

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President ^{JB}
Tyson Cox, Assembly Member _{JC}

DATE: August 20, 2020

RE: Resolution 2020-061, In Support of the State's Use of Estimated Student Count Data to Fund K-12 Public Education for Fiscal Year 2021 (Cooper, Cox)

The COVID-19 pandemic has created widespread concerns throughout the United States regarding the pending return to school in the Fall of 2020. School districts are experiencing unprecedented enrollment migration to home school programs. Funding for school districts in Alaska is determined using a formula based largely on student count estimates conducted each October. Without legislative and/or Alaska administrative action this loss of in-person enrollment will cause a significant loss of revenue for school districts throughout the state including the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD).

The KPBSD Administration has met with Commissioner Johnson and his senior finance team to express this concern and offer solutions. One proposed solution was to hold school district funding harmless from the student count to be submitted in November 2020 for FY21 as a temporary measure. Funding would instead be based on the student count data submitted in November 2019.

The state's operating budget for FY21 was signed into law on May 18, 2020. Normally this would be increased or decreased during the school year after receipt of the student count data for the current fiscal year. Given the anticipated substantial drop in attendance this Fall, the district is gravely concerned that without this funding it would be forced to make draconian cuts resulting in laying off of staff, closing pools, theatres, buildings, and other significant spending cuts.

Your support of this resolution would be appreciated.