

# ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

## Resolution #2023-11

### **A resolution supporting the ability of school districts to more efficiently deliver education to changing school populations by consolidating facilities without penalty.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development projects that Alaska's population of children aged 0 to 19 will decrease by six percent by 2050; and

WHEREAS, local governments are responsible for the majority of school districts in Alaska and contribute 35 percent of education funding; and

WHEREAS, this contribution represents the largest expenditure of those local governments with school districts; and

WHEREAS, school districts vary by size and population trend, with some growing and others declining, which requires a State approach that funds maintenance and construction on the one hand, and incentivizes change otherwise; and

WHEREAS, the State appropriates funds for school construction and major maintenance as available, and school construction and major maintenance funding has diminished over the years, and generally not fully funded the entirety of the need; and

WHEREAS, the State has on average only funded 8% of school construction and major maintenance; and

WHEREAS, school bond debt reimbursement has increasingly been unfunded, and that cost shifted to local governments, and there is currently a moratorium; and

WHEREAS, when a school district faces declining enrollment and increased costs of maintenance, it may be in a community's best interest to consolidate its school facilities; and

WHEREAS, there do not exist incentives for encouraging school districts to reimagine or redevelop schools in response to population change other than growth; and

WHEREAS, the school size multiplier in the current funding formula (AS 14.17.410(b)(1)(A) and AS 14.17.450) penalizes a school district for consolidating facilities; and

WHEREAS, local governments and school districts are committed to efficient and effective delivery of public education but thereby constrained by State statute.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports amendments to the funding formula to reduce penalties for consolidation of school facilities within a district and to increase incentives thereof.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 9, 2022.