



**Alaska Association of Student Government
Resolution #5
Inflation Proof Base Student Allocation
Submitted by: Francis Myers
April 18, 2024**

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that: AASG supports an inflation proof Base Student Allocation (BSA).

1. **Whereas**, Alaska's K-12 foundation formula is the largest source of funding for Alaska's school districts;¹
2. **Whereas**, the foundation formula is calculated by taking the average daily membership (ADM) of a school and multiplying it by a variety of factors;¹
3. **Whereas**, these factors include school size, district cost, block grants for special education, and career and technical education;¹
4. **Whereas**, these factors are translated into a numerical value;
5. **Whereas**, once the ADM is multiplied by these factors, it becomes the Adjusted Average Daily Membership (AADM). The AADM is then multiplied by the BSA to dictate how much funding an Alaskan school gets;¹
6. **Whereas**, the BSA is currently \$5,960;¹
7. **Whereas**, the only increase to the BSA in the past 7 years has been a 30-dollar increase from \$5,930 to \$5,960 between 2023 to 2024;²
8. **Whereas**, using 2017 as the year in which the inflation proofing is based on, to match the buying power of the 2017 BSA in 2024, the BSA would need to increase from \$5,960 to \$7,155;¹

9. **Whereas**, Alaska, when taking into consideration the state’s cost of living, spends less than the national average per pupil. (In unadjusted dollars, the state spent the sixth-most per student in 2019);³
10. **Whereas**, most Alaskan schools are running on a deficit;
11. **Whereas**, the Anchorage School district faced a \$48 million deficit in 2022;²
12. **Whereas**, the Juneau School District had a predicted budget deficit of \$8.5 million on January 23rd, 2024, which has forced the district into combining Thunder Mountain High school and Juneau Douglas High School into a singular high school;⁴
13. **Whereas**, a report from the Institute of Educational Sciences shows that annual teacher turnover in Alaska from the 2012 school year to the 2018 school year was consistently around 22 percent, while the national turnover rate in the 2012 school year, the report’s base year, was only 16 percent;⁵
14. **Whereas**, the Sitka School District is considering letting go 24 teachers if budget restraints aren’t met;
15. **Whereas**, Jim Anderson, chief financial officer of the Anchorage School District, stated “Flat funding really is education cuts, year after year after year after year;”²
16. **Whereas**, in order to ensure teachers are able to live without fear of losing their jobs, and in order to ensure Alaskan schools get the funding they need, the BSA needs to be inflation proof;
17. **Whereas**, since 2022, Anderson Elementary, Nordale Elementary, and Joy Elementary have shut down in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District with Ben Eielson High School shutting down the summer of 2024;
18. **Whereas**, the KPBSD school board, facing a \$13.7 million dollar deficit for the next fiscal year, has been forced to pass a budget including a closure of schools’ pools and theaters;
19. **Whereas**, multiple schools in the MSBSD are having to cut classes and positions following the 2023-2024 school year due to inadequate funding;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the implementation of an inflation proof Base Student Allocation.

Action Statement: if passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be brought before the Alaska State Legislature for their consideration.

Sources:

1. Alexei, Painter. *Impact of Inflation on K-12 Funding and Cost Estimates of Potential BSA Increase*. Legislative and Budget Audit Committee, 30 Jan. 2023, <https://www.akleg.gov/basis/>

2. December 11, Morgan Krakow Updated:, et al. “Now Facing a \$48 Million Deficit, Anchorage District and School Board Officials Look at Cuts and Closures Ahead.” *Anchorage Daily News*, <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/education/2022/12/10/> Accessed 17 Apr. 2024.
3. Phu, James Brooks, Lisa. “Confronting Rising Bills and Flat State Funding, Alaska Schools Say They Are at a Fiscal Cliff • Alaska Beacon.” *Alaska Beacon*, 21 Oct. 2022, <https://alaskabeacon.com/2022/10/21/>
4. Juneau, Katie Anastas, KTOO-. “Juneau School District May Close Schools and Cut Staff amid Budget Crisis.” *Alaska Public Media*, 23 Jan. 2024, <https://alaskapublic.org/2024/01/23/juneau-school-district-may-close-schools-and-cut-staff-amid-budget-crisis/>.
5. *Teacher Turnover in Alaska: Causes and Solutions* | Alaska Policy Forum. 20 Sept. 2021, <https://alaskapolicyforum.org/2021/09/teacher-turnover-in-alaska-causes-and-solutions/>.

The resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Spring 2024 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Barrow High School

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danika Hamm", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Danika Hamm

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Navarre", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre