

# 2018 Legislative Talking Points

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## **A STABLE FISCAL PLAN FOR ALASKA**

Alaska must have 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.

## **EDUCATION IS AN IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM INVESTMENT**

An investment in education is an investment in Alaska. Immediate economic benefits come to communities through employment of school staff and programs. More importantly, investing in the education of Alaska's children is one of the surest ways to sustain our economy.

## **HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS**

The greatest factor affecting student achievement is the quality of the teacher who delivers instruction to the student.

## **MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES IN ALASKA FOR ALASKA'S GRADUATES**

The key to Alaska's future success and prosperity is the ability to provide opportunities for meaningful careers and economic reward to its graduates through relevant instruction.

## **SUPPORT FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALASKA'S EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGE**

Many Alaskan students face a variety of challenges, which may result in achievement gaps. Transformative change of Alaska's education system may provide for an excellent education for every student every day.

## **SUPPORT EDUCATION FUNDING (HB 339)**

School districts face increasing costs in delivering education each year. In order to maintain adequate, quality instruction and programs that may align to Alaska's Education Challenge and each district's educational vision, increased funding is necessary.

## **EARLY FUNDING (SB 131 HB 287)**

Early funding will allow school boards and district administration to effectively plan instruction and staffing for the upcoming school year.

## **CIP (MAJOR MAINTENANCE)**

The Alaska State Legislature and the Governor should fund the constitutionally mandated need for educationally appropriate school facilities and major school maintenance.

### **NO MORE 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, and increasing costs and expectations for services, unfunded mandates result in an overwhelming financial burden.

### **PRE-SCHOOL**

The foundation of cognition is established early in childhood, and research clearly demonstrates the efficacy of educational programming for pre-k children. Access to these programs is important for every child in Alaska.