

# Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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## MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Tyson Cox, Assembly Vice President (TC) for: TC  
Bill Elam, Assembly Member (BE) for: BE

**DATE:** March 10, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Resolution 2023-027, Requesting That the State of Alaska Make a Meaningful Increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Public Schools (Cox, Elam)

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The State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to establish and maintain a system of public schools. As per AS 29.35.160, the KPB is required to constitute a borough school district and establish, maintain, and operate a system of public schools on an areawide basis.

Currently the base student allocation (BSA), provided by the State, is \$5,960. At current funding levels the State will only provide 59.5% of FY24 KPBSD education funding. Local government contributions will make up a majority of the balance.

Education is the single largest budgetary item for the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The BSA amount per student has slowly degraded due to an upward inflationary trend in the cost of student education requiring the Kenai Peninsula Borough to continually increase local contributions to keep pace with rising costs resulting in decreased spending on other essential programs.

The KPBSD is facing a \$13.1 million budget deficit for FY24 requiring an increase to class size and the elimination of programs important to our students and community members.

The State has not made a meaningful BSA increase since FY17. Alaska State Senate members have proposed Senate Bill 52 which would increase the base student allocation by \$1000 and Alaska State House members have proposed House Bill 65 which would increase the base student allocation per student by \$1,250. In fact, on February 28, 2023, while discussing the BSA, the Legislative Finance Division Director stated to the House Finance Committee that "today, the

base student allocation is the lowest it's been in the last 20 years — adjusted for inflation".

This resolution has come to the assembly as a laydown because this is a topic currently being discussed in our Alaska State Legislature, and is one we believe the Assembly should give opinion on.

Your consideration is appreciated.