



## **Southeast Island School District Superintendent's Report**

June 24, 2025

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### **District Goals**

#### **Collaboration**

Strengthen and maintain collaborative relationships with the Board of Education and the district team to support student success.

#### **Public Trust**

Build public trust and confidence through open, honest communication and by fostering positive connections across our communities.

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### **Recent Engagements**

- **May 22:** Whale Pass Road Project Information Session
- **May 31 – June 7:** National Close-Up Program, Washington D.C.
- **June 22–23:** Brightways Training, Montana

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### **Upcoming Events**

- **July 11–16:** Kagan Cooperative Learning Training

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### **Budget Update: Governor Dunleavy's \$200 Base Student Allocation Veto**

Southeast Island School District's FY 2026 budget was developed based on full support for the Alaska Legislature's proposed \$700 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). Budget planning included projections for meeting enrollment thresholds across all sites and maintaining all 13 intensive needs programs.

The current budget supports:

- Stable staffing levels

- Continued program delivery
- Strategic investments aligned with SISD priorities in student learning, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability

However, Governor Dunleavy's veto of \$200 from the BSA has reduced the increase from \$700 to \$500. This change results in an **estimated budget shortfall of approximately \$167,000**, assuming projected enrollment and operation of all intensive programs remain unchanged.

#### **Additional Considerations:**

There has been discussion of potentially adding two more intensive programs. While these additions could slightly increase financial strain, the district will proceed cautiously given the current fiscal uncertainty.

Governor Dunleavy has suggested that a rise in oil prices could lead to reconsideration of the vetoed funds. Meanwhile, legislators are exploring a potential override vote, which may not occur until January.

The veto has received widespread criticism from school districts and educational advocates across the state. Many believe it undermines the state's constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public education. Some districts are exploring legal action in response.

#### **SISD's Recommended Approach**

Because the FY 2026 budget has already been finalized and staffing decisions made, no immediate changes are recommended. SISD will adopt a conservative financial approach as the new school year begins. We will:

- Closely monitor district expenditures
- Restrict purchases to essential needs only
- Continue disciplined cost controls implemented during Spring 2025

This approach ensures SISD remains agile in responding to legislative or economic changes, while keeping student learning and support services as top priorities.

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#### **Sharable News & Updates**

- **Summer Projects:** The M&O team is actively working on deep cleaning, painting, door upgrades, and new security camera installations.
- **Thorne Bay Housing Project:** Ongoing efforts are in progress to expand housing options for staff.
- **Grants and Appropriations:** Work continues to secure supplemental funding for facilities, learning resources, and student programs.

- **Greenhouse Hours:** Updated summer hours have been posted to support community and student access.

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## **Conclusion**

Southeast Island School District remains committed to fostering collaboration, strengthening community partnerships, and prioritizing student-centered initiatives. With your continued support, we are building a stronger, more resilient future for our students and communities.

**Thank you** for your dedication to our mission and for being valued partners in education.