



AASB's 2025 Legislative Priorities

On behalf of our member school districts statewide, the AASB Board of Directors has adopted three legislative priorities: **Funding, Educators** and **Students**.

Our Mission: The Association of Alaska School Boards advocates for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

Sufficient and Sustainable Public Education Funding

Sufficient, sustainable and stable funding is required to meet Alaska's obligation to provide quality, public education for every Alaska student. Educating Alaska's youth is the best strategy for successfully meeting and safeguarding Alaska's prosperity.

- ▶ **Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA)** – AASB strongly advocates for the necessity of increasing the BSA as calculated by Legislative Finance to reflect inflation based on the Alaska-Urban CPI since the last major increase to the BSA in FY2011. From 2011 to 2025, the BSA increased by only \$280 per student (4.9%), while inflation rose by at least 34%. This discrepancy has resulted in severe staff shortages, school closures, and program eliminations.
- ▶ **Incorporate an annual increase in the BSA to account for inflation** – Provide by statute, for an annual increase in the BSA that provides some accounting for annual inflation and drives a philosophy of long-term investment in public education.
- ▶ **Increase funding for student transportation** – Student transportation funding continues to be inadequate. Transportation costs have dramatically increased due to inflation and labor shortages. Transportation funding must increase regularly to keep up with inflation and prevent the use of school district general funds.

Retention and Recruitment of Teachers, Administrators & Staff

School districts face an unprecedented crisis of retaining and recruiting qualified, effective teachers, administrators, and support staff which seriously hinders providing Alaska students with a quality education.

- ▶ **Implement recommendations** - of the Teacher Recruitment & Retention Task Force.
- ▶ **Reinstitute a competitive retirement program** - including both defined benefits and defined contributions.
- ▶ **Invest in teacher housing** - required for nearly all rural school districts.
- ▶ **Grow Alaska teachers and administrators** - work with partners, universities, and apprenticeship programs to improve and expand teacher training programs, teacher-mentor programs, and alternative certification pathways.

Student Wellness and School Safety

Alaska's public school students face a range of challenges that impact their wellness and safety, including academic stress, mental health issues, bullying, violence, sexual abuse, and lack of access to resources like counseling and social services. Violence, neglect, and sexual abuse have increased, resulting in reduced social-emotional well-being and academic achievement.

- ▶ **Address student mental health - Support and fund** mental health services for all Alaskan students, including trauma-engaged practices in Alaska schools.
- ▶ **Prevent student sexual abuse by school staff** - Support the implementation of policies and training regarding professional boundaries between staff and students.
- ▶ **Reduce school and student violence. Support and fund** the needed programs and services that work to improve relationships, communication, respect, and dignity as a few examples.



Sufficient and Sustainable Public Education Funding

- ▶ B.7 – EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FUNDING AS TOP PRIORITY
- ▶ B.9 – MEETING SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS FOR ALASKA STUDENTS
- ▶ B.10 – FUNDING FOR EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS IN ALASKA
- ▶ 1.4 – OPPOSE SCHOOL VOUCHERS
- ▶ 2.1 – URGING THE TIMELY, PREDICTABILITY, EQUITABLE, AND ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION
- ▶ 2.2 – ENSURING EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR ALASKA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- ▶ 2.4 – URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO FUND A GRANT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES
- ▶ 2.6 – RESOURCES TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE ALASKA READS ACT
- ▶ 2.8 – BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION INCREASE
- ▶ 2.10 – EDUCATION ENDOWMENT
- ▶ 2.12 – SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECTS
- ▶ 2.20 – ENERGY COST RELIEF
- ▶ 2.27 – URGING THE CONTINUATION OF FUNDING FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL (VOCATIONAL) EDUCATION
- ▶ 2.40 – INFLATION-PROOFED BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION (BSA) INVESTMENTS

Retention and Recruitment of Teachers. Administrators & Staff

- ▶ B.19 – ALASKA NATIVE TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND SCHOOL STAFF HIRE AND RETENTION
- ▶ 2.19 – LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR ONGOING TRS AND PERS EMPLOYER INCREASES
- ▶ 2.45 – TEACHER EDUCATION LOAN EXPANSION
- ▶ 4.1 – SUPPORTS FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT
- ▶ 4.2 – ESTABLISHING A NEW TEACHER INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR ALASKA
- ▶ 4.3 – ALASKA STATEWIDE EDUCATOR MENTORING
- ▶ 4.5 – ADDRESSING THE TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR, AND SCHOOL STAFF SHORTAGE
- ▶ 4.6 – REPEAL THE SOCIAL SECURITY GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATORS
- ▶ 4.7 – RELATING TO DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT
- ▶ 4.10 – ADDRESSING THE PARAPROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE
- ▶ 4.11 – ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO CERTIFY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS
- ▶ 4.14 – TEACHER CERTIFICATION DELAY

Student Wellness and School Safety

- ▶ B.11 – CHILD ADVOCACY MISSION STATEMENT
- ▶ B.15 – PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION
- ▶ B.17 – DECLARING CHILDREN THE TOP PRIORITY OF ALASKA
- ▶ 2.37 – RESOURCES TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE ALASKA SAFE CHILDREN'S ACT
- ▶ 2.44 – URGING DEDICATED FUNDING OUTSIDE THE FOUNDATION FORMULA
- ▶ 3.1 – DECLARING CHILDREN OF ALASKA OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE
- ▶ 3.2 – PROMOTING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT
- ▶ 3.3 – FETAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG EXPOSED STUDENTS
- ▶ 3.4 – SUPPORTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
- ▶ 3.5 – EDUCATION ON THE DANGERS OF TOBACCO, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS MARIJUANA USE, AND SECONDHAND SMOKE
- ▶ 3.6 – VIOLENCE (AND PORNOGRAPHY) IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT
- ▶ 3.7 – COOPERATION AMONG SERVICE PROVIDERS SERVING CHILDREN
- ▶ 3.8 – SUICIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION AND TREATMENT EFFORTS
- ▶ 3.9 – SAFE, CARING, CONNECTED SCHOOLS
- ▶ 3.10 – SUPPORT OF STATE FUNDING FOR STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES IN ALASKA
- ▶ 3.11 – HIV/AIDS AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI) EDUCATION
- ▶ 3.12 – EDUCATION OF STUDENTS IN RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIORS RELATING TO HUMAN SEXUALITY
- ▶ 3.13 – IN SUPPORT OF ALASKA CHILDREN'S TRUST
- ▶ 3.15 – SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF TRAUMA-INFORMED AND CULTURALLY AFFIRMING PRACTICES
- ▶ 3.16 – REVISE PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR QUESTIONNAIRES AND SURVEYS ADMINISTERED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- ▶ 3.17 – STUDENT WELLNESS
- ▶ 3.21 – EXPANSION OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE
- ▶ 3.23 – SUPPORT OF FULL STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS
- ▶ 3.24 – SUPPORTING SEX ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION
- ▶ 3.26 – SAFE AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR LGBTQ STUDENTS
- ▶ 3.29 – POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT