



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Office of the Secretary

State Capitol, Room 211
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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September 25, 2026

Annette Island School District
PO Box 7
Metlakatla, AK 99926

Dear Superintendent Taw Lindsey:

In accordance with Uniform Rule 49(b) of the Alaska State Legislature, I am transmitting to you the following resolution passed by the Alaska State Senate:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the state's regional educational attendance areas; and celebrating the enduring contributions of the state's regional educational attendance areas to public education, local leadership, and community life in rural areas of the state.

SCR 17 REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AREAS

(Senate Resolve No. 48)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Clark", written over a horizontal line.

Liz Clark
Senate Secretary

Enclosure

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2026

Source
SCR 17

Legislative
Resolve No.
48



Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the state's regional educational attendance areas; and celebrating the enduring contributions of the state's regional educational attendance areas to public education, local leadership, and community life in rural areas of the state.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS Article VII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, requires the legislature to establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the state; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, the Alaska State Legislature enacted landmark reforms that established the regional educational attendance areas in rural areas of the state, creating a new framework for public education in the unorganized borough; and

WHEREAS the landmark "Molly Hootch" litigation, *Tobeluk v. Lind*, 589 P.2d 873 (Alaska 1979), culminated in a 1976 consent decree requiring the state to provide local secondary schools in rural communities, reinforcing the state's constitutional obligation to offer equitable educational opportunity and shaping the modern development of locally governed public education in rural areas of the state, including the regional educational attendance areas; and

WHEREAS the regional educational attendance area structure was designed to replace centralized administration with a model rooted in community voice, regional decision-making, and public accountability; and

WHEREAS state law delegates authority to regional school boards in each regional educational attendance area to operate public schools in those areas in accordance with state law, recognizing regional educational attendance areas as full participants in the state's public education system; and

WHEREAS state law provides that regional educational attendance areas should, as far as practicable, reflect integrated socioeconomic, linguistic, and cultural communities, while also considering transportation and communication networks, demonstrating an early and important legislative recognition that effective education governance in rural areas of the state must reflect place, people, and practical realities; and

WHEREAS regional educational attendance areas are operated on an areawide basis under the management and control of elected regional school boards, creating a durable system of democratic local governance in communities across the unorganized borough; and

WHEREAS state law requires regional school boards to establish community advisory school boards in qualifying communities, strengthening community participation and helping ensure that school leadership remains connected to local priorities and students' lived realities; and

WHEREAS, for five decades, regional educational attendance area school districts have educated generations of state residents, served tens of thousands of students, sustained schools in remote and roadless communities, and helped preserve the principle that a child's access to public education should not depend on whether that child lives in an urban center or a rural village; and

WHEREAS regional educational attendance areas have contributed to the state's civic life by fostering local leadership, including school board members, educators, support staff, and community advocates whose service has strengthened both schools and communities; and

WHEREAS regional educational attendance area educators, staff, families, tribal leaders, elders, and community members have worked, often under difficult conditions and across immense distances, to support students and keep schools operating through changing economic, technological, and social conditions; and

WHEREAS the 50th anniversary of the establishment of regional educational attendance areas is an appropriate occasion for the legislature to recognize the vision behind the creation of regional educational attendance areas and to honor the people who have sustained and improved the regional educational attendance areas over time;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature honors the 50th anniversary of the regional educational attendance areas and recognizes the regional educational attendance areas as a foundational part of the state's public education system and a lasting expression of the state's commitment to educational access, local governance, and rural communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature expresses gratitude to the students, families, elders, tribes, regional school board members, advisory school board members, teachers, administrators, and school staff whose work and leadership have shaped the regional educational attendance areas across five decades; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature reaffirms its commitment to strong public schools in every region of the state and to continued partnership with regional educational attendance area districts, tribes, and communities in support of student success.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner, Department of Education and Early Development; the State Board of Education and Early Development; the Association of Alaska School Boards; each Regional Educational Attendance Area school district in the state; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Letter sent to:

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
U.S. Senator
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nicholas Begich
U.S. Representative
153 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dr. Deena Bishop
Commissioner, State of Alaska
Department of Education & Early Development
PO Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

Board of Education
State of Alaska
Department of Education & Early Development
PO Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

Association of Alaska School Boards
1111 West 9th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Alaska Gateway School District
PO Box 226
Tok, AK 99780

Aleutian Region School District
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Annette Island School District
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Bering Strait School District
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Unalakleet, AK 99684

Chatham School District
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Chugach School District
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Copper River School District
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Glennallen, AK 99588

Delta/Greely School District
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Delta Junction, AK 99737

Iditarod Area School District
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McGrath, AK 99627

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Lower Kuskokwim School District
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St. Paul Island, AK 99660

Southeast Island School District
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Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Southwest Region School District
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Dillingham, AK 99576

Yukon Flats School District
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Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Yukon-Koyukuk School District
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Fairbanks, AK 99709

Yupiit School District
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