



association of  
**ALASKA**  
school boards

# **Where We Stand 2023**

**The resolutions and belief statements of the  
Association of Alaska School Boards**

Based on the actions of the AASB Delegate Assembly

**November 6, 2022**

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## **AASB Mission Statement**

The mission of AASB is to advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

## **Belief Statements**

Belief Statements are brief philosophical statements about issues the AASB membership believes to be true. They are distinguished from Resolutions in that they are longstanding, universally accepted statements that require no specific action yet underpin the beliefs of the association.

### **GOVERNANCE**

#### **B.1 LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

Public education is the responsibility of the states and of the local school boards created by those states. This system of local school board governance is one of the purest examples of democracy in action today in that school boards, as locally elected representatives, are held accountable for public education by the public they serve as locally elected representatives. The mission of the Association of Alaska School Boards is to advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing students with quality public education, focused on student achievement through effective local governance. *Amended 2003, 2007, 2009*

#### **B.2 BINDING ARBITRATION**

Binding arbitration removes decision making from locally elected school boards and puts it in the hands of an outside entity, and allows a third party to determine the salaries, benefits and working conditions of school district employees who bargain collectively. It is the elected school board's responsibility to weigh the consequences of decisions concerning management of school resources. The Association of Alaska School Boards opposes any legislation that provides for binding arbitration as the final step in collective bargaining.

#### **B.3 ADVISORY BOARD TRAINING**

State law requires the establishment of advisory school boards in REAA's and allows them in city and borough school districts. Regional School boards have delegated authority and responsibility to those advisory school boards. Regional School Boards are encouraged to provide in-service opportunities and training to local advisory boards to help them become effective contributors to excellence in education in their communities.



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### **B.4 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER TRAINING**

School board members are elected by their local school district citizens based on minimum statewide requirements of eligibility to vote and residency. They are responsible to the public for policy issues and budgets of millions of dollars and are coming under increasing public scrutiny. The Association of Alaska School Boards strongly encourages all school board members to avail themselves of training opportunities to increase their understanding of the issues confronting their district, to improve their ability to make the decisions required of them and to demonstrate their accountability to the public.

### **B.5 CLASS SIZE**

AASB opposes any legislative mandating of class size or making class size a negotiable item of bargaining. The Alaska Supreme Court has held that class size is not a mandatory subject of collective bargaining. While school boards recognize the advantage of small class size, they must be able to use discretion when weighing the cost of reduced class sizes with other financial obligations and educational needs of a district. Making class size a mandatory subject of collective bargaining might make class size subject to grievance binding arbitration or otherwise diminish board control over staffing levels. Legislative mandates similarly infringe on the discretion of local decision-makers. *Amended 2009*

### **B.6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance is an important civics lesson, recited every day across the nation by school children. Each school district shall incorporate the Pledge of Allegiance to our nation's flag in a manner that it sees fit as a regular part of the district's activities, in compliance with AS 14.03.130. Every effort should be made to inform students of the true meaning of this pledge to deepen their interest and understanding of citizenship and civic responsibility in a democratic society. Additionally, in accordance with AS 14.03.130 school districts shall inform all affected persons at the school of their right not to participate in the pledge. *Adopted 2013 Amended 2015, 2018*

## **FUNDING**

### **B.7 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FUNDING AS TOP PRIORITY**

Article VII, Sec. 1 of The Alaska State Constitution states "The Legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all school age children...". Public education is fundamental to democracy and economic advancement of the state and tribes. AASB calls upon the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to make early, sustainable, adequate and equitable funding a top priority for the exemplary education of our youth. *Amended 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2017, 2018*

### **B.8 UNFUNDED MANDATES**

Schools have been inundated with statutes, regulations and court decisions that require additional services without accompanying appropriations. With limited and decreasing resources due to significant revenue shortfalls, increasing costs, and expectations for services; unfunded mandates result in an overwhelming financial burden for school districts throughout our state. These mandates are invasive to the educational process, limiting local school boards in their flexibility and autonomy to appropriate funds within

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their district, thus negatively impacting their ability to govern local schools. AASB encourages all policy makers to consider the impact of their mandates and to take responsibility by fully funding or repealing them. *Amended 1999, 2015, 2016*

### **B.9 MEETING SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS FOR ALASKA STUDENTS**

AASB believes that the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor must adequately fund the constitutionally mandated need for educationally appropriate school facilities and major school maintenance. *Amended 1998, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016*

### **B.10 FUNDING FOR EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS IN ALASKA**

AASB supports legislation to add additional funding for the planning and programming of voluntary early learning and family support programs, including online programs, for all children from birth to school age as an important long-term investment in Alaska's future workforce and citizenry. *Adopted 2020*

## **CHILD ADVOCACY**

### **Preamble**

As community leaders committed to education and the equal opportunity for each child to achieve their potential, we act on behalf of all children for the good of the community; and we act on behalf of each child. We accept our responsibility and its challenge of finding viable and relevant solutions to the myriad of problems facing children today. We believe that while parents bear primary responsibility for the education of their children, it takes a whole community to educate a child. We encourage parents and guardians, the legislature, tribal governments, agencies, municipalities, organizations, businesses, communities, congregations, and extended families to willfully commit to the development of each child. Together we will identify and clearly articulate the needs of our children, and together we will implement effective solutions and achieve measurable results. Together, we will share in the rewards that an emotionally healthy, educated, and vital citizenry will contribute to the future of Alaska. To fulfill our role in the shared responsibility of educating children, we are resolved to pursue the following resolutions. *Amended 2002, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2019*

### **B.11 CHILD ADVOCACY MISSION STATEMENT**

The advocacy role of school board members is to promote parental, public and social service commitment to the shared responsibility of educating all children and youth in public education while creating an environment that supports children to thrive and be empowered to choose a path to success in their future. *Amended 1998, 2019*

### **B.12 LANGUAGE, CULTURAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY**

Alaska is a vast state and is populated by persons of diverse cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds. Our schools must promote an environment that respects and reflects the ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity of the student populations. AASB honors and celebrates those languages and cultures indigenous to Alaska, and supports those efforts that integrate indigenous languages and cultural knowledge into the delivery of academic programs. *Amended 1998, 2007, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2018*

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### **B.13 INCREASE IN FAMILY AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

AASB believes, and research supports the belief, that one of the most important factors in student achievement is parental, family and guardian involvement in the educational process, both at home and in the schools. AASB feels that family involvement in the education of children is the highest priority and strongly encourages school districts to be proactive and engage families in a culturally responsive way. *Amended 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012*

### **B.14 SUPPORTING SOBRIETY AND SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION**

AASB acknowledges the multifaceted and generational complexities of Alaska's drug and alcohol history. AASB encourages our Board Members, school staff, students, parents and community members to help in overcoming our communities' affliction with alcohol and drugs. AASB supports efforts of schools and communities to become and remain free of alcohol and drug use through activities that: encourage the formation of sobriety groups in every Alaska community; encourage the practice of healthy lifestyles, values and activities; support existing groups working to promote sobriety; educate students on the consequences of their actions and the science of addiction; and encourage and support sober role models. *Amended 2007, 2010, 2013, 2019*

### **B.15 PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION**

AASB believes in the prevention aspects of health and social service programs. Prevention is cost effective, both in dollars and in reducing human suffering. Many of the social and health problems we are experiencing now will only continue to grow if effective prevention/intervention programs are not in place. AASB supports early identification of and intervention for children at risk and inclusion of parents and guardians and community partners in prevention and intervention services in a culturally relevant way. *Amended 2002, 2006, 2008, 2019*

### **B.16 PROHIBITING PERSONS CONVICTED OF SEXUAL ABUSE FROM SERVING ON SCHOOL BOARDS**

School board members should serve as role models for students and staff. AASB believes that persons convicted of sexual abuse should be legally prohibited from serving on school boards, REAA boards, and advisory school boards. *Amended 1998, 2007, 2008, 2013*

### **B.17 DECLARING CHILDREN THE TOP PRIORITY OF ALASKA**

AASB believes children are the top priority of our state. This declaration extends to the education, health, physical and psychological safety,, mental wellness, and future of our children. *Adopted 2005, Amended 2006, 2008*

### **B.18 EQUITY IN EDUCATION**

All children must have access to an educational program that meets their individual physical, academic, cultural, social and emotional needs. The Association of Alaska School Boards believes that the allocation of educational resources including access to technology and connectivity, must provide equity for every student regardless of their economic status, geographic location or the economies of scale. *Adopted 2016*

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#### **B.19 ALASKA NATIVE TEACHER HIRE & RETENTION**

Studies have shown that Native teachers have had a very positive effect on Native students. The hiring and retention of qualified Alaska Native teachers has long been supported by educational and Native organizations. AASB strongly urges school districts to recruit qualified Native teachers and administrators. Colleges and universities within the state are encouraged to more actively recruit Native students and to develop Indigenous certification programs designed to build on the strengths of indigenous pedagogies. Local school districts, with the help of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, are encouraged to provide leadership in developing programs to encourage Native students to choose education as a field of study, and to make every effort to foster the hiring and retention of Native teacher aides and teachers. *Amended 2010, 2011*

#### **B. 20 QUALITY STAFF IMPROVES STUDENT LEARNING**

High-quality, highly motivated, culturally responsive and innovative teachers, administrators and other staff are essential for successful student learning. *Amended 2015*

### **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

#### **B.21 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

All children should have rich learning opportunities during the formative early childhood years. The Association of Alaska School Boards therefore supports and encourages districts and/or communities to develop early childhood programs, which include parent and family involvement. AASB supports sustainable, reliable and adequate State funding for early childhood education. *Amended 1998, 2007, 2012, 2015*

#### **B.22 EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT**

AASB believes the elements of a quality educational improvement effort should address the following key areas:

- Parent/Guardian Involvement: Should encourage a high degree of caregiver involvement and engagement in all aspects of their child's education; collaboration on societal issues outside schools that impact children's learning (schools and various agencies must collaboratively plan to provide services to children to effectively meet their needs); and accountability to the public to ensure the desired results: a "world class" education.
- Community engagement: Should involve many different sectors of the community in the schools to broaden students' experiences and promote the shared responsibility of adults in our communities to support Alaska's youth to achieve academic success, engage in positive behaviors, and foster the growth of children who are grounded in their cultural identity.
- Student Standards: Should include the development of educational programs using best practices including a variety of delivery methods to meet standards and

## BELIEF STATEMENTS

identified competencies that meet the diverse educational and cultural needs of students and prepare them to be healthy, resilient, and productive citizens.

- Professional Standards: Should include the highest ethical and professional standards throughout the district.
- Learning Environment: Should include adequate and appropriate indoor / outdoor spaces, class sizes, furnishings, equipment, supplies and technology, and be reflective of the cultures of the community. *Amended 1998, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016*

### **B.23 CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**

The strength of our democracy rests in large part on the success of our public schools in educating all students. It also rests on students' deep understanding of accurate, representative histories from the local to the global level. This understanding includes a working knowledge of evolving governmental principles and structure, the importance of citizenship, and civic responsibility. These lessons should begin in preschool and spiral throughout the school years, including meaningful student government opportunities. Lessons should provide strong grounding for fully informed and involved citizenship. It is the duty of each generation to teach the next how democracy works. *Adopted 2008, Amended 2010, 2012, 2016*

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **1.1 OPPOSING MANDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OR LOCAL SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION**

AASB is opposed to mandated school district or local school consolidation because it would greatly reduce local control for a significant number of school districts in Alaska.

*Adopted 1997, 2017*

*Amended 1999 & 2003, 2015, 2017*

*Renewed 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*

### **1.2 OPPOSITION TO MANDATED BOROUGH FORMATION**

AASB continues to oppose mandatory formation of boroughs. A mandatory borough act reduces the current level of local responsibility and control by encouraging the elimination of small REAA districts and small city districts, creating an extra level of government with the associated costs.

*Adopted 1998*

*Amended 2001, 2003, 2016*

*(Sunset 2023)*

### **1.3 MAINTAINING LOCAL CONTROL IN CHARTER SCHOOL FORMATION**

AASB recognizes charter schools as a locally developed alternative to the standard education program. AASB urges the Department of Education & Early Development to work in partnership with local school districts in the formation of new charter schools. AASB supports charter schools as long as the local school board:

- a) Retains the sole authority to initiate the approval or rejection of the charter,
- b) Retains options to terminate the charter of any school that fails to meet criteria set forth in the charter or as otherwise specified by the local school board
- c) Maintains authority to require and enforce accountability, including determining the criteria, standards, or outcomes that will be used in establishing the charter;
- d) Ensures that a charter does not foster racial, social, religious or economic segregation or segregation of children with disabilities.

*Adopted 1997, 2017*

*Amended 1998, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2014, 2017*

*Renewed 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*

**1.4 OPPOSE SCHOOL VOUCHERS**

AASB is opposed to using public funds to finance private schools, parochial schools, or private home school/correspondence programs, whether through vouchers, tax credits, or individual K-12 savings accounts, or any other funding that would divert funds from public education.

*Adopted 2012, 2017*

*Amended 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017*

*Renewed 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*

**1.5 CENTRALIZED TREASURY: DISTRIBUTION OF ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS AND INTEREST EARNED**

AASB urges the Legislature and local governing bodies to assure that all designated funds directed to school districts, including interest earning related thereto, must go to school districts without penalty, and that all interest on school district funds must accrue to the school district.

*Adopted 1998.*

*Amended 2002, 2004, 2008*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunset 2023)*

**1.6 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

AASB supports the goals of the Every Student Succeeds Act and implementation of the state plan approved on May 16, 2018, in particular AASB supports the emphasis on reaffirming local school board authority over public education and limiting federal and state overreach. AASB urges Congress to fully fund the law and the state legislature to provide sufficient funds to implement and support the plan.

*Adopted 2006*

*Amended 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018*

*(Sunset 2023)*

**1.7 ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADVOCACY FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

AASB urges the Legislature to give State Department of Education and Early Development the authority and funding to register and track the achievement and academic growth of all school-age children throughout the state who are not enrolled in public schools or private schools that perform assessment substantially equivalent to that performed by the state. Parents of such students should be required to provide information regarding instruction of and progress of their children, to provide accountability that

essential skills are being taught and learned. Public schools students are already accountable through statewide assessments.

*Adopted 2000,  
Amended 2001, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016  
(Sunset 2025)*

### **1.8 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGE**

Current state law requires compulsory school attendance from age 7-16. AASB supports changing the mandatory age for school attendance to be age 6 through 18 unless a student has graduated high school earlier or is enrolled in a GED or alternative program.

*Adopted 2001  
Amended 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2014, 2016, 2022  
Renewed 2021  
(Sunset 2026)*

### **1.11 RECOGNITION OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY IN THE ROLE OF EDUCATION**

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature, and the Department of Education and Early Development to support districts in meeting the state's compulsory attendance laws. AASB supports the creation of comprehensive family/guardian education in regard to truancy and the enforcement of truancy laws.

*Adopted 2017  
Renewed 2022  
(Sunset 2027)*

### **1.12 SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR DETERMINING SCHOOL BOARD TERM LIMITS AND SECTIONAL REPRESENTATION**

AASB supports the fundamental right of local control in determining the maximum length of service a school board member may serve (i.e., term limit). AASB supports and believes in the principle of local, self-determination in regard to length of service and school board member sectional representation within the boundaries of any school district.

*Adopted 2019  
(Sunset 2024)*

### **1.13 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

“A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement recognizing the Indigenous people of a



place. It is a public gesture of appreciation for the past and present Indigenous stewardship of the lands that we now occupy. Land Acknowledgement opens a space with gratefulness and respect for the contributions, innovations, and contemporary perspective of Indigenous peoples. It is an actionable statement that marks our collective movement towards decolonization and equity.” Anchorage Museum

AASB honors and respect the Ancestral Lands on which all Alaskans live, work, play, and learn and encourage activities and practices that acknowledge and recognize the past and present stewardship of these lands.

AASB supports the following:

1. Having a Land Acknowledgement spoken, for all to hear, on a regular basis, including but not limited to its official meetings, conferences, celebrations, and gatherings.
2. Working with local Tribes to identify appropriate wording for a Land Acknowledgement.
3. Encouraging member School Boards to add a Land Acknowledgement before official meetings, conferences, celebrations, and gatherings.

*Adopted 2021*  
*(Sunset 2026)*

### **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.

*Adopted 2022*  
*(Sunset 2027)*

**FUNDING****2.1 SUSTAINED, RELIABLE AND ADEQUATE STATE FISCAL PLAN AND EDUCATIONAL FUNDING FOR ALASKA'S STUDENTS THROUGH A NON-VOLATILE FUNDING SOURCE**

The sustainability, reliability and adequacy of Alaska's funding for public education are of highest concern to the Association of Alaska School Boards. AASB urges the Legislature to develop a state fiscal plan. This fiscal plan would provide a long-term approach to funding the costs of public education and other services upon which Alaska's students and their families depend. The plan should be strategic, sustainable and realistic, providing a framework for balancing budgets while adequately funding public education.

*Adopted 2002*

*Amended 2004, 2015*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*

**2.2 URGING EARLY, ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE, AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

AASB urges the State of Alaska to provide early, adequate, equitable, and predictable funding of public education. AASB believes that adequate funding should include the following:

- State funding of the TRS-PERS retirement liability;
- An increase to the Base Student Allocation to inflation proof pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education funding by no less than the amount of \$860 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
- Increase funding to account for flat funding in past years.
- Recognition of the need to keep pupil-teacher ratios to a level in line with research-based best practices;
- Funded career and technical education.
- An early adoption timeline that allows school boards and district administration to effectively plan instruction and staffing for the upcoming school year.
- Programs and Initiatives focusing on Alaska Native languages and cultures.

AASB urges that in the years when the Alaska Legislature has not approved an education budget by April 1, the budget from the previous year shall be the legal minimum funding for the next fiscal year.

AASB urges the Legislature to review and recommend appropriate adjustments to AS.14.17.460, District Cost Factors, to ensure equity in school funding.

AASB urges the Legislature to provide stable forward funding that addresses inflation, including the use of an education endowment, to ensure funding predictability.

*Adopted 2014*

*Amended 2017, 2022*

*Renewed 2019*

*(Sunset 2024)*

**2.3 SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS**

AASB urges permanent reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRSCA) by the U.S. Congress as a key component of federal financial assistance to local governments and school districts in Alaska. This law recognizes the need for sustained funding to school districts that have non-taxable national forest lands within their boundaries.

*Adopted 2011*

*Amended 2012, 2014*

*Renewed 2016, 2021*

*Sunset 2026*

**2.4 ENCOURAGING THE LEGISLATURE TO FUND A GRANT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES**

AASB encourages the Alaska Legislature to provide grant funding for improvement of school performance as originally designed in AS 14.03.125, under the mechanism already detailed to support 14.03.125 in Alaska Administrative Code ARTICLE 2 33.200 through 4 AAC 33.290.

*Adopted 2012*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*

**2.5 AASB ADVOCACY ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)**

Following passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, AASB will monitor and advocate the following:

1. Increase in funding to fully fund the federal mandate.
2. Resolution of differential treatment and discipline for special education students to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all students.
3. Provision for adequate staffing/teacher preparation.
4. Establishment of post-secondary educational programs to train additional individuals as certified special education teachers and related services providers (i.e. school psychologists, physical therapists, and speech therapists).
5. Decrease in current high staff turnover.
6. Provision for liability/legal protections for teachers and advocates.
7. Placement of students and delivery of services.
8. Mediation between school districts and parents/guardians when disagreements develop over student placements and/or services
9. Reduction of excessive paperwork.

*Adopted 2000*

*Amended 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2005, 2009, 2012*

*Renewed 2015*

*(Sunset 2025)*

## **2.6 FUNDING FOR EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS IN ALASKA**

AASB supports legislation to add additional funding for the planning and programming of voluntary early learning and family support programs, including online programs, for all children from birth to school age as an important long-term investment in Alaska's future workforce and citizenry.

*Adopted 1998*

*Amended 2001, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014, 2015*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunset 2023)*

## **2.7 FUNDING FOR INTENSIVE NEEDS PRE-SCHOOL AND OTHER INTENSIVE NEEDS STUDENTS ENROLLING POST-COUNT DATE OR LEAVING A DISTRICT IN A SINGLE YEAR**

AASB supports prorated funding for preschool students with intensive needs who turn three years old after the October count date, thereby becoming eligible for enrollment and enrolling in public school after state funding has become fixed. In addition, pro-rated funds must also be provided for all other intensive needs students enrolling after the count date. AASB also urges the Alaska Legislature to pass legislation that holds districts harmless when losing a large percentage of intensive needs students in a single count period.

*Adopted 2003*

*Amended 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2014*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunset 2023)*

## **2.8 FOLLOWING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PRIORITY LISTS FOR NON BONDED PROJECTS**

AASB supports following the priority lists for non-bonded projects as presented by the Department of Education and Early Development and providing funding with no adjustments, deletions, or additions that would not otherwise be of an emergency basis. AASB strongly encourages the legislature and administration to make significant progress on eliminating the statewide capital project and major maintenance backlog.

*Adopted 2000,*

*Amended 2001, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2017*

*Renewed 2015*

*(Sunset 2025)*

**2.9 LOCAL CONTRIBUTION IN THE SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA**

AASB supports retaining in the school funding formula the local option of establishing a local contribution based on 45 percent of basic need for borough and municipal school districts.

*Adopted 2001*

*Amended 2004, 2005, 2012*

*Renewed 2016, 2021*

*Sunset 2026*

**2.10 EDUCATION ENDOWMENT**

AASB lends its full support to the establishment of an adequately funded and well-managed educational endowment as part of secure stable and full funding for education to be used for public elementary and secondary education.

*Adopted 1997*

*Amended 1998, 1999, 2002, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2016*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*

**2.11 EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

Because of the global economy of which our youth are a part, AASB urges the state and federal governments:

- a) To strongly encourage state leadership by virtue of student rights to equitable educational opportunity to ensure all classrooms are provided affordable, adequate and equitable broadband access (low-latency terrestrial broadband Internet access) to the national and international information infrastructure.
- b) To implement appropriations or matching grants for instructional technology that would address hardware and software purchases, communication, infrastructure, curriculum expansion and training needs of students and staff,
- c) To fund continuation and expansion of Digital 1:1 efforts for districts and AASB's Consortium for Digital Learning.
- d) To join us in urging Congress to fully fund either the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (E-rate program) or a robust educational technology substitute that protects the Universal Service Fund to help provide affordable telecommunications to rural areas.
- e) To assist schools in improving Internet connectivity by using new E-Rate subsidies for construction of low latency terrestrial broadband Internet delivery systems.

*Adopted 1997*

*Amended 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015*

*Renewed 2017, 2022  
(Sunset 2027)*

## **2.12 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DEBT RETIREMENT FOR BONDED INDEBTEDNESS**

AASB urges the Legislature and the administration to fully honor the statutory commitments for previously incurred and future bonded indebtedness reimbursement by appropriating all funds necessary to satisfy that commitment.

*Adopted 1997  
Amended 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016  
Renewed 2017, 2022  
(Sunset 2027)*

## **2.13 REVENUE SHARING**

Municipalities play a large part in financing education and providing community services necessary to student learning. The Association of Alaska School Boards supports restored and increased funding for Municipal Revenue Sharing & Assistance. An increase in community support cannot substitute for necessary increases in direct education funding by the state.

*Adopted 1999  
Amended 2000, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012  
Renewed 2019  
(Sunset 2024)*

## **2.14 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION**

AASB urges the State of Alaska to adequately fund pupil transportation by increasing the transportation allocation to accurately reflect true costs, to avoid the use of operating fund dollars, and to provide funding for districts with increased transportation needs due to state legislated labor costs, rising fuel costs, special circumstances and/or student growth. Getting students safely to and from school is a vital part of public education.

*Adopted 2000  
Amended 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016  
(Sunset 2025).*

## **2.15 FUNDING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT-OPERATED REGIONAL BOARDING HOME PROGRAMS**

AASB supports providing adequate funding for locally controlled and operated, regional boarding high schools throughout the state.

*Adopted 1996*

*Amended 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2013, 2014*

*Renewed 2016, 2021*

*Sunset 2026*

**2.16 FUNDING FOR TRANSIENT STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS**

The Association of Alaska School Boards supports development of a funding mechanism for compensating schools for students entering after the October count date without harming a school that loses a student for which it has already incurred costs.

*Adopted 2002*

*Amended 2003, 2008, 2009*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*



**2.17 INSURANCE COSTS**

AASB strongly urges the Alaska State Legislature to thoroughly investigate, evaluate, and report on pooling arrangements or other funding as a way to mitigate increases in insurance costs for school districts. Districts must be permitted to individually decide to participate in pooling arrangements and other funding options favorable to their local situation. Districts should be enabled, but not required, to secure larger collaborative group medical service and group medical coverage, as well as value-based payment and procurement methods among public and private sector employees.

*Adopted 2002*

*Amended 2003, 2006, 2007, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

**2.18 STATUTORY GROUNDS FOR REDUCTION IN FORCE**

Every Alaska school board must be able to make responsible decisions about how to allocate district resources to provide a high-quality education program that meets the needs of students. The Association of Alaska School Boards supports clarification of the language in the law explicitly to allow the use of projections of enrollment, costs and revenues as valid bases upon which to develop a plan for reduction in force under AS 14.20.177. The Association also supports clarification of the law to recognize that school boards, acting in good faith, have discretion to decide when a reduction in force is necessary for the following year.

*Adopted 2003*

*Amended 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2016*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunsets 2023)*

**2.19 LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR ONGOING TRS AND PERS EMPLOYER RATE INCREASES**

The Association of Alaska School Boards supports the cost-share formula requiring the state to pay 87.44 percent of employer costs under the Teachers' Retirement System and 78 percent of the costs under the Public Employees Retirement System. AASB endorses the use of state revenue or other state-managed funding sources to retire the unfunded liability of the public employee retirement systems without supplanting funds needed for the classroom.

AASB categorically rejects the State of Alaska Department of Law's recent determination that the State of Alaska does not have a legal obligation to assume the portion of the liabilities of the State managed Teacher's Retirement System and the Public Employees Retirement System. AASB expects the State of Alaska to 100% fund to constitutional obligation both TRS and PERS.

*Adopted 2003*

*Amended 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2019*

*(Sunset 2024)*

### **2.20 ENERGY COST RELIEF**

AASB urges the Alaska State Legislature to take action to mitigate energy costs facing all school districts. The relief should be based on actual energy costs and be part of an overall program to address conservation of energy, development of alternative energy programs and deferred maintenance of public facilities and buildings.

*Adopted 2005*

*Amended 2008, 2010, 2015 2019*

*(Sunset 2024)*

### **2.21 RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT SERVICE BY THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM**

AASB urges the State of Alaska to provide or subsidize frequent, reliable, equitable and efficient ferry service to all Southeast, Southwest, and Southcentral communities served by the Alaska Marine Highway System and alternatives such as the Inter-Island Ferry Authority.

*Adopted 2006*

*Amended 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013*

*Renewed 2016, 2021*

*Sunset 2026*

### **2.22 SUPPORTING BYPASS MAIL IN ALASKA**

AASB recognizes that the Bypass Mail program provides the only timely and economical way to move essential materials to rural Alaska and is critical to the health of the Alaskan economy. Bypass mail allows Alaska to receive the same universal service at universal rates enjoyed by the rest of the country. AASB strongly urges the US Congress to find ways to continue funding the bypass mail program in Alaska.

*Adopted 2011*

*Renewed 2016, 2021*

*Sunset 2026*

### **2.23 FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS BY ESTABLISHING THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION IN ADVANCE**

AASB supports funding for schools in advance. At a minimum, the Base Student Allocation (BSA) should be established at least one, and preferably three, years ahead to provide sufficient time for school districts to prepare and submit their budgets in a timely manner without spending unnecessary time and resources revising budgets based on legislative action after the local budget process has begun. The Education Fund, AS 14.17.300, must also be maintained and increased for this purpose.

*Adopted 2006*

*Amended 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 201, 2015*

*Renewed 2016, 2021*

*Sunset 2026*

#### **2.24 RECONSTITUTION AND ACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND TRUST AND PERMANENT FUND**

AASB supports additional research into reconstitution of the Alaska Public School Land Trust, active management of the trust and working with Alaska Parent Teacher Associations and other educational stakeholders to establish a management board with broad stakeholder representation to that end.

*Adopted 2007*

*Amended 2010, 2014*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*

#### **2.25 SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, AND MATH INSTRUCTION**

AASB recognizes and supports national efforts to increase the nation's scientific and engineering talent pool in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM/STEM) fields. AASB urges the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to establish a fund or provide grants to invest strategically in STEAM/STEM education, focusing on professional development, materials and equipment needed for active, hands-on learning for K-12 students in classrooms across the state.

*Adopted 2008*

*Amended 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunset 2023)*

#### **2.26 RECOMMENDING REVISIONS TO THE STEP-DOWN HOLD-HARMLESS CLAUSE FOR REDUCTIONS IN ADM AND NEW HOLD-HARMLESS CLAUSE TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOL SIZE EFFICIENCY**

AASB recommends that the Alaska Legislature revise from 5 percent to 2.5 percent the hold-harmless threshold (AS14.17.450) for reductions in average daily membership. AASB also recommends that the Alaska Legislature adopt a new additional three-year hold-harmless provision for school districts who would otherwise lose state funding due to the consolidation of existing school facilities to increase efficiency.

*Adopted 2008*

*Amended 2015, 2017*

*Renewed 2018  
(Sunset 2023)*

### **2.28 URGING THE STATE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF UNUSED OR UNDERUTILIZED FACILITY SPACE IN DISTRICTS**

AASB urges the State of Alaska and work to relieve the financial impacts on school districts when reduced enrollment or budget constraints result in unused or underutilized school facilities. AASB urges mitigation of the burden posed by the underutilization or closure of facilities that still have operational costs associated with them.

*Adopted 2008  
Amended 2014, 2016, 2018  
(Sunset 2023)*

### **2.29 URGING THE STATE TO CONDUCT AND FUND FACILITY CONDITION SURVEYS FOR DISTRICTS TO SUPPORT CIP REQUESTS FOR MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND FACILITY REPLACEMENT PROJECTS**

AASB urges DEED to conduct facility conditions surveys for all districts in order to establish a uniform assessment of building conditions throughout the State. The Department of Education should conduct facility condition surveys every five years, on a rotating basis. The State administered facility conditions surveys should be accepted as complete and valid, including recommendations for the purposes of CIP requests by districts for major maintenance and facility replacement projects. Nothing shall preclude a district obtaining an independent evaluation of its facilities.

*Adopted 2008  
Amended 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016  
Renewed 2018  
(Sunset 2023)*

### **2.30 URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUNDING POOL TO HELP FUND TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND STATE-LEVEL COMPETITIONS**

AASB recognizes that a comprehensive public education includes extracurricular activities such as sports and the arts. Involvement in interscholastic activities has been shown to increase academic achievement. As such, the opportunity for students to participate at state-level tournaments, festivals and competitions is an important component of a well-rounded education. Due to the ever increasing costs associated with travel and lodging for school districts to attend state-level competitions, AASB urges the Alaska School Activities Association, the Alaska Legislature and the Governor to work together to establish a funding pool to help school districts fund travel for students to attend state-level tournaments, festivals or competitions.

*Adopted 2009*

*Amended 2014, 2015*

*Renewed 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

### **2.31 URGING THE CONTINUATION OF FUNDING FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL (VOCATIONAL) EDUCATION**

AASB supports increased funding of Career and Technical (Vocational) Education through the foundation formula in AS 14.17.420 and funding for Alaska Construction Academies and regional training centers.

*Adopted 2009*

*Amended 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018*

*Renewed 2019*

*(Sunset 2024)*

### **2.32 SUPPORTING STATE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEALS**

AASB supports an adequate financial appropriation from the State and Federal Government to strengthen and expand the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program in Alaska and other local programs to be sure that a culturally-relevant and genuinely nutritional school breakfast programs and a sustainable lunch may be available to all children at all schools throughout the state. Such funding must be accomplished without diverting funds that belong in the educational foundation formula. Federal program requirements should be flexible enough to allow for alternative delivery mechanisms.

*Adopted 2010*

*Amended 2015, 2018*

*Renewed 2015, 2020*

*(Sunset 2025)*

### **2.33 SUPPORTING PARTIAL FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS WITH SEVEN TO NINE STUDENTS FOR UP TO TWO YEARS**

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to provide funding for those schools that fall below the minimum number of students for up to two years before a district is not funded for that school. AASB supports a revision to AS 14.17.450 providing partial foundation funding for small, rural Alaskan schools with seven (7) to nine (9) students. These schools would be funded for up to two (2) years at the following percentage of the amount that would be funded if the school had ten (10) students:

Seven (7) students	= 70% funding
Eight (8) students	= 80% funding
Nine (9) students	= 90% funding

*Adopted 2010*

*Amended 2014, 2018*

*Renewed 2015, 2020*

*(Sunset 2025)*

### **2.34 FOCUS ON GRADE-LEVEL PROFICIENCY FOR PRE-K TO GRADE TWELVE STUDENTS AND ADDRESS THE NEED FOR REMEDIATION**

AASB supports additional legislative funding opportunities for intervention for pre-K-12 students needing to make improvement to reach grade level proficiency.

AASB supports the goal of helping students complete high school with measurable and/or identifiable skills to enter the workforce or study at a postsecondary institution, without the need for remedial coursework.

*Adopted 2011*

*Amended 2014, 2018*

*Renewed 2016*

*(Sunset 2023)*

### **2.35 ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR REMEDIATION**

AASB supports the goal of helping students complete high school with measurable and/or identifiable skills to enter the workforce or study at a postsecondary institution, without the need for remedial coursework.

AASB supports additional legislative funding opportunities for intervention for K-12 students needing to make improvement to reach grade-level proficiency.

*Adopted 2011*

*Amended 2012, 2015, 2018*

*Renewed 2016*

*(Sunset 2023)*

### **2.36 COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE ENERGY PLAN**

AASB urges the Alaska State Legislature to work with the State Congressional Delegation and stakeholders to develop, fund and implement a comprehensive statewide energy plan that includes current energy sources, conservation of energy and development of alternative energy. The plan should address and fund development of energy efficiency in public facilities and buildings.

*Adopted 2012*

*Amended 2015, 2018*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunset 2023)*

### **2.37 DISTRICT COST FACTOR**

AASB urges the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development to comply with state statute AS 14.17.460 that requires regular review of District Cost Factors and

development of recommendations for appropriate adjustments, to ensure equity in school funding since the current data being used to determine the District Cost Factors are over 10 years old. Elements in establishing District Cost Factors should include not only the true cost of goods and services but also the mix of goods required in all communities.

AASB further urges the Alaska Legislature provide funding for the required District Cost Factor review and update the cost factors, based upon the resulting DEED recommendations. In addition, AASB urges the Legislature to establish an appeals process related to the DEED recommendations and to include a one-year hold harmless and a phased step-down in the event a school district loses funds due to revisions in the Foundation Formula cost factors. Regular revision of the District Cost Factors is critical to equitable distribution of funding and to address ongoing disparities between districts.

*Adopted 2013*

*Amended 2014, 2015*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunset 2023)*

### **2.38 URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO FUND ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL DISTRICTS**

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to amend the pupil transportation statute (AS14.09.010) to provide equitable funding of transportation for all school districts.

*Adopted 2013*

*Amended 2015*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunset 2023)*

### **2.39 URGING A TRANSPARENT PROCESS WITH STAKEHOLDER INPUT AND PRIORITIZATION OF EQUITY CONCERNS IN STATE STUDIES**

AASB urges the responsible agencies to conduct education studies in a transparent process with multiple opportunities for stakeholder input. The studies should use relevant Alaska data from all parts of our diverse state, promote educational best practices, benefit all students in an equitable manner providing an adequate education for all.

*Adopted 2014*

*Amended 2016*

*Renewed 2019*

*(Sunset 2024)*

### **2.40 SUPPORTING THE USE OF FEDERAL IMPACT AID BY AFFECTED DISTRICTS**

AASB supports allowing affected districts to utilize all of the Federal Impact Aid which districts are eligible for without any deduction made by the State in calculations of state funding pursuant to AS 14.17. The State currently deducts up to 90 percent of the eligible

funds for affected districts. The purpose of such Impact Aid funds is to assist school districts with the reduced revenue availability and increased expenditures that arise from qualifying federal activities and enrollment of qualified federally connected children.

AASB urges that impact aid not be reduced based on title ambiguity that exists in rural households.

*Adopted 2014  
Renewed 2019  
(Sunset 2024)*

#### **2.41 FUNDING FOR INTERNET SERVICES**

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature and Federal Government to enact and fully fund equitable Internet services for rural schools and to extend those benefits to urban school districts as well, to support increasing infrastructure for internet access to rural and underserved communities through more efficient e-rate access for remote learning, public-private partnerships, state-wide consortiums, etc., ensuring that all students and staff have access to reasonably priced, high speed high bandwidth connectivity. Digital literacy is a fundamental skill in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Equitable Internet access will allow all students to develop this skill.

*Adopted 2014,  
Amended 2019  
(Sunset 2024)*

#### **2.42 FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WHO RETURN TO SCHOOL TO GET A DIPLOMA**

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to provide funding to school districts through the foundation formula for “overage” students to return to school to get credits to earn their diploma. Funding should include students through 21 years old.

*Adopted 2014  
Amended 2015, 2019  
(Sunset 2024)*

#### **2.44 URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO MAINTAIN THE 10 STUDENT MINIMUM ADM FOR SCHOOL FUNDING**

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to maintain the present minimum student count of ten (10) students as the minimum school size and base level of funding for a school building in the Public School Funding Program formula.

*Adopted 2015  
Renewed 2020  
(Sunsets 2025).*



**2.45 URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO ADDRESS INEQUITIES IN SCHOOL FUNDING**

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to address and fund inequities in school funding identified in a July 2015 report to the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee.

*Adopted 2015,  
Amended 2018  
Renewed 2020  
(Sunset 2025).*

**2.46 RESOURCES TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE ALASKA SAFE CHILDREN'S ACT**

AASB urges the Legislature to provide resources to effectively implement the mandates of the Alaska Safe Children's Act (AS 14.30).

*Adopted 2015  
Renewed 2020  
(Sunsets 2025).*

**2.47 LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL FUNDING**

AASB urges the Legislature to amend AS 14.03.260 (a) to specify that state pass-through mandates for funding of charter schools do not apply to municipal funding for education so that the required local contribution may be allocated by school boards as they see best in their districts.

*Adopted 2015  
Renewed 2020  
(Sunset 2025).*

**2.48 INCREASING THE FUND BALANCE CAP FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

AASB urges the Legislature to amend AS 14.17.505 (a) to increase to 15 percent or higher the cap on fund balances.

*Adopted 2015  
Amended 2020  
(Sunset 2025).*

**2.50 Inflation-proofed Base Student Allocation (BSA) Investments**

AASB urges the State of Alaska to make inflation-proofed incremental investments to the BSA.

*Adopted 2018  
(Sunsets 2023)*

**2.51 FULLY FUNDING THE REAA RURAL CONSTRUCTION FUND AND BOND DEBT REIMBURSEMENT**

AASB supports fully funding the REAA Rural Construction Fund and Bond Debt Reimbursement.

*Adopted 2019  
(Sunset 2024)*

**2.52 SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SYSTEM**

AASB supports increased and adequate funding of the University of Alaska.

*Adopted 2019  
(Sunset 2024)*

**2.53 URGING THE STATE TO FUND AS 14.14.115, THE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM TO EMPOWER DISTRICTS TO FIND GREATER EFFICIENCIES**

AASB urges the state to recognize, encourage, and empower districts to do the necessary work to combine efforts and share resources for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

*Adopted 2019  
(Sunset 2024)*

**2.55 URGING DEDICATED FUNDING OUTSIDE THE FOUNDATION FUNDING FORMULA**

AASB requests the Alaska Legislature to establish dedicated funding outside the Foundation Funding Formula for the express purpose of supporting school districts in hiring health professionals, including school nurses, counselors, social services managers, and mental health professionals, to support the health and well-being of Alaska's students.

*Adopted 2020,  
(Sunsets 2025)*

**2.56 FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RELATED EXPENSES FOR EDUCATION**

AASB supports all efforts on the part of the Alaska Legislature and the Federal Government to provide additional funding allocated directly to K-12 school districts to meet the needs of districts created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Adopted 2020,  
(Sunsets 2025)*

### **2.58 Teacher Education Loan Expansion**

To amend Alaska State Statute A.S. 14.43.700 to retroactively include hub communities that are a gateway to other eligible rural communities, regardless of population, allowing educators in the area to be eligible for the Teacher Education Loan (TEL) Program.

*Adopted 2021  
(Sunsets 2026)*

### **2.60 Power Cost Equalization**

The Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Program was established by the state of Alaska in 1985 as one of part of a Statewide Energy Plan to reduce the electric rates paid by rural consumers to levels comparable to those paid by the consumers in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks.

The PCE program was established to assist rural residents at the same time state funds were used to construct major energy projects to assist more urban areas. Most urban and road connected communities benefit from major state-subsidized energy projects such as the Four Dam Pool, Bradley Lake, and the Alaska Intertie.

The State-funded PCE program provides a subsidy to rural electric utilities that pass on the savings to residents and municipal entities in the form of discounted electric utility bills.

"The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), along with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), administers the program that serves 82,000 Alaskans in 193 communities that are largely reliant on diesel fuel for power generation" (AEA's PCE Frequently Asked Questions).

The intent of the PCE program was to provide energy assistance to rural Alaskans with the assurance that rural residents would have a dependable and sustainable program for the foreseeable future.

*Adopted 2021  
(Sunsets 2026)*

## **2.61 FUNDING FOR SKILL PROFICIENCY AND CREDIT RECOVERY RELATED TO COVID DISRUPTIONS**

AASB requests that the Alaska State Legislature increase the Base Student Allocation by 20% for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 school years to fund skill proficiency building and credit recovery for students in grades K-12. These funds shall be used for extended-day learning or summer intensive programs aimed at increasing proficiency in Reading or Math; or credit recovery in any subject required for a student to meet State of Alaska Graduation requirements.

*Adopted 2021  
(Sunsets 2026)*

### **2.62 SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION FOR STATE-FUNDED VOLUNTARY EARLY CHILDHOOD (PRE-K) EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

AASB urges the State of Alaska to transform public education by passing legislation that ensures funding for high quality, accessible, and voluntary pre-K public education. A high-quality public education is guided by learning standards; balances performance expectations across age-appropriate developmental domains; implements and monitors effective teaching and learning practices; and supports the professional development of highly qualified, sustainable staffing.

*Adopted 2021  
(Sunsets 2026)*

### **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.

*Adopted 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

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

AASB urges the State of Alaska Legislature to increase 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.

*Adopted 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

**CHILD ADVOCACY****3.1 DECLARING CHILDREN OF ALASKA OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE AND THEIR HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND EDUCATION IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE**

AASB understands that the children are our most valuable resource and encourages the Alaska Legislature and the Governor to declare that our children are our most valuable resource and to further declare that their mental and physical health, safety, welfare, and highest standard of education is of paramount importance.

*Adopted 2004*

*Amended 2011, 2016, 2018,*

*Renew 2019*

*(Sunset 2024)*

**3.2 PROMOTING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT**

AASB encourages each neighborhood, faith community, civic organization, community, school district, tribal entity and state agency to review the research in order to advocate, create and sustain programs of social and emotional learning and other initiatives that build assets in Alaska's children and teens, provide positive adult role models and support, and incorporate culturally responsive awareness.

*Adopted 1997*

*Amended 1998, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*

**3.3 FETAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG EXPOSED STUDENTS**

AASB recognizes the impact of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and strongly recommends efforts to raise awareness of the need for prevention and appropriate intervention. AASB requests that the Alaska Legislature provide and improve effective programs and services aimed at the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of children with FASD within our state, and to allocate adequate funding to the appropriate agencies necessary to provide parent and guardian training, school staff training, paraprofessional and specialized educational services, including transportation necessary to serve children with FASD and/or who have suffered from prenatal exposure to illicit drugs. Further, AASB urges all Alaska post-secondary institutions to include FASD intervention education in their teacher preparation and paraprofessional programs.

*Adopted 1997*

*Amended 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2018*

*Renewed 2017*

*(Sunset 2023)*

### **3.5 VIOLENCE (And Pornography) IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT**

AASB supports efforts encouraging and challenging the media, entertainment and advertising industries to develop more positive content for both children and adults that demonstrate nonviolent solutions to problems and respect for human life. AASB supports efforts to provide parents with the necessary information about the influence of media in order to assist them in their decisions concerning all of its influences upon their children. AASB also supports self-regulation within the industry by asking them to post rating labels on all videos and video games rented or sold by video merchants or loaned by public libraries, and prohibiting children under age of 17 from renting R-or X-rated videos, M-rated video games or attending R-or X-rated movies without parent/guardian permission.

*Adopted 1997,*

*Amended 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunset 2027)*

### **3.6 OPIATES, INHALANTS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, E-CIGARETTES/ELECTRONIC DELIVERY SYSTEMS, METHAMPHETAMINES, MARIJUANA, DESIGNER DRUGS AND ANY ILLICIT SUBSTANCE USE**

AASB calls upon the Legislature of the State of Alaska to support local communities, parents and students in their strength-based education, prevention and treatment efforts to combat opiates, inhalants, alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes/electronic delivery systems, methamphetamines, marijuana, designer drugs and other illicit substances and to provide effective law enforcement to ensure laws pertaining to controlled substances are enforced. AASB also requests the State of Alaska make adequate funds available for community-based and residential efforts to address effective substance use and abuse treatment programs for children, young people and their families.

Additionally, AASB supports regulations or modifications to the marijuana statute to counter potential negative impacts on Alaska youth that develops a clear and simple process for a community to implement local option laws. AASB also recommends allocating appropriately the tax revenue from marijuana sales, production and businesses to support education, prevention, and treatment programs regarding substance use and abuse, which are relevant and aligned to local community and cultural values.

*Adopted 1997, 2017*

*Amended 1998, 1999, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2013, 2014, 2018, 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

**3.7 COOPERATION AMONG SERVICE PROVIDERS SERVING CHILDREN**

AASB supports information sharing within Federal Rights to Privacy requirements (FERPA, HIPAA, 42CFR) to ensure that children are able to come to school each day ready to learn, and to enable agencies to develop a cooperative treatment plan that involves appropriate school personnel.

*Adopted 2000*

*Amended 2001, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2017*

*Renewed 2020*

*(Sunset 2025)*

**3.8 SUICIDE PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND TREATMENT EFFORTS**

AASB requests the State of Alaska to provide funding for statewide suicide prevention, education, and treatment efforts coordinated among various entities including peer helper programs, mental health centers, and local and state agencies. Initiatives should include a statewide program to bring professional mental health counselors on-site to visit schools as well as support school-based counseling programs.

Further, AASB urges school districts, tribal entities, and appropriate agencies and communities to engage in responding to this serious and ongoing challenge, through the implementation of protective factors, ensuring culturally relevant strategies.

*Adopted 1997, 2017*

*Amended 1998, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2015, 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

**3.9 SAFE, CARING AND CONNECTED SCHOOLS**

AASB recognizes the importance of positive school climate, building positive relationships, and student connectedness to school as powerful influences on student academic success and on reducing youth risk behaviors and urges the Legislature and state agencies to join AASB in supporting school district efforts to improve school climate and increase student connectedness to school. AASB supports efforts to provide a school environment that is free from weapons, harassment, bullying and intimidation in any form, violence, drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), and other factors that threaten the safety of students and staff while acknowledging that schools have not historically been safe for all students.

*Adopted 1997, 2017*

*Amended 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2008, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2018*

*Renewed 2017*

*(Sunsets 2023)*

**3.10 SUPPORT OF STATE FUNDING FOR STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES IN ALASKA**

AASB strongly urges the Administration and the Legislature to provide funding for school-based student health services.

*Adopted 1998,  
Amended 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2011  
Renewed 2018  
(Sunsets 2023)*

### **3.11 HIV/AIDS AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI) EDUCATION**

AASB supports providing effective HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) education programs for students and parents, and training for certified and classified school staff. AASB supports an effective and comprehensive education effort that focuses on reducing risk by emphasizing abstinence, healthy decision making and refusal skills. Such instruction should also include the use of barrier methods. An effective way to do this is to bring together a broad consensus of the community in order to develop and implement the district's HIV/AIDS curriculum on preventing HIV/AIDS and other STIs.

*Adopted 1997, 2017  
Amended 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2018  
Renewed 2017  
(Sunsets 2023)*

### **3.12 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS IN RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIORS RELATING TO HUMAN SEXUALITY**

AASB encourages responsible behaviors relating to human sexuality by supporting programs that promote abstinence, develop healthy decision-making skills, the importance of consent, teach refusal skills and promote prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

*Adopted 1997  
Amended 1998, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008  
Renewed 2017, 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

### **3.13 IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA CHILDREN'S TRUST**

AASB fully supports the work of the Alaska Children's Trust and urges all member school boards to promote the Trust and its efforts to address the tragic consequences of abuse, neglect, violence, and crime experienced by too many of Alaska's children. AASB urges the Legislature to support and increase the Children's Trust Endowment.

*Adopted 1996  
Amended 1997, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2015,  
Renewed 2016, 2021  
Sunsets 2026*



**3.14 INCREASED SUPPORT OF ALASKA HEAD START PROGRAMS**

Alaska Head Start programs and services are a partnership between federal, state and community-level entities. The Association of Alaska School Boards supports and urges the Congress of the United States, the President, the Alaska Legislature, and the Governor to provide sufficient and consistent funding to make Head Start, Early Infant Learning available to all eligible young Alaskans, regardless of the number of children in the program.

*Adopted 1997, 2017*

*Amended 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2010*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunsets 2027)*

**3.15 SUPPORTING THE SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT**

AASB urges the U.S. Congress to continue funding for the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act at levels adequate to support effective education, counseling and prevention efforts. The Association recommends that such valuable new initiatives as preventing violence in the schools be funded through separate appropriation.

*Adopted 1997, 2017*

*Amended 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2009,*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunsets 2027)*

**3.16 REVISE PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR QUESTIONNAIRES AND SURVEYS ADMINISTERED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

AASB supports modifying the requirements for parental or legal guardian permission for a student to participate in a questionnaire or survey administered in a public school to make it easier for school districts to obtain the necessary permission.

*Adopted 2001,*

*Amended 2007, 2009, 2015*

*Renewed 2016, 2021*

*Sunsets 2026*

**3.17 STUDENT WELLNESS**

Good physical and mental health of children is essential if they are to take full advantage of the educational services offered by their school. AASB urges students, parents, educators, guardians, community groups, tribal entities and state and local agencies to collaborate on collective ways to ensure all children are prepared to learn through healthy eating habits, physical activity, social emotional learning awareness and access to adequate housing and health care including mental health. Due to the federally mandated Child Nutrition Act, funding to school districts should be increased to support adequate

school services and programs to address those mandates. Specific school-based measures to reduce child obesity issues should include increased funding and support for traditional foods for school districts.

*Adopted 2005,  
Amended 2006, 2008, 2009, 2015, 2018, 2020  
(Sunsets 2025)*

### **3.18 PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD BRAIN DEVELOPMENT**

AASB encourages legislative recognition that brain development in 0-3 year-old children critically impacts educational success. Inadequate brain development in the very early years is impossible to overcome and poses a huge and costly challenge for school districts. AASB supports efforts to inform parents and families about promoting healthy brain development in their very young children and to provide related resources that support early brain development efforts. AASB further urges legislators to fund early learning programs.

*Adopted 2005,  
Amended 2011, 2013, 2015  
Renewed 2020  
(Sunsets 2025)*

### **3.19 SCHOOL ACTIVITY AND STATEWIDE TESTING SCHEDULES IN RELATION TO MAJOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

In advocating for the respect of cultural differences and in recognition of increasing diversity, AASB encourages the State of Alaska, school districts and the Alaska School Activities Association to schedule major school-sanctioned activities and statewide testing on days that do not conflict with major religious holidays and cultural activities.

*Adopted 2007, 2017  
Amended 2009, 2011  
Renewed 2017, 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

### **3.20 INTERVENTIONS AND SANCTIONS THAT REDUCE LOSS OF CREDIT**

AASB supports amending AS 14.30.171 to allow school district personnel to reduce or mitigate suspensions or expulsions based on attendance and participation in appropriate interventions.

*Adopted 2007,  
Renewed 2017, 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

**3.21 SUPPORTING EXPANSION OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

AASB endorses the expansion of health insurance coverage to school-age Alaska children and their families. The provision of medical benefits to these children and their families ensures more students will be able to remain healthy, focus on school and grow into productive adults.

*Adopted 2010,  
Amended 2011, 2016, 2019  
(Sunsets 2024)*

**3.22 STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES**

AASB urges the Alaska School Activities Association, the Department of Education & Early Development and the Alaska Legislature to provide clear rules and appropriate funding to assure that all students participating in interscholastic activities adhere to the standards set forth by the state and local school districts.

*Adopted 2012,  
Amended 2014  
Renewed 2017, 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

**3.23 SUPPORT OF FULL STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

AASB strongly urges the Administration and the Legislature to continue to sufficiently fund the Public Health Nurse Program, community health aides/practitioners and other immunization programs so that necessary and required immunizations and health screenings can be provided free of charge for all disadvantaged children and youth.

*Adopted 2012,  
Amended 2013,  
Renewed 2017, 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

**3.25 SUPPORTING SEX ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION**

AASB supports the expansion and funding of age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades K through 12. Passage of the Alaska Safe Children's Act of 2015 offers momentum towards this goal. The law requires schools to offer education to make children and youth aware of sexual abuse and assault, as well as dating violence and healthy relationships.

AASB also supports the prohibition of students being exempted from this education by parents/guardians, except under exceptional circumstances.

*Adopted 2014*  
*Amended 2015, 2018*  
*Renewed 2019*  
*(Sunsets 2024)*

### **3.26 SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF TRAUMA-INFORMED AND CULTURALLY AFFIRMING PRACTICES**

AASB urges its member districts to implement and educate families and the greater community on trauma-informed and culturally affirming practices, disciplinary policies, interactions and environments. The Association of Alaska School Boards understands the importance of meeting the needs of students who have experienced childhood trauma to improve student achievement and reduce behavioral deficits for all Alaskan students.

*Adopted 2017*  
*Renewed 2022*  
*(Sunsets 2027)*

### **3.27 SUPPORT FOR THE TREATMENT OF ABUSE OF OPIATES**

AASB advocates for appropriate legislative funding for opiate abuse treatment. AASB strongly supports both increasing resources for medication-assisted treatment within primary care as well as access to developmentally appropriate substance use disorder counseling in community settings, which may include schools.

*Adopted 2017*  
*Amended 2019*  
*(Sunsets 2024)*

### **3.28 EDUCATION ON THE DANGERS OF TOBACCO, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, MARIJUANA USE AND SECONDHAND SMOKE**

AASB encourages the Alaska Legislature to provide education awareness funding for publications and educational awareness opportunities on the danger of secondhand smoke in regards to tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems, and marijuana use.

*Adopted 2017*  
*Amended 2018, 2019*  
*(Sunsets 2024)*

### **3.29 PROMOTING STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAMS**

AASB recognizes that our children are "Alaska's Most Valuable Resource." Accidental and preventable deaths caused by unsafe transportation practices have been plaguing the

state, especially in rural school districts. AASB urges local school districts to adopt Student Transportation Safety Standards such as, but not limited to:

- Helmet use on ATV or snowmachines
- Lifejacket use on boats
- Appropriate use of seat belts and car seats
- Weather appropriate clothing for all modes of transportation
- Student choice to travel, or not, depending on weather circumstances

School districts should also consider safe travel practices and the adoption of standards for students traveling by any mode of transportation, to or from school activities.

*Adopted 2017,  
Amended 2018  
(Sunsets 2023)*

### **3.30 SAFE AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS**

AASB encourages member districts, state agencies, and other decision-makers to support policies and practices that ensure safe and inclusive learning environments for LGBTQ+ students.-AASB supports districts in their efforts to protect the health and dignity of all children and youth, including transgender and nonbinary students, and to ensure equal access to educational programs.

*Adopted 2021  
Sunset 2026*

**PERSONNEL**

**4.1 SUPPORTS FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

AASB supports funded opportunities and sufficient resources for quality and relevant staff preparation and demonstrably effective continuing development in both urban and rural settings for those educating Alaska’s public school students. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Professional development for teachers to implement the Alaska State Standards;
- Pre-service: State training programs through postsecondary and other institutions;
- Expanding Department of Education & Early Development packaged training programs for all school districts to use in providing consistent mandated training to employees and in meeting the requirements of the (Every Student Succeeds Act 2015) Elementary and Secondary Education Act;
- Developing resources to allow the sharing and implementation of best educational practices;
- Quality in-service programs at the local district level;
- Necessary training for paraprofessionals and special needs educators.
- Promote local mentors to foster the enculturation of teachers/administrators.
- Cultural orientation and ongoing training in local language, culture and history.

*Adopted 2002*

*Amended 2004, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

### **4.3 ALASKA STATEWIDE EDUCATOR MENTORING**

AASB applauds the willingness of veteran educators to serve as mentors to Alaska’s teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals. AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to provide adequate and permanent funding to continue professional staff mentoring. Mentors should also be trained to support new teachers to address implementation of the Alaska Cultural Standards, which are critical in ensuring our State’s diverse population of students have access to culturally relevant instruction.

*Adopted 2005,  
Amended 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018,  
Amended 2020  
(Sunsets 2023)*

### **4.4 SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES TRAINING**

The Association of Alaska School Boards promotes the establishment and expansion of postsecondary educational programs to train additional individuals as certified special education teachers and the initiation of programs to train related services providers (e.g. school psychologists, physical therapists, and speech therapists) within our state university system.

Academic programs to train some special education-related service providers are not currently available within Alaska. Therefore, AASB endorses providing financial support to Alaska residents who must attend professional certification programs outside the state. This support should be limited to those professionals committed to providing services to children in Alaska public schools. In addition, AASB supports the continuation of using alternative ways towards special education certification.

*Adopted 1998  
Amended 1999, 2000, 2010, 2011  
Renewed 2018  
(Sunsets 2023)*

### **4.5 ADDRESSING THE TEACHER, SPECIALIST AND ADMINISTRATOR SHORTAGE**

The Association of Alaska School Boards urges the Alaska State Legislature, Alaska State Board of Education, and Teacher Education Programs in Alaska’s universities to address the severe shortage of teachers, specialists, and administrators in the State of Alaska. Suggested strategies may include:

- Incentives (salary bonuses, student loan forgiveness, student loan assumption, competitive retirement benefits, student loan interest rate reduction, etc.);
- State supported marketing and licensure assistance to recruit teachers;
- Flexibility in certification requirements and reciprocity;

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

- Alternative routes to teacher certification;
- Improved access to technology including bandwidth and knowledgeable staff;
- Increasing availability and/or quality of teacher housing, including state subsidized teacher housing
- Mentoring programs for new teachers and administrators;
- Streamline the rehire of retired teachers and administrators;
- Professional support/development.
- Eliminate redundant or unnecessary paperwork.
- Increasing awareness about the lives and communities of Alaska’s children.
- A defined benefit retirement system
- Utilize research on system supports that promote teacher retention.
- Train more Alaska students as educators
- Seek training opportunities for staff and high school students to increase the pool of qualified staff who are representative of the diverse population they teach.

*Adopted 1999*

*Amended 2000, 2001, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020  
(Sunsets 2025)*

### **4.6 REPEAL THE SOCIAL SECURITY GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATORS**

AASB supports the elimination of two little known amendments to the Social Security Act that unfairly penalize certain public employees by reducing earned retirement benefits. They are the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

*Adopted 2002, 2017*

*Amended 2007, 2013, 2019  
(Sunsets 2024)*

### **4.7 RELATING TO DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT**

AASB supports establishment of a defined benefit retirement program that improves the hiring and retention of highly qualified and effective staff.

*Adopted 2005*

*Amended 2008, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019  
(Sunsets 2024)*

### **4.8 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE COSTS AND MEDICAL INSURANCE**



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

AASB calls upon the Governor, the Legislature and Congress to assist school districts to address the cost of health care in Alaska in ways that are not detrimental to districts while providing district options.

*Adopted 2005*

*Amended 2010, 201, 2013, 2018, 2021*

*(Sunsets 2023).*

### **4.11 ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO CERTIFY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS**

AASB encourages the Department of Education & Early Development to develop alternative pathways for certifying teachers (a) to qualify vocational/career technology teachers to provide core academic credit; and (b) to recognize an indigenous teacher certification track that will use Native/indigenous knowledge systems and pedagogy as a base for training teachers able to more effectively teach Native students. The alternative pathways should be created with participation from both urban and rural districts.

*Adopted 2008*

*Amended 2010, 2011, 2013, 2017, 2018*

*(Sunsets 2023)*

### **4.12 TEACHER ENDORSEMENTS CHANGE NOTIFICATION**

AASB urges the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development to require adequate notice to school districts before teachers change their endorsements.

*Adopted 2010,*

*Amended 2011 Renewed 2015,2020*

*(Sunsets 2025).*

### **4.13 CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERINTENDENTS AND SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPALS**

AASB urges the University of Alaska to continue to strengthen its curriculum and program for the education of school superintendents and superintendent/principals in order to produce more applicants who are qualified in all aspects of district administration. The curriculum and training should include:

- Extensive focus on school finance, budget development and administration; school facilities planning, design, construction and financing;
- Curriculum and instruction;
- School law;
- School board relations and policy development;
- Strategies for improving student achievement;
- Public relations and effective communications, including the judicious use of technology and social media;
- Human resources, including the recruitment, orientation, professional development and evaluation of school personnel;

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

- Labor relations, including collective bargaining and the administration of collective bargaining agreements.
- Cultural awareness, knowledge, and understanding of Alaska Native cultures
- Awareness, knowledge, and understanding of other cultures
- Organizational Change Management Theory
- Equity, inclusiveness and cultural responsiveness

*Adopted 2013*

*Amended 2018, 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

### **4.15 URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO REMOVE A SUBSTANTIAL ROADBLOCK TO HIRING TEMPORARY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS**

AASB urges the Alaska Division of Retirement and Benefits to promulgate a rule, regulation, policy, directive or other binding determination to allow school districts to hire superintendents on a defined temporary basis without forfeiting their retirement status and without becoming active members of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS). AASB believes such relief to be in the best interest of the State of Alaska, individual school districts and parents, staff and students in affected districts. AASB believes that an adequate definition of “temporary” would include the remainder of the school year in which the superintendent is hired and up to one full school year following.

*Adopted 2014*

*Renewed 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

### **4.16 SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE, CULTURALLY--INTEGRATED PEDAGOGY IN ALASKA**

AASB urges the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to support and provide regionally implemented immersive cultural training and programs through: a) Alaska Studies and Cross-Cultural Communication professional development courses, b) the development of local mentor programs for teacher enculturation, and c) consultation with Alaska Native entities. Furthermore, AASB urges DEED to provide for the development of regionally and locally relevant elementary and secondary curriculum, which includes Alaska’s history from the Alaska Native perspective. AASB also urges the University of Alaska College of Education (COE) to support local teacher preparation programs that grow our own teachers as well as supporting regional campuses in offering regionally-relevant Alaska Studies and Cross-Cultural Communication courses.

*Adopted July 2017*

*Amended 2018*

*(Sunsets 2023)*

### **4.17 ADDRESSING THE PARAPROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE**

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

In light of the statewide shortage of paraprofessionals, the Association of Alaska School Boards encourages and urges the Alaska State Legislature and Board of Education to enact legislation and programs to fully fund the recruitment, retention, training, and development of paraprofessionals. Suggested strategies may include:

- Marketing programs aimed at recruiting and retaining paraprofessional talent;
- Development/Mentoring programs;
- Increased allocation for paraprofessionals in the funding model;
- Incentives and assistance to encourage paraprofessionals to become teachers.

*Adopted 2018  
(Sunsets 2023)*

### **4.18 ESTABLISHING A NEW TEACHER INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR ALASKA**

AASB requests that the Alaska State Legislature establish and fund a New Teacher Incentive Program for the purpose of attracting and retaining new teachers to Alaska school districts. A sample incentive program that could include the following:

1. The requirement that a participant be a graduate from an approved teacher certification program meeting the requirements of initial certification for the State of Alaska; or
2. Meet the requirements of 14.20.022 (Subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate) and be currently enrolled in a Teacher Certification Program of no less than 12 credit hours per year directly related to the graduation requirements for a Teaching degree, certificate, or endorsement qualifying the person for a Professional Teacher Certificate or Second Initial Teacher Certificate; and
3. Have all eligible Federal student loans consolidated with a loan program that qualifies for Teacher Loan Forgiveness (FFEL) as long as that program or any substantively similar program exists; and
4. The student must make minimum payments as required to maintain eligibility for Teacher Loan Forgiveness (FFEL); shall be provided
5. A one-time relocation bonus to the new teacher and his/her family of \$10,000 to the district in which they are hired; and
6. A student loan forgiveness payment of the lesser of 10% or \$15,000 directly to their student loan servicer upon completion of each of their first five years of teaching in the same district; and
7. Provide a student loan forgiveness payment directly to the loan servicer of the lesser of 10% or \$10,000 directly to their student loan servicer upon completion of each of their sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and 10th years teaching in Alaska, and
8. Payoff all remaining student loans, public or private, not to exceed \$25,000 total, after the eleventh year teaching in Alaska and after the employee provides evidence that he has applied for Teacher Loan Forgiveness and met all application requirements; and

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

9. Providing a retention bonus of \$3,000 per year, through year 10, for any qualified teacher not receiving a student loan forgiveness payment in the program; and
10. Provide an additional retention bonus of \$5,000 per year for any teacher certified or endorsed in a Math or Science Subject, or in Special Education, in addition to any loan forgiveness payments or any other bonus.
11. Fund the program as a state Grant through DEED for \$10 million per year (\$150 million total over 15 years) with preference for State of Alaska Residents, graduates from Alaska Colleges and Universities, and members of Alaskan Federally-Recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.

*Adopted 2021  
(Sunsets 2026)*

**EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**5.1 CAREER-EXPLORATION PROGRAMS**

The Association of Alaska School Boards strongly supports adequate and equitable funding for career and technical education, career technical student organizations, and, starting at the preschool and elementary level, career-exploration activities, while ensuring resources to satisfy needs and requirements of all academic programs.

*Adopted 1998*

*Amended 1999, 2002, 2008, 2010, 2012*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunsets 2023)*

**5.2 CURRICULUM EXPANSION VIA DISTANCE DELIVERY**

AASB urges the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) and other entities to support, coordinate and encourage Alaska-sourced distance delivered education programs for students and teachers in partnership with local districts using existing facilities whenever possible, and supports funding for the purchase and installation of distance delivery equipment. AASB strongly supports the increased development of the state's Internet infrastructure to support distance delivery, thus providing equitable educational opportunities for all students.

*Adopted 2000*

*Amended 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2016, 2017*

*Renewed 2015, 2020*

*(Sunsets 2025)*

**5.3 ALASKA NATIVE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

AASB supports state funding for staff training, program development and materials preparation to promote Alaska Native Indigenous language instruction for those districts that desire Alaska Native Indigenous language programs. AASB also urges Congress to clarify the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to bring it into compliance with the Native American Languages Act and to support opportunities for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students to retain and use indigenous languages, including adequate funding for programs that can support Alaska Native Indigenous language instruction. AASB recognizes that in order for students to become proficient in indigenous languages, we must also encourage parent engagement in the language learning process.

*Adopted 1997*

*Amended 1998, 1999, 2004, 2008, 2010, 2018, 2021*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunset 2023)*

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

### **5.4 COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

AASB recommends that a new Community Schools Act be enacted and the state explore independent funding status for Alaska’s Community School programs.

*Adopted 2000*

*Amended 2001, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

### **5.6 ENCOURAGING CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

AASB encourages member districts to develop well-articulated curriculum for civic education (in all contexts, including municipal, tribal, state, federal and global) for students and provide effective teaching strategies for civic instruction, including promoting meaningful student government opportunities and civic engagement at all levels.

*Adopted 2007*

*Amended 2008, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2020*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunsets 2025)*

### **5.7 REQUESTING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENTS IN ALASKA NATIVE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**

AASB requests the state to provide standardized assessments in the Alaska Native indigenous languages, as requested by the individual districts.

*Adopted 2007*

*Amended 2015*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunsets 2027)*

### **5.8 SUPPORTING REGIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS**

AASB supports funding regional career and technical education centers, both new and pre-existing, to support the goals of public education. Centers could establish partnerships with the private sector to help fund training programs leading to employment of students in a broad range of careers. This funding should also include monies for student housing.

*Adopted 2008*

*Amended 2009, 2012*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunsets 2023)*

**5.9 URGING FLEXIBILITY IN TESTING TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to join with school districts in opposing those aspects of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that are detrimental to rural, largely Alaska Native school districts, including testing programs that inaccurately assess Alaska Native and rural Alaska students. In addition, AASB urges the state to reexamine its own testing programs with regard to these issues.

*Adopted 2008*

*Amended 2010, 2014, 2015*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunsets 2023)*

**5.10 SUPPORTING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALASKA’S 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLD LEARNERS**

AASB strongly supports full implementation and funding of a voluntary education program for every 3- and 4-year-old child in Alaska, that aligns with individual districts’ enrollment policies and/or deadlines.

*Adopted 2008*

*Amended 2010, 2012*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunsets 2023)*

**5.11 ENCOURAGING DISTRICTS TO ADOPT STANDARDS FOR PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMS**

AASB encourages the Alaska Legislature to provide funding for district efforts to develop, implement and regularly evaluate their parent involvement programs using, as models, the Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools and the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs.

*Adopted 2008*

*Amended 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014*

*Renewed 2018*

*(Sunsets 2023)*

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

### **5.12    URGING CONTINUATION OF THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION ACT**

AASB urges Congress and the President to support continuation of the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support and Assistance Act as a critical way of engaging families and communities. This will more effectively support student success and align school and community efforts to create safe, healthy, culturally responsive, and opportunity-rich environments.

*Adopted 2009*

*Amended 2010, 2015, 2016*

*Renewed 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

### **5.13    RELATING TO POSTSECONDARY CLASSES FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS**

AASB believes that students who are enrolled in state-funded institutions offering dual credit college post secondary and CTE classes should have the cost funded by the state.

*Adopted 2009*

*Amended 2010, 2014, 2021*

*Renewed 2019*

*(Sunsets 2024)*

### **5.15 SUPPORTING ASSESSMENTS TO MEASURE PROGRESS**

AASB supports state funding to provide the full cost of equipment, technicians, network upgrades, and the broadband connectivity necessary to meet current and future mandated assessments and life-cycle replacement of hardware, software, and related technology.

*Adopted 2015*

*Amended 2016*

*Renewed 2020*

*(Sunsets 2025).*

### **5.16 SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

AASB strongly supports the Public School Library Development Grant Program and the State Board of Education and Early Development adopted regulations pertaining to Alaska State Statute 14.56.360-375, providing for annual funding for strong broadly based school library collections in support of school curriculum offerings.

*Adopted 2012*

*Renewed 2017, 2022*

*(Sunsets 2027)*



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    CORE RESOLUTIONS

### **5.17 URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO CHANGE ALASKA STATE STATUTE 14.07.030 TO ALLOW FOR ELEMENTARY AGE STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED DUE TO A SCHOOL CLOSING TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE STATE BOARDING HOME PROGRAM.**

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to change the language of state statute AS 14.07.030 by removing the specific “secondary” student eligibility criteria to allow elementary age students who have been displaced from a community when a local school has been closed due to enrollment below 10 students to be eligible for state funding through the State Boarding Home Program. A change to this Statute will allow the Department of Education and Early Development to make necessary changes to regulation to address the needs of these displaced elementary age students.

*Adopted 2012  
Renewed 2017, 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

### **5.19 SUPPORTING AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS**

AASB strongly supports districts that are undertaking efforts to develop and implement authentic assessments and asks that the state recognize these as legitimate alternative ways of accurately assessing student learning.

*Adopted 2015  
Renewed 2020  
(Sunsets 2025).*

### **5.20 SUPPORTING RANDOM OR WEIGHTED LOTTERIES FOR CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

AASB urges the Legislature to authorize a change in statute regarding the charter school(s) lottery process, to allow use of either a random lottery or weighted lottery for low academically performing and/or low-income students, when approved by the local school board and/or Alaska Board of Education.

*Adopted 2016  
Renewed 2021  
(Sunsets 2026)*

### **5.21 SUPPORTING THE ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP (APS)**

AASB urges support for the Alaska Performance Scholarship for our high school students.

*Adopted 2016  
Renewed 2021  
(Sunsets 2026).*

### **5.22 SUPPORTING CTE CREDITS FOR THE ALASKA PERFORMANCE**

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

AASB urges support to allow students to substitute up to two units of Career Technical Education (CTE) classes to count as requirements towards the two to four year college awards levels for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

*Adopted 2016  
Renewed 2021  
(Sunsets 2026)*

### **5.23 SUPPORTING INNOVATION, COLLABORATION, AND TRIBAL COMPACTING TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL ALASKAN STUDENTS**

AASB urges stakeholders to be innovative in their thinking and to support efforts to collaboratively change practices and address barriers to implement new ways of teaching and learning in culturally responsive ways. AASB supports the creation of tribal compacting as a public education option for the students of Alaska. AASB wishes to serve as a voice for school boards and a resource for tribes and agencies as this process proceeds as requested. AASB recognizes, respects and honors the inherent sovereignty of Alaska's tribal governments, as defined by federal law.

*Adopted 2017  
Amended 2022  
Renewed 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

### **5.24 RECOGNIZING THE VALUABLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THE ANNUAL ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE AND AFN CONVENTION PROVIDES STUDENTS**

The Association of Alaska School Board supports school boards recognizing the annual Elders & Youth Conference and the Alaska Federation of Native (AFN) Convention as valuable and educational opportunities for Alaska's youth, and students should be encouraged and supported to participate in these events.

*Adopted 2017,  
Amended 2019  
(Sunsets 2024)*

### **5.25 EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS**

AASB supports strong gifted and talented programs in the state's elementary and secondary schools. AASB recognizes that gifted and talented students comprise a subset of learners who need additional challenges and strategies for involvement in the classroom or risk underachievement. While the Department of Education and Early Development requires a district education program for gifted children to be in place for Alaska school districts, there is a limited accountability and no funding allocated to

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

ensure the success of the program. This constitutes an unfunded mandate on school districts.

*Adopted 2011,  
Amended 2019  
(Sunsets 2024)*

### **5.26 REQUEST FOR AN ALASKA DEED GRADUATION SUCCESS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS AGES 19-21**

AASB strongly urges legislative action for Alaska Department of Education to take a systematic approach to dropout recovery by expanding the funding for one additional year to school districts serving eligible students, aged 19-21.

*Adopted 2017  
Renewed 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*

### **5.27 IN SUPPORT OF ARTS EDUCATION**

AASB supports a systemic and rigorous arts education for all students. AASB urges member districts and education agencies to prioritize artistic literacy and implement sequential, standards-based arts curriculum, employ arts specialists whenever possible, and provide professional development in arts disciplines and arts integration for educators. AASB encourages member districts and education agencies to leverage the expertise and resources of community partners in order to improve access, equity, and quality of arts education for all students.

*Adopted 2018  
(Sunsets 2023)*

### **5.28 SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF ALASKA NATIVE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**

In recognition of the linguistic emergency for the twenty-one surviving Alaska Native Indigenous languages declared on September 23, 2018 in Administrative Order No. 300, AASB urges support from the Alaska Legislature, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and all accredited higher education systems.

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to support local school districts in their efforts to integrate Alaska Native Indigenous languages across all age levels through additional, targeted funding allocations. This funding will support the development of curriculum, as well as the training, certification and hiring of qualified, fluent Alaska Native Indigenous language educators.

AASB urges the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to review its policies regarding requirements to provide support and encouragement to Alaska

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS    **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

Indigenous Natives to seek Type M Certificates, and form community partnerships in the developmental process for Type M Portable certification in Alaska Native Indigenous languages.

AASB encourages all accredited higher education systems to reinvigorate and expand its programs in all Alaska Native Indigenous languages. These programs are instrumental in the preservation of our state's indigenous languages.

*Adopted 2018  
(Sunsets 2023)*

### **5.29 URGING A STATEWIDE ANNUAL ALASKA INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE CONFERENCE**

AASB urges the Governor of Alaska, the State Legislature and the State Board of Education to provide an annual Alaska Indigenous Language Conference that will benefit indigenous Alaskan languages.

*Adopted 2018,  
Amended 2020  
(Sunsets 2025)*

### **5.30 REQUESTING A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE STATEWIDE TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

AASB calls upon the State of Alaska to undertake a thorough analysis of the statewide testing and accountability system to ensure an accurate, relevant, and authentic assessment of student learning.

*Adopted 2019  
(Sunset 2024)*

### **5.31 ALASKA STANDARDS FOR CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SCHOOLS**

AASB supports the implementation of the Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools.

*Adopted 2020  
(Sunsets 2025)*

### **5.32 ALASKA HISTORY TEXTBOOK**

AASB requests that the Alaska Legislature support the production of a printed and/or digital textbook on the history of Alaska, co-authored by western and Alaska Native scholars, for statewide use in public schools.

*Adopted 2020  
(Sunsets 2025)*

**5.33 RESTORING THE ALASKA LEARNING NETWORK (AKLN)**

AASB requests that the Alaska State Legislature re-establish the Alaska Learning Network (AKLN) and fund it to the FY 2017 funding level plus inflation, at a minimum, for the purpose of allowing districts to share course offerings and provide individual students with opportunities to take courses not offered or accessible at their school.

*Adopted 2021  
(Sunsets 2026)*

**5.34 SUPPORT FOR ESSA PRIORITIES**

AASB supports racial and socioeconomic equity in education, raising the levels of achievement of all students, particularly those at the lower levels of performance, and eliminating the racial and socioeconomic predictability and disproportionality of achievement. AASB fully supports the proposed priorities for American History and Civics programs authorized by ESSA, including culturally responsive teaching and teaching about institutional and systemic racism.

*Adopted 2021  
(Sunsets 2026)*

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

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

*Adopted 2022  
(Sunsets 2027)*