

**LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 19-12**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR K-12
PUBLIC EDUCATION AT LEVELS PROJECTED IN THE ORIGINAL STATE OF ALASKA FY20
OPERATING BUDGET AND MAINTAINING THE SCHOOL DEBT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution provides that the State of Alaska will establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, a sound public-school system is vital to produce qualified workers and attract new businesses to locate in Alaska, two important tenants of economic development; and

WHEREAS, schools located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough are more expensive to support and operate due to small population bases spread out over a large rural area not connected to the Alaska road system; and

WHEREAS, historically, based on its constitutional mandate, the State of Alaska has provided significant support for urban and rural school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed FY20 budget calls for a 25.7% cut in unrestricted general funding for the School Foundation formula totaling \$303,648,200; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed FY20 budget calls for a 100% cut of \$30,000,000 in unrestricted general funding in the original FY20 budget to supplement the School Foundation formula; and

WHEREAS, these combined cuts reduce State School Foundation funding for the 14 schools in the Lake and Peninsula Borough by an estimated **\$15,175,253**; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed FY20 budget introduces legislation, SB 64 and its companion HB 66, in the 31st Legislature to repeal the State reimbursement for municipal school construction programs; and

WHEREAS, the Lake and Peninsula Borough constructed school facilities in recent years in reliance on receiving significant reimbursement from the State based on a population-based formula; and

WHEREAS, these State cuts will force Lake and Peninsula Borough and School District and around the State to raise local taxes and fees significantly to adequately fund public education or allow education programming to deteriorate due to larger class sizes, increased teacher and administrator turnover, fewer key support personnel, and less preventive maintenance for school facilities; and

WHEREAS, reduced resources for public education will significantly affect the quality of life in Alaska communities, the education of Alaska's next generation of workers and citizens, and competitive compensation for teachers, administrators, and key school personnel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lake and Peninsula Borough urges the Governor to work with the 31st Legislature to restore undesignated general funding to the School Foundation program to adequately fund Alaska's public schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lake and Peninsula Borough opposes enactment of SB 64 or HB 66 repealing the State reimbursement for municipal school construction programs.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly this 19th day of March, 2019.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:

Glen Alsworth Sr., Mayor

Kate Conley, Borough Clerk