

A photograph of a classroom with several students raising their hands. The background is a chalkboard with some faint writing. The image is overlaid with a green geometric pattern on the right side and a dark semi-transparent rectangle containing text in the center.

J&H Consulting a

**Legislative Update for
North Slope Borough
School District
August 2022**

Priorities: Support Consistent, Predictable, Adequate Funding for our Schools.

- ▶ Full funding for FY 23 BSA at \$1.17 billion.
- ▶ \$57 million additional one-time funding for Foundation Formula funded outside the formula for K-12 and \$30 BSA increase (\$7.6 mil.).
- ▶ A set-aside of \$700 million for education in FY24 if oil prices average \$100 per barrel but if too low will be zero.
- ▶ \$5.7 million for 2-year Pre-Kindergarten grants (FY2023-FY2024).
- ▶ Broadband Grants, \$6.7 million.
- ▶ Increases for the 10 TVEP programs.
- ▶ Senate adds increases for residential schools.
- ▶ Swept funds from last year are replaced, including the Higher Education Investment fund that provides for scholarships \$400 million.
- ▶ \$10 million for DOL workforce development and training
- ▶ Live Homework Help, \$138,000. and OWL, \$447,000.
- ▶ Volunteers of America: \$960,000 for school-based mental health.
- ▶ School Breakfast Expansion: \$600,000.

PRIORITIES:

Capital: Support Funding of School Construction and Major Maintenance.

- ❖ \$37 million for school maintenance (was \$100 mil.)
- ❖ \$22.5 million in funding for professional housing, including teachers. Great opportunity!
- ❖ Full funding for FY 23 school bond debt reimbursement program and \$220.9 million in funding for FY17-FY21 for total reimbursement in funding for these years.
- ❖ \$32.7 million is appropriated from the general fund to the REAA and Small School District school fund and \$83.96 million for FY17-FY21 for total reimbursement in funding for these years.

PRIORITIES:

Equity in Reading Outcomes: Support statewide access to quality Pre-K programs and improve reading outcomes for all students.

- ❖ Passed! Includes additional funding for schools and pupil transportation and includes Pre-K students in the ADM.
- ❖ The bill also expands pre-kindergarten programs with state funding, starting with the lowest performing school districts and eventually encompassing the entire state. The program is voluntary for Pre-K.
- ❖ The bill also establishes the reading curricula for prekindergarten through grade 3 based on the five components of evidence-based reading instruction (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, oral language skills, and reading comprehension).
- ❖ The bill specifies that these programs will be locally designed and culturally responsive. The reading program is accompanied by interventions for students struggling with reading, as well as a DEED-established statewide reading program to assist and provide support and resources for school districts and teachers in providing reading intervention services.

Broadband:

Broadband: HB 363 establishes the Office of Broadband within the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board, and an eight-member Broadband Technical Board. These will all be repealed on June 30, 2030. The Office will work on equitably distributing the billions in federal infrastructure broadband funds coming to the state.

Will need to monitor to ensure equity.

HB 332, Scholarships: The ferry funding and the Higher Education Investment Funds are shifted to a new location so the funds are not subject to the yearly reverse sweep, which will preserve the funds.

SB 174: Prohibits hair discrimination in public schools and prevents school boards from adopting a dress code that prohibits a student from wearing traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at a graduation ceremony. Workplace protections were removed from the bill

SB 36: State/Federal Tribal compacting enables pilot programs for Tribal education.

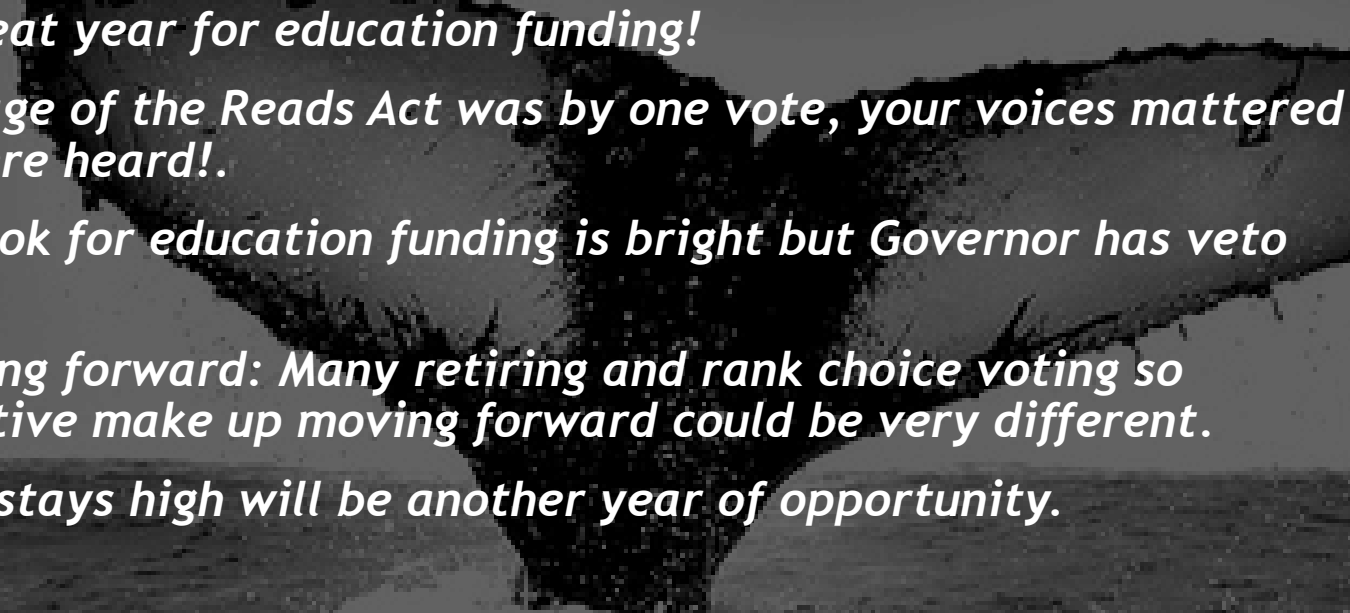
HB 19: An Act relating to instruction in a language other than English; and establishing limited language immersion teacher certificates. Sen Finance.

SB 20: Intends to certify in Alaska teachers certified in other states on an expedited basis. Passed Senate.

PRIORITIES: Teachers: Address issues that support the recruitment and retention of quality teachers and other school related bills.

Other bills and funding

- ▶ HB 123, Tribal Recognition: Establishes formal state recognition of Tribes.
- ▶ PFD and energy relief total \$3,200.00
- ▶ SB 243, PCE: Raise PCE eligible ceiling from current 500kwh to 750kwh, providing much needed relief to rural communities.
- ▶ LIHEAP is funded at a base of \$9.6 million, plus last year's \$23.7 million in federal funds which is available to use through FY 24. There is also \$314,000 through ILJA in the supplemental budget.
- ▶ Community Assistance fully funded.

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- ▶ *A Great year for education funding!*
 - ▶ *Passage of the Reads Act was by one vote, your voices mattered and were heard!*
 - ▶ *Outlook for education funding is bright but Governor has veto power.*
 - ▶ *Looking forward: Many retiring and rank choice voting so legislative make up moving forward could be very different.*
 - ▶ *If oil stays high will be another year of opportunity.*
 - ▶ *Any questions ?*