

CITY OF KACHEMAK  
KACHEMAK, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 2023-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KACHEMAK, ALASKA, REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA MAKE A MEANINGFUL INCREASE TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, The City of Kachemak is within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, which is required by AS.29.35.160 to constitute a borough wide school district and establish, maintain, and operate a system of public schools on an areawide basis; and

WHEREAS, Paul Banks, West Homer and McNeil Canyon Elementary, Homer Middle and Homer High Schools are Kenai Peninsula Borough School District schools attended by students who live within Kachemak city limits; and

WHEREAS, Maintaining high quality public schools is important to the quality of life of Kachemak residents; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.17.470 currently states that the base student allocation provided by the State is \$5,960; and

WHEREAS, At current funding levels the State's base student allocation will only provide 59.5% of fiscal year 2024 Kenai Peninsula Borough School District education funding and local government contributions will make up the majority of the balance; and

WHEREAS, Education is the single largest budgetary item for the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, The base student allocation amount per student has slowing degraded due to an upward inflation trend in the cost of student education; and

WHEREAS, Requiring the Kenai Peninsula Borough to continually increase local contributions to keep pace with rising costs resulting in decreased spending on other essential programs, and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is facing a \$13.1 million budget deficit for fiscal year 2024, requiring an increase in class size and the elimination of programs important to students and community members; and

WHEREAS, Alaska legislators are considering bills in the House and Senate to raise the base student allocation; and

WHEREAS, On February 28, 2023, 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; and

WHEREAS, The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly adopted Resolution 2023-07 on March 14, 2023, requesting the State of Alaska make a meaningful increase to the base student allocation for public schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the City Council of Kachemak, Alaska, requests a meaningful increase to the base student allocation of Alaskan students to bridge the fiscal gap created by a lack of inflationary increases to the base student allocation over the last several years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to Governor Dunleavy, the Kenai Peninsula legislative delegation, the President of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, the Education Committees of the Alaska House and Alaska Senate, and other interested parties.

PASSED and ADOPTED by a quorum of the City of Kachemak Council on this 11 day of April, 2023.

CITY OF KACHEMAK



Connie Isenhour, Mayor

ATTEST:



Debbie Speakman, City Clerk