This year $30 million is being distributed to Alaska schools in addition to each District’s share of $1.2 billion of Foundation funding. Next year without a BSA change or additional funding outside the formula, schools will face a $30 million dollar shortfall.

Funding per student in the current year (FY20) is the same as FY88 in inflation adjusted dollars.

State funding – through the foundation formula - equates to $9,572 per student in FY20

Schools are funded by a mix of revenue sources – State, Federal and Local. In FY17 (latest audited data compiled by U.S. Census) total expenditure (all funds) was $17,783 per pupil, placing Alaska 6th in the nation.

When adjusted by the federal government’s 29.67% COLA for Alaska, Alaska’s per student total expenditure is $12,507, placing Alaska in 20th, well within the mid-range of states.

Additional factors come into play when comparing Alaska with other states.

Simply put, “stuff” costs more in Alaska, and even more in rural areas of the state off the road system.

For example, 2017 data shows that 13% of Alaska’s schools have fewer than 25 students. (58 out of 443). These schools are disbursed throughout the state, with accessible only by air. They are not on the road system. Both high and low performing schools are found within this cohort of schools. (NW Regional Lab, 2017 Report to AK Legislature)

The primary driver of cost at the largest schools in the state are people. For example, 87% of the Anchorage School District is staff. For Juneau School District the range is 83-86%. Here, a factor is employee benefit costs, specifically health insurance.

Alaska has the highest health care costs in the nation (ISER). This impacts school budgets.

Over the past 19 years there is only one year (FY18) in which schools did not receive additional funding, either through a BSA increase or funding outside the formula, or both.

Next year it will be 5 years with no adjustment to the Foundation formula unless a BSA bill is adopted.