

Alaska Association of Student Governments AASG Statement on Senate Bill 52 Submitted by: AASG Executive Board

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

- **1.** Whereas, Senate Bill (SB) 52 was introduced by the Senate Education committee and has since been approved and referred to Senate Finance committee
- 2. Whereas, SB 52 is "An Act relating to education; requiring the Department of Education and Early Development to provide information relating to public schools on an Internet website; relating to information on the post-secondary education, career path, and residency of graduates from high schools in the state; increasing the base student allocation; and providing for an effective date";¹
- 3. Whereas, the current Base Student Allocation (BSA) is \$5,960;
- **4.** Whereas, the current amended bill from the Senate Education Committee states the Base Student Allocation would increase to \$7,308;
- 5. Whereas, the last time the BSA was increased was in 2017;
- 6. Whereas, adjusted for inflation, the BSA will need to increase to \$7,155 to match to 2017's BSA;²
- 7. Whereas, the majority of school districts run at a deficit every year;
- **8.** Whereas, The Alaska Association of School Boards has identified "Sufficient and Sustainable Funding for Public Education" as a 2023 legislative priority;
- **9.** Whereas, NEA-Alaska has identified increasing the BSA as one of two legislative priorities;
- **10. Whereas,** The Alaska Association of School Administrators has stated "Adequate funding remains our most critical need";
- 11. Whereas, the State of Alaska has the worst teacher retention rate of the country;

¹ <u>https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Text/33?Hsid=SB0052B</u>

² https://www.akleg.gov/PDF/33/M/SEDC2023-02-011531.PDF

^{3.}https://aasb.org/2023-aasb-legislative-priorities/ https://neaalaska.org/issues/

https://alaskaacsa.org/leading-with-priorities/

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments support Senate Bill 52.

Action Statement: If passed by the General Assembly of AASG, this resolution will be sent to the Senate Education and Finance Committees.

Passed by the Spring 2023 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Skagway High School

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AASG Vice President, Jowielle Corpuz

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre