

DENALI BOROUGH

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DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA RESOLUTION NO. 23-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE INCREASE THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION AND PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FORMULA FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, it is the State of Alaska’s constitutional obligation to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, as part of the funding formula designed by the State, a minimum local contribution of 2.65 mils (or equivalent) is required with an additional allowable amount up to 23% of basic need; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough recognizes its partnership role with the Denali Borough School District in ensuring a healthy and sustainable primary and secondary education for all students in the District; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough has consistently maximized local contributions, which means the Borough must make hard decisions to prioritize and maintain our financial support to our schools; and

WHEREAS, education is THE largest budget item for the Denali Borough; and

WHEREAS, the State has not made a meaningful Base Student Allocation increase since FY 2016; and

WHEREAS, the State's failure to fund public schools in pace with inflation and increased costs jeopardizes the health, quality and sustainability of our local schools; and

WHEREAS, continuing to flat-fund our public school system while nearly all expenses continue to increase will force schools to reduce offerings and in some cases, close schools altogether; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough is made up of small, rural, separate communities with the Denali Borough School District currently having three brick and mortar school facilities in three rural and separate communities and a home school correspondence program; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough already maximizes our local contribution, yet as a result of the increase in expenses without a corresponding increase to the Base Student Allocation, the Denali Borough School District is forced to consider closing two of our three brick and mortar school facilities; and

WHEREAS, all Alaskans understand the vital role the local school has as the heart and hum of the entire community and that the closure of a school in a small, rural community is devastating beyond measure for that community and surrounding area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Denali Borough Assembly states proudly that we are doing our part to support the public education in our borough to the maximum amount allowable and supports, encourages, and pleads for the Alaska Legislature to significantly increase the Base Student Allocation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Denali Borough Assembly requests the Alaska Legislature enact statute to automatically adjust for inflation going forward and return to forward funding for education.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this 8th day of February, 2023.



MAYOR CLAY WALKER

ATTEST:



AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK

VOTE: unanimous

