

Introduced by: Cox, Elam, Johnson,
Tupper, Ecklund
Date: 03/14/23
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2023-027**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA MAKE A
MEANINGFUL INCREASE TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION (BSA) FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and
- WHEREAS,** as per AS 29.35.160, the Kenai Peninsula Borough is required to constitute a borough school district and establish, maintain, and operate a system of public schools on an areawide basis; 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 will only provide 59.5% of fiscal year 2024 Kenai Peninsula Borough School District education funding and local government contributions will make up a 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 slowly degraded due to an upward inflationary 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 FY24 requiring an increase to class size and the elimination of programs important to our students and community members; and
- WHEREAS,** the State has not made meaningful base student allocation increases since fiscal years 2015 through 2017 totaling an additional amount per student of \$250; and

WHEREAS, Alaska State Senate members have proposed Senate Bill 52 which would increase the base student allocation by \$1,000 and Alaska State House members have proposed House Bill 65 which would increase the base student allocation per student by \$1,250; 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".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Assembly requests a meaningful increase to the base student allocation for Alaskan students in an effort to bridge the fiscal gap created by a lack of inflationary increases to the BSA over the last several years.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Dunleavy and 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, the Finance Committees of the Alaska House and Alaska Senate, and other interested parties.

SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution also be sent to all Kenai Peninsula Borough incorporated cities.

SECTION 4. That this resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 14TH DAY OF MARCH, 2023.


Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Michele Turner, CMC, Acting Borough Clerk



Yes: Chesley, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tupper, Johnson

No: None

Absent: Derkevorkian