



Alaska Association of Student Governments

YLAC Resolution #1

HB 261 Advocacy

Submitted by: Youth Legislative Advisory Chair

Submitted: 4/23/26

Be it Resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the act of signing HB (House Bill) 261 into Alaska law.

- 1. Whereas,** Alaska's current school funding formula relies on a district's roughly estimating their student count, create a rough budget projection, then make changes that may be necessary with the state's October count, and adjust their budgets accordingly;¹
 - i. which this current system can create uncertainty and delays within district budget planning;²
- 2. Whereas,** HB 261 seeks to change the current education funding process by fixing it to rely on precise student counts from the previous year or the previous three year average;²
 - i. In addition, the changes within the bill would provide a more relevant alignment for the funding formula with how students move through schools. In addition, this change does not prevent enrollment trends from being reflected over time;²
 - ii. HB 261 improves the timing of the budgeting process by allowing districts to finalize budgets sooner and support timely hiring and retention of staff;^{1,3}
- 3. Whereas,** "The bill would also change how alternative schools are counted each year. A school with fewer than 175 students would be counted as its own school, rather than having its students included in the count of the largest school in their respective district."²
 - i. Since students are counted toward a larger high school's enrollment, funding would be reduced to the alternative school as it is divided among

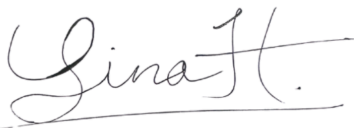
students, regardless of scale. This results in alternative school students generating the lowest possible money multiplier, while their schools are often responsible for more individualized operations than their larger counterparts;^{1,2}

4. **Whereas**, HB 261 includes provisions requiring districts to report specific special education needs and makes additional adjustments to funding for early education, school construction, and state boarding schools;²
 - i. The bill would also recognize that intensive students often have complex needs that require additional staffing, permitting a district to adjust the intensive student count mid-year to accommodate new students.”;²
5. **Whereas**, improved financial stability enables schools to better focus on student achievement rather than reacting to unexpected budget challenges;³
6. **Whereas**, policies that promote stability and efficiency in education funding ultimately benefit students, educators, and communities across Alaska;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the advocacy for HB 261’s passage regarding providing districts with more stability and predictability.

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, the authors of this resolution shall send it off to Alaska state legislature, specifically all members, in which it advocates for the support of HB 261, and sent to the office of the governor.

The resolution passes with noted opposition.



AASG Vice President, Lina Hischer



AASG Executive Director, Cassandra Mirosh

Sources:

1. Smith, Corinne. “An Early Look at Alaska Education Bills for 2026: Homeschool Testing, Curriculums, Student Safety | Alaska Beacon.” *Alaska Beacon*, 21 Jan. 2026, alaskabeacon.com/2026/01/20/an-early-look-at-alaska-education-bills-for-2026-homeschool-testing-curriculums-student-safety/.
2. “HB 261 Seeks to Stabilize School Funding through Enrollment Averaging - House Majority Coalition.” *House Majority Coalition*, 4 Feb. 2026, alaskahousemajority.com/2026/02/04/hb-261-seeks-to-stabilize-school-funding-through-enrollment-averaging/. Accessed 23 Apr. 2026.
3. “Bill Tracking in Alaska - HB 261 (34 Legislative Session) - FastDemocracy.” *Fastdemocracy.com*, 2026, fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/ak/34/bills/AKB00005150/. Accessed 23 Apr. 2026.