



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Sean Dusek, Superintendent of Schools

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March 8, 2016

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Micciche:

As the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has been following the discussion on Senate Bill 103 Residential Psychiatric Education Funding, there are a number of concerns with the bill, from our perspective.

These concerns include the following:

- The funding proration plan is ambiguous regarding the funding types to be included in the calculation, (i.e. does this formula include local contribution, grant funding, the BSA, and intensive needs funding?).
- There are no measures in place to hold residential facilities accountable for providing a quality education.
- There is no oversight to hold residential facilities accountable for implementing special education and special education legal paperwork.
- There is no proof that residential facilities will adequately coordinate educational activities with school districts and provide an education that is aligned with local schools in a manner that is better than what is currently offered.
- This bill will create financial uncertainty for school districts due to an inability to predictably budget for these students.
- This plan may open the door for out of state residential facilities to charge significant amounts of money to local school districts for students at their facilities.

Based on current legal requirements, a school district pays for students referred to residential facilities due to an inability to educate a child with a significant emotional or behavioral issue. Our district already complies with this requirement.

This bill would reduce funding to local public schools at a critical time. Therefore, in light of the listed uncertainties and ambiguities of the bill, current legal requirements and the current state budget situation, KPBSD opposes SB103. We believe this bill simply shifts money from one entity to another without improving services to students.

If you need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Sean Dusek
Superintendent of Schools