

Key Legislative Issues & Bill Review

Norm Wooten
February 7, 2016

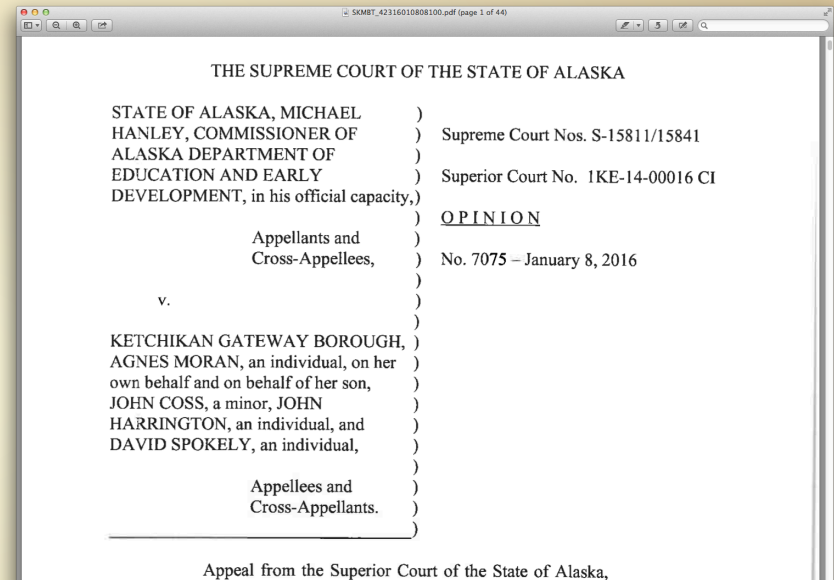


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Good News

Supreme Court Decision

- **Court ruled 4-0 on Jan. 8 to uphold constitutionality of required local contribution**
 - Preserves \$228 million in local share of foundation formula
 - AASB & ASA intervened on side of State of Alaska



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Good News

Supreme Court Decision



- No need to rewrite foundation formula
- Legislature has plenty on its plate already:
 - Medicaid reform
 - Criminal Justice reform
 - Oil Tax rewrite
 - \$4 billion deficit



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Good News Governor's Budget

- **FY 2017 budget proposes full funding of foundation formula**
 - Includes \$50 increase to BSA (\$5,930) that was part of HB 278 passed in 2014
 - Capital budget includes 7 school projects totaling \$36.5 million
 - \$122 million in school bond reimbursement



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Good News (maybe)

Alaska Measures of Progress



Commissioner Mike Hanley

- EED begins search for new assessment for use in 2016-17
- Concerns with AMP voiced by districts; EED listened



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Transitions EED Leadership



Susan McCauley
Interim Commissioner (March 1)



James Fields
Chair, State Board of Education



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Bills in Play

SB 80 Education Standards

- Requires review of new standards by committee of parents and legislative approval
 - Status: Senate CRA Committee



Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla



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Bills in Play

SB 89 Parental Rights



Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla

- Requires districts to allow students to withdraw from tests or classes, with parental permission
- Prohibits districts from allowing Planned Parenthood on campus
 - Status: Senate Rules Committee



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Bills in Play

SB 79 Rehire Retired

- **Re-opens rehire program for retired teachers & administrators**
 - Status: Senate CRA Committee
 - HB 172 identical bill in House Education Committee



Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla



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Bills in Play

HB 102 Psychiatric Treatment Funding



Rep. Wes Keller, R-Wasilla

- Requires districts to provide funding to residential centers for education of students under treatment
- Latest version (1/29) allows appeal of district decisions to EED & Board of Education
 - Status: House Education Committee



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Bills in Play

HB 157 Language Immersion Charters

- Allows creation of Native language charter schools
- Teacher certification through local tribes authorized
- Benchmark tests in language of instruction
 - Status: House Education Committee



Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, D-Sitka



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Bills in Play

SCR 1 Civics Education Task Force



Sen. Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak

- **Creates 12-member task force to recommend civics education curriculum for K-12**
 - Status: Passed Senate, in House Education Committee



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New Bills

HB 285 Student Social Media

- Prohibits districts from compelling access to student's social media, but may request access to investigate harassment or bullying
 - Status: House Education Committee



Rep. Andy Josephson, D-Anchorage



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New Bills

HB 298 Layoffs of Tenured Teachers



Rep. Cathy Tilton, R-Wasilla

- Amends 14.20.177(a) to allow layoffs for any reason
- Deletes requirement of decreased enrollment or drop in basic need of 3 percent
 - Status: House Education Committee



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New Bills

HB 302 School Discipline

- Prohibits suspension or expulsion of students for ‘willful disobedience or defiance’
 - Status: House Education Committee



Rep. Geran Tarr, D-Anchorage



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Fiscal Challenge Cutting the Budget



Rep. Lynn Gattis,
R-Wasilla

- **Informal proposal to end state funding for any school of less than 25 students; no bill filed yet.**
 - AASB supports existing floor of 10 students; Resolve 2.34 recommends partial funding for even smaller schools for 2 years



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Fiscal Challenge

Balancing the Budget



- **Governor Walker proposes mix of budget cuts, taxes, and reserve funds to fill estimated \$4 billion deficit.**
 - (He will speak for himself at lunch...)



Fiscal Challenge

Cutting the Budget



- **Governor proposes \$100 million reduction, including cuts to EED:**
 - Early Childhood grants to districts: \$2 million cut (zeroed out)
 - Parents as Teachers: \$500,000 cut (zeroed out)
 - Best Beginnings: \$320,000 cut (zeroed out)
 - Broadband grants to districts: \$672,000 cut (20% reduction)



Fiscal Challenge Cutting the Budget

- “Getting to about \$800 million... is **certainly doable... possible.**” (*APRN interview Jan. 22*)
- Is it possible to cut \$800 million without reducing education further?



Senate President Kevin Meyer,
R-Anchorage



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Fiscal Challenge

Why cut \$800 million?



Sen. Pete Kelly, R-Fairbanks
Co-chair, Senate Finance

- Searching for ‘right-sized’ government
 - \$800 million cut would leave \$4.5 billion operating budget
 - Use reserve funds to fill remaining deficit, avoid taxes and PFD cuts



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Fiscal Challenge 'Right-Sized Government'

What does a right-sized classroom look like?



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Fiscal Challenge

‘Right-Sized Government’



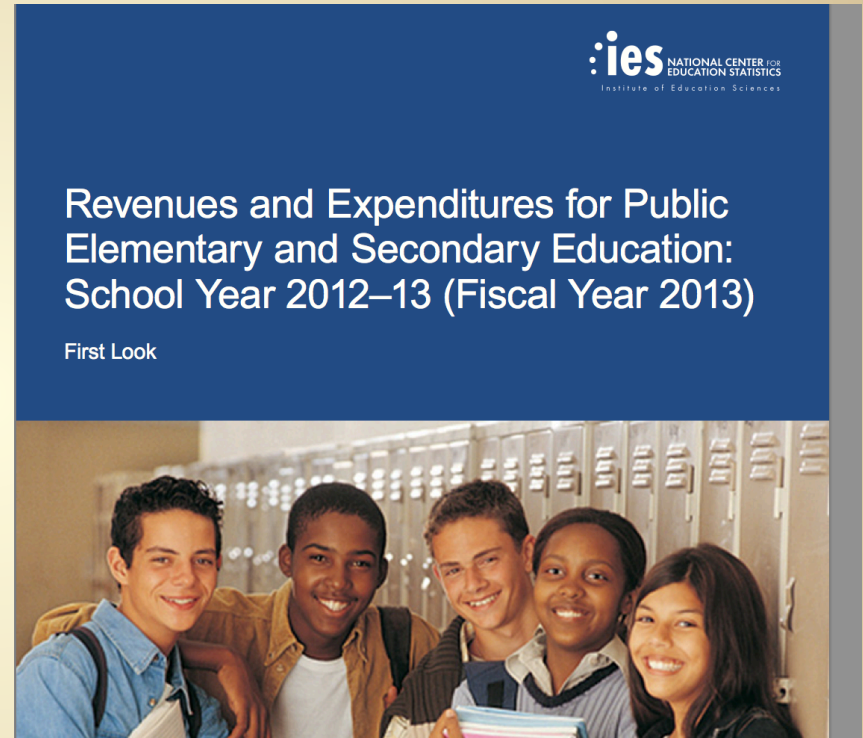
**One result of a
right-sized
government can
look like this.**



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Fiscal Challenge Alaska vs. U.S.

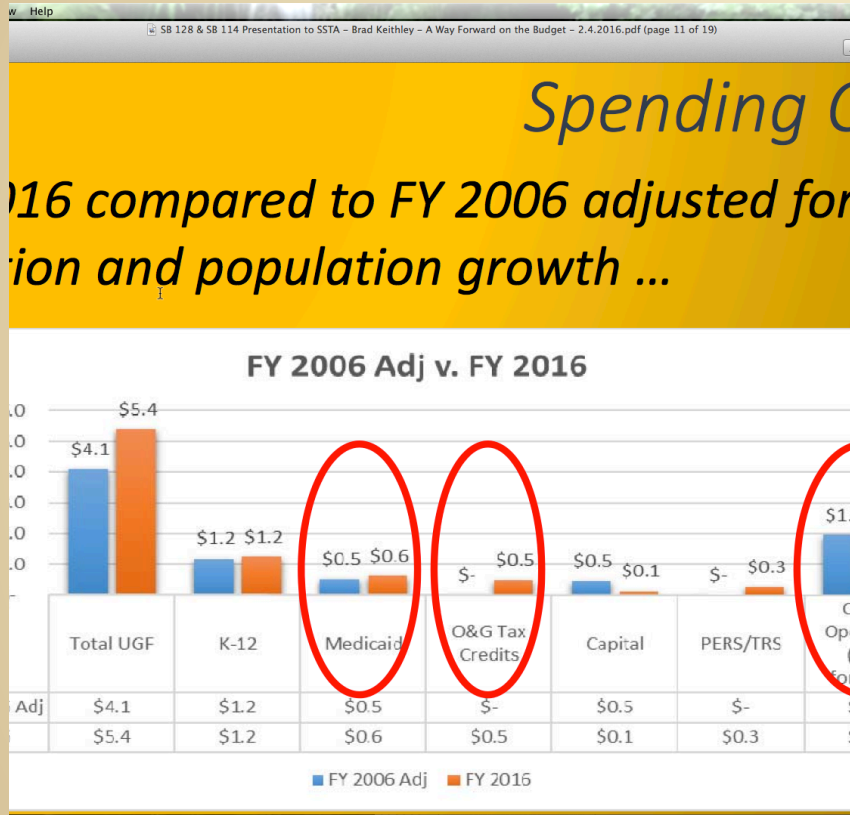
- U.S. DOE reports Alaska spent \$2.4 billion on K-12 education in 2013
- Did it feel like that to you?
- Foundation formula funding was half that, or \$1.2 billion



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Fiscal Challenge

Another Perspective



- Brad Keithley report to Legislature:
- **K-12 funding has been flat over past 10 years when inflation is considered.**



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