

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2022-18:

IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND STATE SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING

WHEREAS, students are the priority of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and successfully educated students provide economic benefits to our community and state; and

WHEREAS, public education is a mainstay of Alaska and America and support of public education is imbedded in Alaska's State Constitution as a priority and responsibility of our state legislature; and

WHEREAS, excellent, equitable, and high-quality public schools are attractive to military families and others who may choose to relocate to military installations or Interior Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has increased graduation rates from 73.6% in 2010-11 to 80.7% in 2018-19 and has decreased drop-out rates from 4.2% in 2010-11 to 3.5% in 2018-19, despite yearly budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alaska has not raised the Base Student Allocation for five years, creating a significant loss of purchasing power funding to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District; and

WHEREAS, in previous years, due to budget shortfalls, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has had to cut foreign languages, fine arts, and other electives that enhance the student's learning experience; and

WHEREAS, in light of an anticipated revenue shortfall, current budget discussions have led to the closure of three schools, as well as class size increases, the elimination of fine arts programs, and the elimination of approximately 130 positions to include teachers, counselors, classroom aides, and other support staff positions in order to balance the annual budget; and

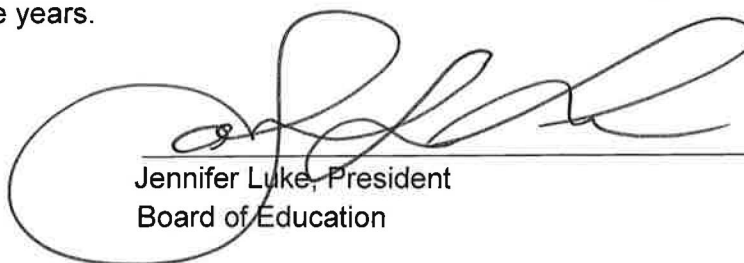
WHEREAS, the state of Alaska is experiencing a financial surplus this year due to increased oil revenue, and the legislature is considering an amendment to appropriate \$50 million of supplemental funding for Alaska School Districts; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 272 would provide for an increase of \$278 per student to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) over two years, and House Bill 273 will provide a mechanism to inflation-proof the BSA for future years and while this will not totally replace the loss of funding over the last five years, it is a step in the right direction towards investment in education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education requests the Alaska State Legislature to ensure our students have the funding necessary to provide an education for their future success by passing HB 272 and HB 273, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education requests the Alaska State Legislature to allocate one-time funds of at least \$50 million of the surplus revenue to Alaska public schools to replace the loss of funding over the last five years.

Passed and Approved: April 5, 2022



Jennifer Luke, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:



Sharon Tuttle
Executive Assistant to the Board

