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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 3:44 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Julie Laker

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

**Subject:** Education

**Message:**

Please fully fund KPBSD schools! As a parent and staff person in Kenai, I can see the value of encouraging a student to like school, to know they are important, and to enable their success as a learner and a citizen. Continually reducing school funds, by not keeping up with inflation, hurts the kids. I work with many students who grapple with financial hardship, homelessness, unstable families, and learning disabilities. If class sizes have to increase, please do not cut aides. We want our future decision makers to be wise, responsible, healthy, and prepared to make tough choices like you are doing today.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Julie Laker

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**Subject:**

FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>funding schools and pools

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**From:** WILLIAM HUBLER <wetwillii@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Friday, June 6, 2025 1:27 PM

**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk <G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>; Baisden, James <jbaisden@kpb.us>; Tunseth, Ryan <rtunseth@kpb.us>; pribbons@kpb.us; Cox, Tyson <tysoncox@kpb.us>; Morton, Leslie <lmorton@kpb.us>; Ecklund, Cindy <CEcklund@kpb.us>; Johnson, Brent <bjohnson@kpb.us>; Dunne, William <wdunne@kpb.us>; Cooper, Kelly <kcooper@kpb.us>

**Cc:** Mayor's Department <MayorDepartmental@kpb.us>

**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>funding schools and pools

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My name is William Hubler, I am a 35 year + school district employee as the pool manager at Kenai Central High School. I wish I could have had the opportunity to talk with you all but I was not able to attend meetings because I'm so involved with the pools and my work schedule overlapped. Reviewing notes and articles from several meetings and testimony from people, it seems as if the educational importance of the pools has been overlooked.

In Kenai swimming is a required component of PE for 9th graders and 6thn grade students at the middle school swim for PE classes too. These classes have been held since the pool was built in 1976. The pool is also used by the middle school and high school Intensive needs classes weekly. Because of my knowledge, training, and certifications I teach most of these classes. We also offer lifeguard classes for students so they can be employable within the district.

I have multiple stories of students learning to swim only because it was a required PE class and it saved their lives.

One example is an 8th grader young man finished his 8th grade year and realized he had to do swimming as a 9th grader. He took lessons with me and completed his 9th grade year of swimming and passed with a good grade. He learned to swim and could complete 500 yards, tread water for 10 minutes, jump off diving boards and understood water safety. Between his 9th and 10th grade year he was halibut fishing and his boat flipped over. He wasn't wearing his life jacket like we covered in class. He was stuck under the boat. He had to go underwater and swim out. He came up 15 feet away from the boat and had to swim back to it. He climbed up on it like we covered in class. He came to my house that summer after the accident to thank me personally for teaching him how to swim. He said "Thank you for teaching me how to swim, if this would have happened last year I would have died. I couldn't put my face in the water or swim."

Since Alaska is one of the top states for deaths from drownings, pools are important. One of the top four reasons for deaths in Alaska for children aged 0-14 is drowning.

Also, there is high school swimming and diving. Swimming is one of the only sports you can do your whole life. In Kenai alone there is a Master swim team and an age group swim team with well over 100 individuals on the teams together. The KCHS pool is the only location that has the helicopter trainer for survival training. We also offer swim lessons, open swim times, and more.

Pools make an income too. The income from the Kenai pool pays for all chemicals, lifeguarding staff, equipment, training, etc.

Too keep any chance of the pools staying open the borough would need to fund the school district to the cap.

I would love the opportunity to have a conversation with the board. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely

William Hubler

907-598-0711

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**Subject:**

FW: &lt;EXTERNAL-SENDER&gt;Request to fund KPBSD to the Cap

**From:** Christiana Smith <[kl5bravotango@gmail.com](mailto:kl5bravotango@gmail.com)>**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2025 12:02 PM**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk <[G\\_Notify\\_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us](mailto:G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us)>**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Request to fund KPBSD to the Cap

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Dear Assembly Members,

I am writing you today as a parent of a 10 year old daughter who will be entering the 5th grade for the 2025-26 school year at Seward Elementary School and a 19 year old son who graduated with the class of 2024 from Connections homeschool program and is now currently serving in the United States Army as a Behavioral Health Specialist stationed in Baumholder, Germany.

My family moved to Seward at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year where my son enrolled at Seward Elementary School as a 1st grader. He remained enrolled in the Seward brick and mortar schools until the 2020-21 school year when he became a Freshman. While my son attended Seward Elementary School there was either a certificated art teacher or a music teacher and a full-time certificated librarian. My daughter began attending Seward Elementary School in the 2019-20 school year in the special education preschool classroom. While she has attended Seward Elementary School they have never had a certificated art teacher or music teacher and have had a part-time classified library aide instead of a full-time certificated librarian. When my son was to begin high school my family decided to enroll him into the Connections homeschool program through the Kenai Peninsula School District. This decision was based on a few factors, one being we were not satisfied with the available class offerings at Seward High School, another being that he was succeeding with online school programming in response to COVID-19, and my family was in a position to be able to homeschool my son. We chose to go through Connections because I am a supporter of public education and wanted to support my local school district and enrolling my son in two classes at Seward High School would support the local brick and mortar school. Unfortunately as he moved through high school it became harder for him to be enrolled in two classes at Seward High School either due to class offerings or no available space in the classes. I remember when my son was going into his Junior year he really wanted to attend Seward High School with his classmates, I showed him the class schedule and asked him what science and math would he take that he had not already taken or would not be below the level he is at. There was nothing, so we continued through graduation with Connections.

I hear the plea for school reform and do not disagree based on my experience with public education in the state of Alaska. However, not maintaining our current public schools at status quo levels in the process is irresponsible. I have heard time and again grandparents and parents give testimony at school board meetings and legislative bill hearings that the schools their grandchildren and children are attending are not providing the same offerings that they had. I have two children who have two completely different elementary school experiences but thankfully due to amazing teachers, a wonderful library aide, and a local Artists in the Schools program my daughter does not know what she necessarily has missed out on that her older brother had. While we waited out the transmittal period for House Bill 57 providing for a \$700 BSA increase, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly delayed a vote on funding the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to the cap twice, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has moved forward with their semi-worst case scenario plan. Non-tenured instructional teachers have not been given contracts for the 2025-26 school year leaving Seward area schools with a skeleton crew with Seward High School possibly being the greatest affected as

their only science, art, and career and technical education teachers were non-tenured. Science and art are high school graduation requirements with three credits each equaling six semesters each. I am unsure how the students of Seward High School will be able to meet graduation requirements with the loss of these instructional teachers, especially with recommended cuts to the distant learning department and cutting the middle college program. This week library aides, theater technicians, as well as pool managers and staff have been given notices of non-retention. This means that none of our Seward area school libraries will be staffed and open, our revitalized theater program will not be staffed, and the pool that Olympic swimmer Lydia Jacoby trained in will not be open. These cuts have made Seward parents start to consider moving from the school district area and likely the state as many school districts are making similar decisions. I know the thought has crossed my mind especially since my family is no longer in a position to homeschool my daughter if and when the need to do so arose, but moving would not be a small feat by any means.

Please vote in favor to fund the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to the cap!

Christiana Smith  
33468 Stoney Creek Ave  
Seward, AK 99664  
907-362-4949

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**Subject:**

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <[webmaster@kpb.us](mailto:webmaster@kpb.us)>**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 3:33 PM**To:** BoroughAssembly <[Borough-Assembly@kpb.us](mailto:Borough-Assembly@kpb.us)>; Mayor's Department <[MayorDepartmental@kpb.us](mailto:MayorDepartmental@kpb.us)>**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk <[G\\_Notify\\_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us](mailto:G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us)>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Your Name:** Jessica Bamford**Your Email:** [fredricksonjessi@hotmail.com](mailto:fredricksonjessi@hotmail.com)**Subject:** Fund education to the cap!**Message:**

Please fund education to the cap! Help KPBSD restore positions like library aides, theater techs, pool managers, art teachers and other pieces that are essential to a vibrant and well-rounded education for our students!

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**Subject:**

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <[webmaster@kpb.us](mailto:webmaster@kpb.us)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 8:29 PM

**To:** BoroughAssembly <[Borough-Assembly@kpb.us](mailto:Borough-Assembly@kpb.us)>; Mayor's Department <[MayorDepartmental@kpb.us](mailto:MayorDepartmental@kpb.us)>

**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk <[G\\_Notify\\_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us](mailto:G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us)>

**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Margaret zerbinos

**Your Email:** [Mzerbinos@gmail.com](mailto:Mzerbinos@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Budget

**Message:**

I support the funding to the cap for education in the 2026 borough budget. I support assembly member Johnson's amendment to increase the borough's contribution to the KPBSD from \$57,634,015 to \$62,359,080 for FY26.

Please fund the pools. It is imperative to have access to swim lessons. We live in an area with so many rivers, lakes and inlet waters. Knowing how to swim and act in water is very important to life here.



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**Subject:** FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please reconsider and restore funding for pool managers across the Borough

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**From:** [sspanos@gci.net](mailto:sspanos@gci.net) <[sspanos@gci.net](mailto:sspanos@gci.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 4:27 PM

**To:** [boardofeducation@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:boardofeducation@kpbsd.k12.ak.us); [NSipes@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:NSipes@kpbsd.k12.ak.us); [KDendurent@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:KDendurent@kpbsd.k12.ak.us); Mayor Peter Micciche <[pmicciche@kpb.us](mailto:pmicciche@kpb.us)>; Turner, Michele <[MicheleTurner@kpb.us](mailto:MicheleTurner@kpb.us)>

**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Please reconsider and restore funding for pool managers across the Borough

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To Whom It May Concern,

When Peter Micciche and the Borough Assembly visited Seward a couple of months ago, Micciche noted that even after the state budget was finalized, the Borough still had flexibility to make changes. I urge you to use that flexibility to prioritize funding for pool management across the Kenai Peninsula - especially in Seward.

Drowning is a very real and preventable danger in Alaska. With the extensive coastline we have here on the peninsula, it is unacceptable - and tragic - if children and adults don't have access to swim lessons. The Seward Pool is not just a recreational facility; it is a vital community resource for safety, health, and connection.

In the long winter months, the pool is one of the few accessible and affordable recreational outlets available. It supports all ages - from children learning to swim, to seniors staying active. It's also a cornerstone for youth athletics, including club and high school swim teams, and has even helped produce elite athletes like Seward's very own Olympic Gold Medalist, Lydia Jacoby.

Please reconsider and restore funding for pool managers across the Borough. The long-term benefits to health, safety and community well-being are immense.

Sincerely,

Sarah Spanos

Madam Clerk Turner, please share this email with the entire Borough Assembly members, thank you!



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**Subject:**

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <[webmaster@kpb.us](mailto:webmaster@kpb.us)>  
**Date:** June 24, 2025 at 5:43:50 PM AKDT  
**To:** BoroughAssembly <[Borough-Assembly@kpb.us](mailto:Borough-Assembly@kpb.us)>, Mayor's Department  
<[MayorDepartmental@kpb.us](mailto:MayorDepartmental@kpb.us)>  
**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk <[G\\_Notify\\_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us](mailto:G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us)>  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members  
**Reply-To:** [ironmaurer@hotmail.com](mailto:ironmaurer@hotmail.com)

**Your Name:** louis maurer

**Your Email:** [ironmaurer@hotmail.com](mailto:ironmaurer@hotmail.com)

**Subject:** school funding

**Message:**

Members of the Assembly,  
Thank you for funding our schools to the cap for the 2025-2026 school year. I have three children that are primary education age and we are losing basic services. I am grateful to see that there are people with the will to invest in our children and our future.  
Regards,  
Louis Maurer

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**Subject:**

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <[webmaster@kpb.us](mailto:webmaster@kpb.us)>**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2025 4:40 PM**To:** BoroughAssembly <[Borough-Assembly@kpb.us](mailto:Borough-Assembly@kpb.us)>; Mayor's Department <[MayorDepartmental@kpb.us](mailto:MayorDepartmental@kpb.us)>**Cc:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk <[G\\_Notify\\_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us](mailto:G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us)>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Your Name:** Robanne Stading**Your Email:** [icycoldriver123@gmail.com](mailto:icycoldriver123@gmail.com)**Subject:** Thank you for Education Funding**Message:**

Thank you very much for funding "to the cap" for the school district this school year. It means a lot to me, a parent and teacher, that our local government supports public education in a concrete, fiscal manner, especially when the State has yet again underfunded the schools that it is obligated to care for. Thank you for looking out for us, your neighbors.

Sincerely,

Robanne Stading

Homer, AK