Seward High School pool is very disheartening. This pool is essential to our community for and outlet for exercise, rehabilitation and most importantly swim lessons for youth. Please keep our pool open to our community.

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:43 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Anna Madosik

Your Email: Madosik24479@ideafamilies.org

Subject: Pool funds

Message:

I am writing regarding possible pool closures. We are a family of 6 with 4 kids ages 10,8,6 and 3. We use the pool several times a week and it's a vital piece of our families health and well being. Two of our 4 kids are on the swim team and greatly benefit from this activity. We use it as part of their ILP for school. The other two kiddos take swim lessons and we are regular attendees to the weekly homeschool swim time. Our family would be devastated if the pool closed. We live in Seward year round and the use of the pool is extremely important to our mental and physical health. Please keep it open!

-Anna Madosik

From: Hunter Hollingsworth <hunterjhollingsworth@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 3:29 PM
To: boardofeducation@kpbsd.k12.ak.us; senator.jesse.bjorkman@akleg.gov; senator.lyman.hoffman@skleg.gov; senator.gary.stevens@akleg.gov; representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov; representative.bill.elam@akleg.gov; representative.justin.ruffridge@akleg.gov; representative.louise.stutes@akleg.gov; representative.sarah.vance@akleg.gov; G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Seward High School Pool

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.

To whom it may concern

There are many ways to write this letter, and I've thought about them all, but I think the best way to not only get my point across, but our community as a whole, is to tell you a little bit about myself first.

Hello. You may know me, you also may not. After you read my letter, you'll not only know me, but what it's like to live in Seward and be a part of one of the greatest communities in the entire world. My name is Hunter Hollingsworth, and I was born and raised in Seward. I am one of four generations that have called Seward home. My family has lived there since my great grandparents moved up in the 1970's. I went to elementary, middle, and high school, attended preschool in Seward, and went to TYC (teen youth center) in the summer. All this to say if you're looking for someone who would wear Seward across their face, look no further.

As someone who grew up in the pool, it's a big part of who I am. I take pride in the fact that I know how to swim, was on the club swim team, and the high school swim team. I've made lifelong friends through swimming, and had some of the best times of my life in, near, or involving that pool. And not just me, you can ask countless people who have grown up in Seward as well.

For way too long the SHS pool has been on the chopping block. It's super easy to look at raw numbers and say it may not be doing as good as a pool in anchorage, but Seward is more than numbers. We are a community. If I were to go to an anchorage pool every monday for 3 months straight, they would probably know my first name. If you go to the Seward pool every monday for 3 months, you will have a group of people that you can call friends. People that you can count on, and that if you see outside of the pool, will walk up and ask you how you're doing.

Not only is the pool a place to meet people and enjoy their presence, it's also a life skill that I feel is essential to living in Seward. When you're as close to the ocean as we are, being able to swim is something that could possibly save your life. As someone who has experienced the entire Seward school system, I can't count the amount of times we've gone on a field trip, or a group of us got together, or someone had a birthday party that involved either a beach, lake, or river/stream. If everyone in the group except for one person knows how to swim, that person is gonna feel left out, or pressured to do something they do not know how to do. Without the proper cpr training, that could end very badly, and could have easily been avoided if said person had access to swim lessons, or even just going to the pool a couple times with friends or family.

Over the past 25 years, there have been many successful people to come out of Seward, but nothing compares to the attention one specific person from Seward got in 2021. Lydia Jacoby is an olympic gold medalist, and as someone who has worked in the tourist industry in Seward for 8+ years, I still have people who ask if I know the famous swimmer. I always answer with the same thing. She's one of my best friends. I've watched Lydia grow as not only a swimmer, but a person in that pool. We were training buddies in high school, and I'm arguably her biggest fan. There is no olympic gold

medalist from Seward Alaska without that pool, there is no parade without that pool, there is no role model for countless young boys and girls in our community without that pool. If you go to a swim club practice and ask a girl between the ages of 5-10 who they want to swim like, the answer will be Lydia Jacoby. If you take away our pool, you're taking away their hopes and dreams of being just like her. If the pool were to close, I would want each person who made the decision to go and explain to them why a couple of dollars mattered more than their dreams. Also explain it to the parents, grandparents, friends, and extended families of said children.

In a world that is becoming more and more online, I don't think it's a bad idea to have an escape to that. Sure there's tons of stuff to do in Seward. You could go hike Tonsina, go hike the bowl, Maybe just walk around town and see the scenery. There is however one thing that all of those have in common. They're all outside. If you've been to Seward you'd know it rains a lot. It's a temperate rainforest. When it's raining there is nothing to do in that town, (trust me) except the pool. I don't know if whoever is reading this has kids, but if you do, and they have lots of energy like myself, a rainy day is fun the first 4 hours, but then you get the itch to go do something. The pool is an outlet for many people. A place to let loose and have fun with loved ones.

I've talked a lot about what this pool means to our community, but now it's time to talk about what it means to me personally. Growing up it was just me and my mom. My "father" was never in the picture, and my half brother got taken away when I was around 6. I have the absolute best mom in the entire world, and if you are thinking about taking away the pool, you probably know her, and if not, you should. Nita Hollingsworth has many titles including but not limited to: swim teacher, lifeguard, boss, cheerleader, chauffeur, daughter, friend, but most importantly, she's my mom. She currently works two jobs in the winter, and three in the summer. Without a doubt she is the hardest working person I know, averaging 70-80 hour work weeks in the summer, all to have enough money to go on a couple week long vacation every 3-4 years. She previously worked at a title company, but chose to walk away from 20+ years of experience there, to save this pool, and she's done a darn good job. After all she has gone through, your best plan of action is to take away a job she loves and is extremely good at. It's not just her that's working there either. Linnea, her sister and my aunt, is also a lifeguard who just purchased some land and is relying on this job to help her start her life again. Christy Phillips, Tara Craytor, and Emily Sawyer are all wives, and moms. So when you're thinking about this pool, don't just think about the pool. Think about the high school, the community, and think about these 5 women that work to help provide for their families. You're not just taking away a pool, you're taking away a part of our town.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my message today, and I hope you really listen and understand that the pool is so much more than a body of water enclosed by concrete.

Sincerely, Hunter.

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 11:39 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Basil dougherty

Your Email: Basil99664@gmail.com

Subject: Seward pool stay open

Message:

We need our pool! keep the pool open for our children and community!

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 11:35 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Alexandria Serventi

Your Email: ajbergholtz@alaska.edu

Subject: Funding for KPBSD

Message:

Good Morning,
I am from Soldotna High School and I support funding the school budget to the cap.
Thank you,
Alex Serventi

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 9:07 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Jan Spurkland

Your Email: janspurk@hotmail.com

Subject: Funding School to the cap

Message:

Thank you for your service to the Kenai Peninsula. I would like to encourage all of you to advocate for funding schools to the cap for the coming school year.

The Kenai Peninsula has some of the best schools in the state, With state funding uncertain, it is beholden upon us to fund the schools as much as we are able locally. Our high achieving school will only remain that way if we are willing to fund them through every possible source.

Thank you

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 9:24 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Tamra Wear

Your Email: tamra.wear@hotmail.com

Subject: funding schools to the cap

Message:

Dear Mayor Micciche and Assembly Members,

My son is a 3rd grade student at Soldotna Elementary. Those children deserve your support. The school district needs to be funded to the cap. We need to do right by these students.

Thank you for your time,
Tamra

April 15, 2025

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ceirra Goetz. I reside in Seward Alaska with my husband and our three children.

I am writing to show support for the "public" pool located at Seward High School. It is imperative that funding NOT be cut for this- closing the pool in a small community where there isn't much too would be devastating to this community.

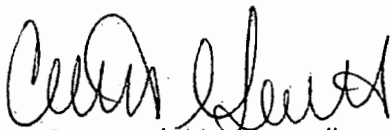
Seward, if you are unfamiliar, is a small town made up for hardworking people who are just trying to get by in life. Live a good life, be good people, find healthy activities for themselves and their families.

In all honesty, there is very little to do in this community if you aren't an avid outdoorsmen. A lot of us depend on the pool for exercise, physical therapy and entertainment. Taking away one of the only things we have would further drive good honest locals out of the community, in my opinion.

With less and less to do in the community every year- where does it end? Do we become strictly a tourist town with nothing to offer the locals? I URGE you to PLEASE PLEASE keep funding (adding to it would be nice also, but one step at a time right?) for the pool located at Seward High School.

The community depends on it. Please don't cut funding and close our pool.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ceirra Goetz', written in black ink.

Ceirra Goetz- Concerned citizen in small town Seward AK

From: Kirk & Jenn DesErmia <kirkandjenn_des@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 5:47 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fully fund education!

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 Assembly Members,

Thank you for coming to Seward for your meetings today. I am under the weather, so I'm not able to attend in person, but I wanted to reiterate my desires, as one of your constituents.

I am the parent of two students of Seward High School, former PTA President, Site Based Council Member, Athletic Booster Club Board Member, Substitute Teacher, Instructional Tutor, and very involved community member. It is from this informed perspective that I alert you how dire our educational system is in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. I have watched the relentless chipping away and decay of our schools for over a decade now. What remains is a shadow of what it formally was and, if the borough does not fund education to the cap, it will be utterly dysfunctional.

In our Seward schools, what we are talking about is losing 4 non-tenured teachers at the High School, 2 at the Middle School, and 1-2 at the Elementary School. (How do you have a high school if you don't have a science teacher?!?) In addition to larger class sizes, there will be fewer class offerings. The school district is looking at severely reducing the Distance Education and Middle College programs, which help rural and small school students take classes that are not offered in their brick and mortar schools.

If this happens, we are stunting our students' futures before they even start. Our schools won't be able to offer everything a student needs in order to graduate. If they can cover those bare minimums and not much else, then the students certainly will not be competitive on a national level when they go to apply for colleges or continuing education opportunities.

One of the main goals of borough government is to fund an accessible and equitable education system for ALL OF OUR CHILDREN, no matter where they get their start in life. This is our path forward as a society. After all, we want well-educated people taking care of us when we are elders, don't we?

Using children as chess pieces in an annual funding game with the state government is a disservice to them. Please fully refund education to the cap, so that schools can start to make plans for next academic year. The time is now! Our students need you to prioritize this!

Thank you for your time,
Jennifer DesErmia

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 11:09 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Erin Bellotte

Your Email: erin.bellotte@gmail.com

Subject: Full Funding for KPBSD - Quest

Message:

My name is Erin Bellotte, and I thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective as you make important decisions about the borough's budget. Prior to moving to Nikiski in 2021, I held leadership roles in oil and gas manufacturing, where I was responsible for navigating budget reductions while maintaining essential operations. I understand the challenge of balancing fiscal responsibility with the long-term needs of a community—but some investments are too important to cut.

I'm writing today to respectfully urge you to provide the maximum funding amount allowable to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Specifically, I'm advocating for the protection and full funding of the Quest Program, which serves gifted and talented students across our district. These are children who demonstrate exceptional academic abilities and require advanced, specialized instruction beyond what is typically offered in a general classroom. For them, Quest is not just enrichment—it is essential.

My third-grade daughter is one of those students - she has participated in small group learning with Mr. Bailey since second grade. This year, after following the KPBSD testing process, she qualified for the full Quest program. Her winter MAPS scores ranked in the 98th, 99th, 94th percentiles in Math, Reading and Language Usage, respectively – an improvement from her fall MAPS scores of 89th, 98th, and 94th percentiles in those subjects.

More significantly, her growth scores from fall to winter were in the 99th percentile in Math, 85th for Reading and 61st for Language Usage. Imagine already ranking among the top students nationwide in the fall, then making some of the highest gains in the nation by winter. This clearly demonstrates the profound impact of enrichment she receives through Quest.

Quest provides advanced learning, peer collaboration and academic challenge that a general classroom simply cannot replicate. These sessions are the highlight of my daughter's school days due to their rigor and time with like-minded peers. Reducing Quest would be devastating, not just for her, but for the many students who rely on this enrichment to reach their FULL potential.

Investing in Quest is an investment for our students and future leaders. Cutting this budget line will save money in the short term, but it will cost our children invaluable opportunities for growth, engagement and excellence. Please ensure that KPBSD is allocated the full funding amount possible so there is an opportunity for the Quest Program to remain fully funded with dedicated teachers.

Sincerely,
Erin Bellotte, M.B.A.

Senior Consultant, Professional Growth Systems
NPRSA - Board Member
NHA - Board Member

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 12:20 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Dominick Bellotte

Your Email: dominick.bellotte@gmail.com

Subject: Fully Fund KPBSD

Message:

Dear Members of the Borough Assembly,

My name is Dominick Bellotte. I'm a licensed Professional Engineer and, more importantly, a father of two young daughters—one in kindergarten and one in third grade at Nikiski North Star Elementary. I know firsthand the challenges of navigating complex budgets. In my work in engineering and the oil and gas industry, I've had to make tough decisions that balance immediate costs with long-term strategic goals. And if there's one thing I've learned, it's that certain investments are just too critical to cut. One of those is the Quest program—and specifically, the dedicated full-time teachers who make it possible.

Quest is not an optional enrichment activity—it's a vital educational service for gifted and talented students across the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. These are students who show exceptional academic abilities and require more advanced instruction and deeper challenges than a general classroom can provide. For students like my third grader, Quest isn't just a place to learn—it's where she thrives.

She's been working with Mr. Bailey in Quest's small-group setting since second grade. This year, after completing the district's qualification process, she officially joined the full program. Her academic results have been exceptional:

- Winter MAPS scores: 98th percentile in Math, 99th in Reading, and 94th in Language Usage.
- Growth scores from Fall to Winter: 99th percentile in Math, 85th in Reading, and 61st in Language.

She was already performing at the top nationally—and still made some of the highest gains in the country. That level of growth doesn't happen without intentional, high-quality support. It happens because Quest is giving her the challenge, structure, and peer engagement she needs to stay inspired and reach her potential.

As an engineer, I can't overstate how important it is to nurture these young minds—especially in STEM. The advanced math problems, critical thinking activities, and peer collaboration she experiences in Quest aren't just preparing her for school—they're laying the foundation for a future in innovation, technology, and leadership. The talent pipeline for fields like mine starts here.

If full-time Quest teachers are lost due to underfunding, we're not just failing individual students—we're weakening our region's future workforce and economic potential.

I respectfully ask you to fully fund the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District at the maximum level allowable. Let's give these kids—not just the ones who are struggling, but the ones who are ready to soar—the opportunities they need to grow, lead, and contribute meaningfully to our community.

Thank you for your time, your service, and for prioritizing the future of our students.

Sincerely,

Dominick Bellotte, P.E. Mechanical Engineer

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 9:21 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Robanne Stading

Your Email: icycoldriver123@gmail.com

Subject: Please Fund KPBSD to the Cap

Message:

Hello Assembly, thank you for serving. Please fund the school district "to the Cap". Juneau is not looking to provide the support Peninsula students, families, and communities deserve. The Feds too are not looking too supportive.

Please take care of us, your neighbors and community members, by funding KPBSD to the Cap.

Thank you.

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 9:45 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Heather Rothenberger

Your Email: heatherrothenberger@gmail.com

Subject: School funding

Message:

Please fund the Kenai Peninsula School District to the cap!

Heather and Andy Rothenberger
54690 Rolling Meadows
Homer, AK 99603

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2025 10:42 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: nicholas plant

Your Email: nicholas.plant@g.kpbsd.org

Subject: my favorite teacher

Message:

i heard the funding got cut and you guys are going to fire some teachers who haven't been here for long enough one of the teachers that has a chance is my favorite teacher named Mr. lastinger. He is my favorite teacher and almost everyone's because of how nice he is, he knows how to handle a class while still getting work done and helping all of the students and no matter what he always puts peoples feelings first please consider this message

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2025 11:33 AM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Logan A. Fidai

Your Email: logan.fidai@g.kpbsd.org

Subject: KPBSD Budget cut

Message:

I heard the budget for the schools are getting cut, and that some of the teachers may be getting fired. And i also heard teachers like Mr. George Lastinger may be getting fired. Mr L is my favorite teacher, and he knows how to maintain a classroom, he puts feelings and learning above grades.