



# AASB's 2026 Legislative Priorities



Based on the priorities of our member school districts statewide, the AASB Board of Directors has adopted four legislative priorities calling for investment in **Public Education**, **Educators**, **Infrastructure**, and **Student Achievement & Wellness**.

## INVEST IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

- **Treat education funding as an investment in student success**, not simply a cost, by directing resources toward graduation, literacy, postsecondary readiness, and student well-being.
- **Ensure every Alaska student can graduate, pursue postsecondary education, and contribute** to their family, community, and state by fully resourcing public education.
- **Continue increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to restore the value lost to inflation** since 2011 and protect educational quality statewide.
- **Build on the 2025 \$700 BSA increase, which addressed only 39% of the funding gap**, recognizing that student outcomes are positively correlated with adequate funding.

### SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS

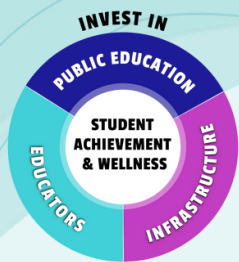
- **Belief Statement B.7** Educational Programs and Funding as Top Priority
- **Resolution 2.2** Urging Early, Adequate, Equitable, and Predictable Funding of Public Education
- **Resolution 2.64** Base Student Allocation Increase: Making Up for Lost Ground Due to Inflation

## INVEST IN EDUCATORS

- **Stabilize and strengthen Alaska's education workforce** to improve student outcomes by addressing our unprecedented recruitment and retention crisis affecting teachers, administrators, and support staff.
- **Implement the recommendations of the Teacher Recruitment & Retention Task Force**, including reinstating competitive compensation and retirement options (defined benefit and defined contribution) and investing in teacher housing, especially in rural districts.
- **Continue to grow Alaska's own educators and school leaders** through expanded partnerships with universities, apprenticeship programs, mentorships, and alternative certification pathways.
- **Provide competitive compensation**, supportive working conditions, and high-quality professional development to support educators as the foundation of students' academic, social, and emotional success.

### SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS

- **Resolution 4.1** Supports for Staff Development
- **Resolution 4.5** Addressing the Teacher, Administrator, and School Staff Shortage
- **Resolution 4.7** Relating to Defined Benefit Retirement



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## INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Ensure all students learn in safe, functional, and modern facilities** by addressing Alaska's documented K-12 infrastructure crisis, which includes leaking roofs, damaged foundations, heating failures, and environmental hazards that directly threaten safety and student learning.
- **Reduce the \$2.4 billion deferred-maintenance backlog** through sustained, equitable capital investment, as nearly half of school buildings are over 40 years old and state major-maintenance spending over the past five years has reached only 19% of recommended levels.
- **Restore predictable capital funding and address the impacts of the school bond-debt reimbursement moratorium**, which has shifted disproportionate costs to local governments and left many rural and small communities unable to bond for critical facility upgrades.
- **Maintain schools as critical community hubs, emergency shelters, and places of sanctuary during natural disasters**, especially in rural and remote Alaska.

### SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS

- **Belief Statement B.9** Meeting School Facility Needs for Alaska Students
- **Resolution 2.15** School Construction and Major Maintenance Funding
- **Resolution 3.12** School Facilities as Community Centers

## SUPPORT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & WELLNESS

- **Prioritize student mental, physical, and emotional well-being** as a foundation for learning by ensuring access to counseling, school-based health supports, and safe, supportive learning environments.
- **Deliver culturally-responsive curriculum that reflects students' communities and environments** to strengthen relevance, identity, and student connection to learning.
- **Expand extracurricular and cocurricular opportunities** to increase engagement, attendance, and completion, including athletics, arts, career and technical education, and student leadership programs.
- **Strengthen early guidance, support systems, and postsecondary pathway exploration** for all students by connecting them early to academic advising, career planning, and workforce and college opportunities.

### SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS

- **Resolution 3.10** Support for Student Well-being
- **Belief Statement B.12** Language, Cultural, and Ethnic Diversity
- **Resolution 5.25** Career and Technical Education (CTE)