

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Tyson Cox, Assembly Vice President
Brent Hibbert, Assembly Member

DATE: January 2, 2024

SUBJECT: Resolution 2024-002, Requesting That the State of Alaska Make a Meaningful and Timely Increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Public Schools (Cox, Hibbert)

Without a BSA increase or one-time funding the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District will again be facing a budget deficit of over \$13 million for FY25. To bridge this gap the KPBSD will most likely need to increase class sizes and eliminate programs and services.

A stagnant base student allocation (BSA) has significantly decreased the buying power of State allocated educational funding over the last 20 plus years. Even if this Assembly decides to fully fund education to the maximum allowable amount, the KPBSD will not be able to present us with a balanced budget without eliminating programs and increasing the number of students in each classroom.

Potential solutions to this Alaska State education funding dilemma will be before our State Legislature and Governor very soon. Solutions will most likely be presented as a BSA increase, one-time funding, or some form of both.

Without stable, inflation-proof education funding in Alaska we will continue to see our Alaska educational system erode. The KPBSD cannot solve an upcoming FY25 funding deficit without major cuts and changes to how our children have been educated.

As you all know, the KPB can only fund to the “cap”. Even with maximum assistance from the Borough, the KPBSD will still fall \$13 million short of being able to continue the current education programs provided to our community unless new State funds are allocated.

This resolution requests that the State Legislature pass a meaningful increase to the BSA in a timely manner while asking Governor Dunleavy to consider what is

brought forward without exercising any vetos that would hinder its success. This kind of significant, financial commitment to education from our Alaska state lawmakers is essential for the KPBSD and all Alaska school districts to thrive.

We have brought this resolution to the assembly as a laydown because this is a time sensitive topic we believe the Assembly should give opinion on.

Your consideration is appreciated.