

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2019-05**

A resolution in support of full funding from the State of Alaska for school bond debt reimbursement and State aid for construction in Regional Education Attendance Areas

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has a constitutional responsibility to “maintain a system of public schools” under Article 7, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution; and

WHEREAS, since 1970, the State of Alaska has encouraged municipalities to bond for school major maintenance projects by reimbursing municipalities with bonding authority for a fixed portion of principal and interest payments; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature has, for decades, provided major maintenance for rural Regional Educational Attendance Area schools through appropriations in the annual capital budget; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, the Legislature provided consistent funding parity for rural schools’ major maintenance needs by automatically funding major maintenance projects in areas without the ability to bond, with a percentage of the school bond debt reimbursement funding; and

WHEREAS, relying on these programs and the State of Alaska’s obligations, Alaskan municipalities and Regional Educational Attendance Areas have maintained schools and fulfilled municipal responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Legislature placed a five-year moratorium on any new projects being eligible for school bond debt reimbursement, and shifted the sole responsibility of repayment to local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities, in an effort to mitigate deterioration of school facilities during the capital funding moratorium, began allocating local tax revenues to provide funding for major deferred maintenance school projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Legislature honored past project funding and appropriated funds to the municipalities for school debt reimbursement, as well as major maintenance funding for schools in Regional Educational Attendance Areas; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Governor line-item vetoed 25% of the funding for both municipal and rural schools from appropriation bills; and

WHEREAS, the potential for future vetoes places great uncertainty on this program and burden on municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League support full annual funding of school bond debt reimbursement and state aid for construction in Regional Educational Attendance Areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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