



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Office of Superintendent

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March 2, 2018

Representatives Gara, Drummond, Spohnholz, Kawasaki, Tuck, Josephson, Parish  
State of Alaska House of Representatives  
Juneau, AK

RE: [HB 339: INCREASE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION](#)

Please consider this letter as testimony for HB 339. We have been working through reduction scenarios for our FY19 budget which will be presented to the Board of Education on March 5, 2018. It's been a difficult process; any further cuts will have a significant negative impact to our students and their success. A school board member and a KPBSD student did testify in support of HB 339 during a hearing on February 12, 2018, while they were in Juneau.

The number one priority of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education is: ["Provide sustained, timely, and adequate educational funding for Alaska's students."](#) Our district stands ready to work with the legislature to find the right solutions for solving today's fiscal challenge, recognizing that difficult decisions must be made.

**KPBSD supports an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), and reiterates that continued flat funding is a cut to our education revenue.**

A \$100 BSA increase would provide our district approximately an additional \$1.8 million from the State, and also raise the maximum allowable contribution from the Kenai Peninsula Borough by approximately \$400,000. Without this BSA increase, all of the large school districts are looking to increase their class sizes and reduce staff.

**KPBSD projects a \$3.3-million-dollar deficit in FY19 with flat funding from the Borough and State of Alaska.**

Our budget is built with a revenue assumption of maximum funding from the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and flat funding from the State of Alaska which leaves us with a \$1.3 million deficit. Our administrative team is working diligently to plan scenarios to keep reductions as far away from the classroom as possible.

**Since FY15, the KPBSD has reduced expenditures by \$7.9 million dollars.**

The reductions include 11.26 FTE positions in district office, 15.38 FTE positions in school administration and staff, and a reduction in work hours for some support staff. Efficiencies have been found and made in technology, supplies, software, utilities, travel, curriculum, food service, student transportation, and equipment expenditures.

**Adequately funding public education is a legal responsibility of the State of Alaska legislature and is its primary financial concern.**

The education funding plan must be consistent, reliable and predictable to enable schools to focus on their primary mission: educate our youth. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is accountable for the dollars entrusted to it and supports measures that will allow our District to operate in a more efficient manner.

The KPBSD recognizes the current state fiscal climate, and appreciates the work the legislature is doing to pass a fiscal plan in a timely manner, with education funding as a priority. Our district continues to focus on rigor, relevance, and responsiveness, in order to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.

Sincerely,



Sean Dusek  
Superintendent of Schools