



# Craig City School District

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TO: House Education Committee  
FROM: Chris Reitan  
DATE: April 8, 2024  
SUBJECT: HB 392

Members of the House Education Committee, I'm testifying on behalf of Craig City School District and the students and families we serve.

I'm testifying in support of HB 392 because HB 392 provides critical support to our Alaskan public school system by providing the following:

- Increasing the Base Student Allocation by \$680,
- Increasing funding for school transportation,
- Increasing funding for correspondence/homeschool students, and
- Support for district's responsibilities to live into the Alaska Reads Act with integrity.

I'm also testifying in cautious support of HB 392 due to language related to the operation of charter schools.

- My 30 year career has been steeped in district, developed school choice options for students and families. Charter schools provide a fundamental support for families across our state to support the specific needs and interests of some students, and I'm an advocate for locally developed school choice options, of which charter schools are one critical component. HB 392 provides support for school districts and more importantly the families school district serve because it provides funding for a charter school coordinator position at DEED to support districts' and families' efforts to develop the most robust curricula options for our students statewide. I'm concerned about language within HB 392 that would allow DEED to override a school district if the school district disbanded a charter school because this language oversteps the authority of elected school board members in governing their locally provided programs.

For Alaska school districts to have the opportunity to provide the most robust curricula options for students and school choice options for the families and students we serve an increase to the Base Student Allocation is critical. Our students deserve a solid, public educational system that regularly and consistently invests in their future and more importantly the future of our state. In closing I am fully appreciative of the House Education Committee continuing these important conversations about how to stabilize our statewide educational system and ensure that we have the appropriate resources available for our students.