

Alaska Association of Student Government Resolution #3

Sustainably Increase and Protect the Base Student Allocation with Inflation Adjustments
Submitted by: Stephen Gibson
Submitted: 4/20/25

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

- 1. **Whereas,** the Base Student Allocation (BSA) is Alaska's primary method of funding public K-12 education, which directly funds teacher salaries, classroom resources, student support services, and core operations¹;
- 2. Whereas, the BSA has not been significantly increased since 2017, despite Alaska's rising cost of living and inflation exceeding 20%²;
- 3. **Whereas**, the class size for next year is expected to average four more students per class, while simultaneously displacing hundreds of teachers across Alaska;
- 4. **Whereas**, the Anchorage School District projects a \$43 million budget shortfall for FY26, with over 380 essential instructional and support positions eliminated, including teachers, counselors, and program staff³;
- 5. **Whereas**, the Alaska House of Representatives passed a budget (4/16/25) that includes a \$1,400 Permanent Fund Dividend and a projected \$450 million deficit over two years, placing long-term fiscal pressure on the state and increasing the likelihood of future, targeted cuts to public education, one of the largest and most vulnerable budget items;
- 6. **Whereas**, fund balances originally intended for emergency use are being rapidly depleted to cover basic school operations across multiple districts, forcing financially unsustainable temporary measures⁴;

- 7. **Whereas**, House Bill 69 proposed a permanent \$1,000 BSA increase, but without a permanent inflation adjustment, districts remain vulnerable to future funding deficiencies⁵;
- 8. **Whereas**, Governor Dunleavy vetoed House Bill 69 (4/17/25), legislation that was passed by both chambers of the Alaska Legislature, and instead proposed education spending that prioritizes homeschooling and charter programs over public school sustainability;
- 9. **Whereas**, tying the BSA to an annual inflation index would ensure stable, predictable education funding across all districts, protecting students' access to consistent academic opportunities;
- 10. **Whereas**, although meaningful education reform remains a long-term priority, adequate operational funding is immediately necessary to preserve current programs and services for all Alaska students:

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that: Legislature enact an increase of at least \$1,000 to the Base Student Allocation and implement an annual inflation-based adjustment mechanism, with its structure determined by the state, to ensure sustainable and predictable public education funding across Alaska.

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be sent to the Alaska State Legislature, the Governor's Office, the Department of Education and Early Development, and all Alaska school boards for general advocacy and formal consideration, on behalf of AASG.

Works Cited

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- 3. Office. "Office of Management and Budget / FY26 Budget Planning." *Asdk12.org*, 2024, www.asdk12.org/fy26. Accessed 24 Apr, 2025
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Resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Spring 2025 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Sitka High School and Mt Edgecumbe High School

AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

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AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre