

eComment
Resolution 2025-014

Erica Fitzpatrick

Location:

Submitted At: 3:00pm 02-25-25

Hello, my name is Erica Fitzpatrick and I am the parent of 3 KPBSD students (2 current, 1 graduate). I am writing in support of KPB Resolution 2025-014. If our schools are forced to cut programs, cut staff, and/or close buildings, our children's education will suffer. Our schools need stable multi-year funding they can count on. We're going to lose talented teachers and fail to attract new ones if we continue to underfund our schools. I'm especially concerned for all those children whose parents are unable-- for whatever reason-- to "fill the gaps" if schools must cut programs. Some parents have the resources (not just money, but also time, energy, skills, etc.) to provide their kids with enriching activities if they're not getting them at school. But there are many reasons some parents are unable to do so. Some examples are substance abuse, mental illness, medical issues, stressful life events (divorce, new baby, new job), work schedule, and lack of family support. When I hear people imply that our schools are failing and homeschool is a good solution, I think of all those families for whom homeschooling is a very poor option. Public education is supposed to offer equal opportunities to all children. Furthermore, when I hear that our schools are "failing" or broken, I think about how that has not been my experience at all. My husband and I greatly value the education we received in Alaska (Homer and Anchor Point), and the education our 3 children have received/ are receiving here. Our oldest child is a sophomore in college now and she was very well prepared for college, thanks to our local schools. Something I learned in one of my education classes in college (back during the No Child Left Behind era) is that standardized test scores are not always a reliable measure of how well a school or a teacher is performing. There's a relationship between student family income levels and student test scores. Students from more advantaged backgrounds tend to have higher test scores than their counterparts from less advantaged backgrounds. When I hear that Alaskan students are underperforming on standardized tests, I do not assume it's because our education system is failing. I assume it could be related to social factors, such as family income level. Instead of simply saying we don't want to fund a "broken system," I think we need to get curious about what's going on with Alaska's low test scores. Could it be that chronically underfunding our schools has hurt student performance? We have local educational experts-- school administrators, teachers, school board members. What are their observations and recommendations? Do they report a disparity (in test scores) between local Title 1 schools and local non-Title 1 schools? If so, maybe we need to be putting more funding into those schools, not less. I understand that our state is facing a budget deficit and that it won't be easy to find the revenue sources to support HB 69 or other increased education spending. But I believe investing in our young people is worth it.

Stephanie Macias

Location:

Submitted At: 12:37pm 02-25-25

Hello, my name is Stephanie Macias, and I am a parent of 3 kids in the KPB school district. I am writing to support the KPB Resolution. My children have been in large class sizes and they struggled. They had amazing teachers but with so many students it's hard to get the support that is needed. We need

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additional support and resources for the students in our community so they can thrive. Please support KPB resolution 2025-014. Thank you for your time.

Marshall Hyatt

Location:

Submitted At: 11:53am 02-24-25

Hello, my name is Marshall Hyatt, and I am a parent of two kids in the KPB school district. I am writing in support of KPB Resolution 2025-14. It is important that we support an increase to the BSA so our schools are able to continue to provide our kids with classes that teach important work and life skills, such as welding, so our kids are ready to enter the workforce. The potential school closures/consolidations, combined with proposed cuts to teacher positions likely means that classes like these will go away.

Rebecca Walker

Location:

Submitted At: 11:25am 02-24-25

Hello, My name is Rebecca Walker and I am a KPBSD Educator and parent of two children in the district. I urge you to support KPB RESOLUTION 2025-014. Our community needs to be able to provide a high-quality education to all students, which can only be done by attracting and retaining the best educators possible. As a parent, I almost pulled my own children from KPBSD schools earlier this year, when their 3rd and 5th grade classes had over 30 students each. Luckily, their school was able to hire an additional teacher, and shift students so class sizes were more manageable. As an educator that had 31-34 students in her elementary classroom at any given time last year, I can tell you that my students did not get what they needed. Not for lack of effort, but because there simply is not enough time for one person to meet the diverse educational needs of that many students in all subject areas. An increase to the BSA is necessary to maintain (and hopefully reduce) current class sizes, as well as provide quality educators with salaries and benefits that meet their needs. I can tell you from personal experience that even with the "raises" educators have received in the last few years, paychecks are shrinking due to high healthcare costs. That should never happen to any employee. Please support KPB RESOLUTION 2025-014. Thank you for your time and consideration.