



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Clayton Holland, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
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March 30, 2021

Re: Homeless Education Programs

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I am the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, and I thank you for your active leadership to support homeless education programs. The passing of the American Rescue Plan Act and the dedicated funding of \$800 million to support the success of children and youth who experience homelessness is a huge gain. These funds will help school districts across Alaska better support the students who need it most.

Each year our Students in Transition Program (SIT Program) identifies an average of 250 students that meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. The needs of these students have only grown during the COVID-19 pandemic, and our Homeless Liaisons have worked diligently to remove the barriers these students face—including an increase in food insecurity, a lack of technology required for remote learning, and the need for meaningful connection to their schools and community. I am excited to be part of the conversations taking place about how these additional funds will be best advanced to identify, enroll, and support our students and the challenges they face.

The Kenai Peninsula is a widespread and diverse community with few resources directed to address the needs homeless children, youth, and families; this targeted federal aid and its effective implementation at the local school district level will truly make a difference for so many.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clayton Holland".

Clayton Holland