

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assistant Superintendent

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January 26, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent 

THROUGH: Steve Atwater, Superintendent 

SUBJECT: State of Alaska Funding For School Meals

KPBSD Student Nutrition Administrator, Dean Hamburg, along with the Alaska School Nutrition Association and The Alaska Food Coalition, have been working to gain funding from the State of Alaska for school breakfast and lunch. There are 29 states that currently provide state funding for school meals.

Senator Bill Wielechowski has filed Senate Bill 213 which would provide State funding for school lunch and breakfast. The bill has been read and referred to the Senate Education Committee. According to our estimates, this bill would provide approximately \$189,783 per year for our district.

I am attaching for your review proposed KPBSD Resolution 09-10-2 supporting the state financial appropriation that would occur with the passage of Senate Bill 213.

Administration recommends the passage of KPBSD Resolution 09-10-2.

Attachments

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 09-10-2

SUPPORT FOR STATE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEALS

Pursuant to the filing of Senate Bill No. 213, "An Act providing for funding for school lunch and breakfast", the Board of Education of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District at a meeting held at Soldotna, Alaska on February 1, 2010, proposed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, according to data from the 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 15% of Alaskan children experienced food insecurity, compared with 11% of Alaskan adults, meaning they don't have access at all times to enough food for a healthy active life; this problem is more severe in rural Alaska, where nearly one child in four experienced food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, insufficient nutrition puts children at risk for illness and weakens their immune system. In comparison to food secure children, children from food insecure families are 90% more likely to be in fair or poor health and have 30% higher rates of hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate nutrition affects the cognitive and behavioral development of children. Food insecurity is associated with grade repetition, absenteeism, tardiness, anxiety, aggression, poor mathematics scores, psycho-social dysfunction and difficulty with social interaction among 6 to 12 year old children; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity puts children in development in jeopardy, characterized by challenges with speaking, behavior, and movement; increasing the likelihood of later problems with attention, learning, and social interaction. Young children living in low income and food insecure households are more likely to be developmentally at risk than children from food secure households; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) lunch and breakfast programs exist as the base support for nutrition to children through the school meal programs, most notably the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program; and

WHEREAS, the National School Breakfast Program decreases food insecurity in children by providing five healthy meals a week. In Alaska schools 40% of students qualify for free/reduced school meals, over 45,000 students; of these, 15% do not attend schools that offer a breakfast program – that's approximately 7,000 missed meals each day; and

WHEREAS, 104 out of 406 schools in 46 districts in Alaska did not sponsor/offer the federal School Breakfast Program in the 2008-2009 school year; and

WHEREAS, Alaskan schools primarily do not sponsor National School Breakfast Programs because it is not economically feasible. While USDA funding support per meal for Alaska school breakfasts is 43% greater than support for school breakfasts in the contiguous states, funding levels are still not sufficient for many Alaska school meal sponsors to sustain or enhance nutrition services to students; and

WHEREAS, 29 states do take responsibility for assisting federally supported school meal programs for success in the classroom and relief from food security;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District supports an adequate financial appropriation from the state to strengthen and expand the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program in Alaska, so that school breakfast programs and sustainable lunch may be available to all children at all schools throughout the state, including low income children and children with food insecurity. No child in Alaska should go without breakfast.

Joe Arness, President
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education

ATTEST: _____
Sally Tachick
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires 07/25/2013

SENATE BILL NO. 213

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI

Introduced: 1/8/10

Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act providing for funding for school lunch and breakfast."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1.** AS 14.17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 14.17.425. State funding for school lunch and breakfast.** (a) To
5 supplement the cost of lunch and breakfast provided to each student in the district who
6 is eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch under 42 U.S.C. 1771 - 1784, in addition to
7 public school funding, the department shall provide funding to a school district for
8 lunch and for breakfast to each eligible student. To implement this subsection, the
9 department shall provide a base amount of 35 cents for each lunch or 15 cents for each
10 breakfast, to which amount the department shall add an additional amount, expressed
11 in cents and not applied as a cost factor, that is determined by

12 (1) reducing the applicable district cost factor provided in
13 AS 14.17.460 by 1.0; and

14 (2) dividing the remainder determined under (1) of this subsection by
15 four; the department shall round to the nearest cent a quotient that is not a whole

1 number.

2 (b) Beginning July 1, 2011, the base amount under (a) of this section shall be
3 adjusted annually on October 1 according to changes in the Consumer Price Index for
4 all urban consumers for the Anchorage metropolitan area compiled by the United
5 States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The index for 2009 is the
6 reference base index for an adjustment made under this subsection.