

CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF ALASKA STATE HOUSE BILL 272 (HB-272), WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION (BSA) IN THE FOUNDATION FORMULA FOR FY23 AND FY24**

WHEREAS, The City of Dillingham recognizes its partnership role with the Dillingham City School District in ensuring a robust and competitive primary and secondary education for all students in the District; and

WHEREAS, Alaska public schools have been flat-funded by the State since 2017, even as the cost for essential services and goods have increased rapidly during the same period of time; and

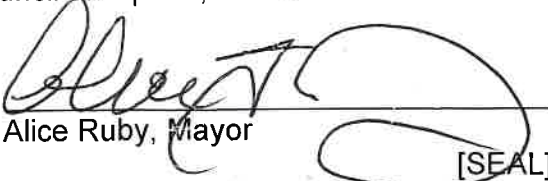
WHEREAS, The Dillingham City School District works diligently to provide the same, or increased levels of service, despite this reduced spending power; and

WHEREAS, Continuing to under-fund our public school system will only exacerbate existing challenges to pay for teacher retention and recruitment, classroom instruction, extra-curricular activities, student transportation services, facility needs, and all other associated and necessary expenditures; and


WHEREAS, Passage of Alaska House Bill 272 would provide a much needed increase to the Student Base Allocation (SBA) in the FY23 and FY24 Foundation formula.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Dillingham City Council hereby declares its support for House Bill 272 (HB-272) and other efforts to increase funding for the public education system currently being debated at the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Dillingham City Council on April 7, 2022.

  
Alice Ruby, Mayor [SEAL]

ATTEST:

  
Lori Goodell, City Clerk



**Representative Andi Story**  
Co-Chair, House Education Committee  
Alaska State Legislature

**Sponsor Statement**

**House Bill 272 (Version I)**

February 7, 2022

“HB 272, An Act relating to education; increasing the base student allocation; and providing for an effective date.”

Families, schools, and communities have gone through a seismic shift in the last two years. While COVID relief funding is welcome and necessary, the federal aid is to supplement state education investments, not replace them. These federal funds help weather the adversity of new problems and opportunities brought on by the tumultuous changes to our lives and our children’s learning environments. Despite this additional help, the support for our children’s education’s bottom line is eroding.

For the past several years, our schools have experienced financial loss due to state flat funding, raising inflation, and increased fixed costs. When school districts lose ground financially, it hurts kids. Resources have to be diverted from classrooms to cover the increasing price tags on non-negotiable fixed costs such as fuel, water and sewer, electricity, insurance, and maintenance costs. This shortchanges the attention and services children receive.

U.S. Census data places Alaska 6th in the nation for education spending (state, federal, local). When adjusted for the cost of living index (COLI), Alaska’s education spending is just below the U.S. average according to the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER). Looking more closely, Alaska has unique attributes that impact costs: smaller schools, (many located off the road system), the highest health care costs in the nation, and high energy costs.

HB 272 provides a long-overdue adjustment to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in the foundation formula in FY23 of \$223 per student, for the first time since FY17. This frees up money to help with classroom needs for services for kids. Then in the second year, FY24, there is a \$55 per student increase for inflation to maintain buying power. Setting this number in advance offers much needed predictability and stability in the budget process. This allows for planning to retain teachers (avoiding pink slips), support staff, and maintaining services and interventions for children and increasing student achievement.

An investment in education is an investment in our children and the future workforce of Alaska. It meets the constitutional obligation to maintain public schools. If we continue to fully fund but flat fund our K-12 education system, we are actively divesting funds in Alaska’s most treasured resource, our children.