



## Alaska Council of School Administrators

January 21, 2011

House and Senate Education Committee Members  
House and Senate Finance Co-Chairs

Dear Representative/Senator:

The Alaska Council of School Administrators would like to welcome you and your staff to Juneau for the 2011 Legislative Session. We hope you will have a satisfying and productive session, advancing the interests of all Alaskans.

Our membership would like to draw your attention to the need for increased funding for preK-12 public education. Working together under the Alaska Council of School Administrators' umbrella, the four professional organizations that are signatories of this letter have identified education funding as our top priority issue.

In 2008, you may recall that the Legislature adopted the recommendations of a Joint Legislative Education Task Force and formulated HB273 that provided increases to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and other components of the foundation funding formula in each of three years, FY09-FY11. This multi-year, forward funding approach was not renewed for FY12, leaving districts in a challenging position when developing budgets this spring.

Increases in health insurance, food service, transportation and other costs continue to place funding pressures on many school districts. Just this week, the news media has reported potential deficits of up to \$12 million in the Anchorage School District, and \$6 million in Juneau School District. Other districts are in similar situations and deficits of this magnitude will undoubtedly result in layoffs and discontinuation of valuable programs.

We urge you to consider the funding of preK-12 education as early in the session as possible. Once funding levels are known, districts are better able to maintain a continued focus on student achievement and prevent emotional stress for constituents and staff that occurs when funding is uncertain. Please know that our membership is grateful for the thoughtful approach to education funding represented by HB273 and encourages consideration of a new, similar multi-year plan.

Attached for your reference is HB317 from last session, a well vetted funding proposal that would have established a two-year BSA increase, as well as an increase to the formula special needs funding component. We respectfully request a similar approach to preK-12 education funding as early as possible in the current session.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance with further information.

Respectfully,

Jim Nygaard  
President-AASA

Allan Fields  
President-AASSP

Ann Salzer  
President-AAESP

Luke Fulp  
President-ALASBO

*ACSA shall provide leadership for and promotion of a collective professional voice in setting the educational agenda for Alaska.*

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 317(FIN)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 4/14/10**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act increasing the special needs funding and base student allocation for public**  
2 **schools, and extending the adjustment for student transportation funding; and**  
3 **providing for an effective date."**

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

5 **\* Section 1.** AS 14.17.420(a), as amended by sec. 6, ch. 9, SLA 2008, is amended to read:

6 (a) As a component of public school funding, a district is eligible for special  
7 needs funding and may be eligible for intensive services funding as follows:

8 (1) special needs funding is available to a district to assist the district  
9 in providing special education, gifted and talented education, vocational education,  
10 and bilingual education services to its students; a special needs funding factor of **1.215**  
11 [1.20] shall be applied as set out in AS 14.17.410(b)(1);

12 (2) in addition to the special needs funding for which a district is  
13 eligible under (1) of this subsection, a district is eligible for intensive services funding  
14 for each special education student who needs and receives intensive services and is

1 enrolled on the last day of the count period; for each such student, intensive services  
2 funding is equal to the intensive student count multiplied by 13.

3 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.17.420(a), as amended by sec. 6, ch. 9, SLA 2008, and by sec. 1 of this Act,  
4 is amended to read:

5 (a) As a component of public school funding, a district is eligible for special  
6 needs funding and may be eligible for intensive services funding as follows:

7 (1) special needs funding is available to a district to assist the district  
8 in providing special education, gifted and talented education, vocational education,  
9 and bilingual education services to its students; a special needs funding factor of **1.23**  
10 [1.215] shall be applied as set out in AS 14.17.410(b)(1);

11 (2) in addition to the special needs funding for which a district is  
12 eligible under (1) of this subsection, a district is eligible for intensive services funding  
13 for each special education student who needs and receives intensive services and is  
14 enrolled on the last day of the count period; for each such student, intensive services  
15 funding is equal to the intensive student count multiplied by 13.

16 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.17.470, as amended by sec. 10, ch. 9, SLA 2008, is amended to read:

17 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is **\$5,805**  
18 [\$5,680].

19 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.17.470, as amended by sec. 10, ch. 9, SLA 2008, and by sec. 3 of this Act,  
20 is amended to read:

21 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is **\$5,930**  
22 [\$5,805].

23 \* **Sec. 5.** Section 11, ch. 9, SLA 2008, is amended to read:

24 Sec. 11. AS 14.09.010(c), added by sec. 2, **ch. 9, SLA 2008** [OF THIS ACT],  
25 is repealed June 30, **2013** [2011].

26 \* **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 and 3 of this Act take effect July 1, 2011.

27 \* **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 and 4 of this Act take effect July 1, 2012.