



A letter from ALASBO in lieu in-person meetings with legislators

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Sat, Mar 14, 2020 at 1:12 PM

To: Melody Douglas <alaso@alaso.org>

Bcc: Senator.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov, Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov, Representative.Benjamin.Carpenter@akleg.gov, Representative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov, Senator.John.Coghill@akleg.gov, Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov, Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov, Representative.David.Eastman@akleg.gov, Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov, Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov, Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov, Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov, Representative.Mel.Gillis@akleg.gov, Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov, Representative.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov, Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov, Representative.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov, Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov, Representative.Sharon.Jackson@akleg.gov, Representative.Delena.Johnson@akleg.gov, Representative.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov, Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov, Senator.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov, Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov, Representative.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov, Representative.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov, Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov, Representative.Bart.LeBon@akleg.gov, Representative.Gabrielle.Ledoux@akleg.gov, Representative.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov, Representative.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov, Senator.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov, Representative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov, Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov, Representative.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov, Representative.Mike.Prax@akleg.gov, Representative.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov, Representative.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov, Representative.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov, Senator.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov, Senator.Josh.Revak@akleg.gov, Representative.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov, Senator.Mike.Shower@akleg.gov, Representative.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov, Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov, Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov, Representative.Andi.Story@akleg.gov, Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov, Representative.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov, Representative.David.Talerico@akleg.gov, Representative.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov, Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov, Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov, Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov, Representative.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov, Senator.Natasha.vonImhof@akleg.gov, Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov, Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov, Representative.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov, Representative.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov

Dear Legislators,

We recognize that those of you in leadership positions across the country are facing a huge challenge with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. This week, our Fly-In to Juneau with the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) was transitioned to a virtual format, and we understand that the legislature has sped up current work for possible early adjournment.

Although we're not able to meet with you personally this week, we want you to know that the Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO) remains a resource to help you understand the financial situation that K-12 school districts face.

Currently, school districts are preparing to provide distance education via creative solutions and to continue to deliver food service and other essential programs. Each district faces different technical and logistical challenges, particularly those in rural areas with limited bandwidth. **In order to be successful, districts must have the flexibility to spend currently available resources on making programs available to students in a safe manner.** We ask you to be cognizant of this need for flexibility as we move rapidly to address this crisis.

In addition to COVID-19, some of our additional concerns regarding funding include:

- If the BSA is not increased for FY21 and the \$30 million in one-time funding provided in FY20 is not renewed, **school districts will be funded at the same level as in FY17**, although

they continue to face rising costs in many areas, including health insurance, worker's comp, wages, utilities and transportation.

- Failure to fund statewide capital spending needs through bond debt reimbursement and a funded CIP list leads to a deteriorating infrastructure and additional reduction to education services.
- From year-to-year, funding uncertainty prevents effective planning to improve student outcomes.

Finally, we continue to advocate as follows:

- ALASBO does not support a large permanent fund dividend if it is at the expense of essential state services.
- ALASBO supports continued efforts to reform worker's compensation and reduce health care costs in our state, including exploring a multi-governmental entity statewide pool.
- For over two decades, ALASBO has advocated for a state fiscal plan, including multiple revenue sources to eliminate the highs and lows of oil dependent funding.

In conclusion, we wish you all health and safety in the coming weeks, and we thank you for your support of K-12 education. Please let us know if we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,
Karen Morrison
ALASBO Board President

Cc: Dr. Lisa S. Parady, ACSA Executive Director
Robin Jones, ACSA President

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Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO)

Mission: *To promote the highest standards in school business practices.*

Vision: *Educating stakeholders in the effective use of resources for the benefit of Alaska's children.*

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