To: All elected and returning legislators and Governor-elect

From: Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA), NEA-Alaska

Subject: Congratulations and Call to Action: Prioritizing Alaska's Public Education

Dear Honorable Governor-elect and Honorable Members of the 35th Alaska Legislature,

On behalf of the organizations representing Alaska's educators, district and school leaders, school boards, and school districts, we write to congratulate you on your election. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to serve the children, families, and communities of our great state.

As you prepare for the upcoming legislative session, we urge you to take swift action to invest in Alaska's children following a decade of declining investment in public education. To ensure a strong future for our state, we ask that you prioritize the following key public education initiatives:

1. **Pass Early Education Funding Immediately:** We urge lawmakers to pass an early education appropriation with at least $254.6 million BSA increase above the existing formula, by February 15, 2027 to establish a solid foundation for our youngest learners and set them up for long-term success. The state's operating budget is months too late for districts to budget—it is imperative we bring your budget timeline in line with local districts.

2. **Restore a Modest Pension for Public Service:** We urge you to pass legislation restoring a defined-benefit pension system for public service. Competitive retirement benefits are critical to our ability to recruit and retain high-quality school support staff, teachers, and administrators in Alaska.

3. **End the Cycle of Uncertainty via Forward Funding:** After passing early funding for this school year, transition to forward funding for upcoming school years with forward funding of at least $48.3 million included in the FY2028 operating budget to account for inflation.

4. **Invest in Major Maintenance, School Capital Construction:** We urge lawmakers to prioritize adequate funding for school facility needs to provide children safe and healthy environments for learning. A commitment to improving educational outcomes must be accompanied by a commitment to safe facilities for children and staff.

Investing in our schools is an investment in Alaska's economic future and the well-being of our communities. We stand ready to work alongside you to deliver the stability and resources our children deserve.

Thank you for your service and dedication to Alaska.

Sincerely,



Laura Capelle, NEA-Alaska



Tiffany Jackson, Executive Director, AASB



Dr. Lisa S. Parady, Executive Director, ACSA