

1.15 Opposing the REAA Reapportionment and Recasting of Seats for REAA's Impacted

AASB urges the division of elections, division of community and regional affairs, and the Alaska department of education and early development to consult with AASB and REAAs before the final reapportioning and recasting of school board member representation occurs.

Rational:

When school districts have invested time, effort, and money to send board members to professional development trainings, that investment is immediately lost if the affected board members can't finish their current terms before the reapportionment becoming effective.

The reapportionment will eliminate some board members that have just been re-elected to their respective seats that results in our current board members running against each other. It will also force some to have to run consecutive years just to stay on

Proposed: 2022 BY THE AASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1.16 Creating Comprehensive Support for Families and Students to Navigate College and Career Training Opportunities

AASB supports the creation of comprehensive family and student-centered navigation supports to help all students access college and career training opportunities that will help meet the State's current and future workforce needs.

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Rational:

Alaska's workforce needs are growing, but many recent high school graduates are not pursuing the postsecondary education needed to be prepared to fill job openings and important community roles. Research shows that helping students understand their motivation and passion can help youth prepare for and engage in the workforce.

PROPOSED: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

2.63 Funding for Education and Transportation

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature and Administration to provide adequate funding to public education in the State of Alaska, to increase the Base Student Allocation to compensate for inflation, and increase the student transportation award to cover the true costs of student transportation.

Rational:

In addition to the ongoing stance supporting adequate education funding we feel its important to emphasize the costs of transportation and how these expenses have outpaced the state funding provided for this student service.

PROPOSED BY: Denali School District

2.64 Base Student Allocation Increase: Making Up for Lost Ground Due to Inflation

AASB urges the State of Alaska Legislature to address a modest increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) as the BSA does not change automatically in response to inflation or any other factors, only by passing legislation that modifies the statute.

Public school funding consists of state aid, a required local contribution, and eligible federal impact aid (AS 14.17.410). The largest source of funding to Alaska's school districts is based on the state's foundation formula on a per-student basis for K-12. This foundation formula is calculated on an Adjusted Average Daily Membership (AADM) multiplied by the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to determine basic need. "Basic Need" is defined as the absolute minimum resources necessary to provide educational adequacy. With inflation rising 11.6% since 2017, according to the Alaska Consumer Price Index, school districts are operating with significantly less to cover programs that constantly increase, driven by inflation, changing markets, and automatic raises in salaries for teachers as experience is gained.

Rational: This resolution is to help support School Districts that have been flat funded since Fiscal Year 2016-2017. In the 32nd Legislature (2021-2022), HB 272 would increase the BSA in FY23 and again in FY24 allowing districts to address operational costs and plan to meet student need; and, HB 273 would proof against inflation beginning in FY25 for all future years.

When School Districts lose ground financially, schools with growing class sizes receive fewer critical services. The disruption caused to the delivery of education by the pandemic has resulted in a greater need for support services and interventions in schools in order to recover lost academic progress and re-establish student well-being. The statement, "Children are our most valuable natural resource," (Herbert Hoover, 31st U.S. President) has never been more pertinent to the discussion about current and future funding. While there is an opinion that increasing the BSA is the equivalent of "throwing money at a system that doesn't work", the recent introduction of the Reads Act establishes that the legislature sees the need for targeted interventions. But such initiatives cannot be integrated into schools unless the legislature acknowledges the ongoing cost of improving teacher/student ratios, professional development and required certifications for existing staff and facilities that can accommodate culturally responsive, differentiated classroom environments and appropriate interventions. Preventing the legislature from supporting much needed increases in base funding, in favor of a single limited or targeted intervention only, ignores the local solutions and resource needs of Alaska's unique communities and school district's that are rich in traditional knowledge and culture and must be supported to deliver place-based education programs in adequate facilities.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Borough School District

5.35 Creating Comprehensive Support for Families and Students to Navigate College and Career Training Opportunities

AASB supports the creation of comprehensive family and student-centered navigation supports to help all students access college and career training opportunities that will help meet the State's current and future workforce needs.

Rational: Alaska's workforce needs are growing, but many recent high school graduates are not pursuing the postsecondary education needed to be prepared to fill job openings and important community roles. Research shows that helping students understand their motivation and passion can help youth prepare for and engage in the workforce.

Pilot programs in Alaska that provide personal navigation support with dedicated, well-trained, and supported career guides have demonstrated a significant increase in the percentage of high school graduates who pursued some type of degree, certification, or military training. Also, participants in these pilot programs in Alaska completed the FAFSA at rates that, if applied statewide, could grant Alaskan students access to an additional \$15 million or more in federal aid each year.

Alaska's best opportunity to meet the workforce needs of tomorrow is to help Alaskan students connect with the postsecondary opportunities they need to be ready.

Proposed By: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District