

Nome Public Schools Board of Education
November 12, 2024
RESOLUTION 24-02

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PRIORITIZED FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION TO ENSURE TIMELY, RELIABLE, AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR ALASKA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS, EDUCATORS, AND STUDENTS

WHEREAS: Nome Public Schools exists to provide culturally responsive and high-quality educational opportunities for the children of Nome; and

WHEREAS: The mission of Nome Public Schools is to inspire and empower students to be culturally grounded responsible citizens who are deeply connected to our community and world; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska is constitutionally mandated to operate and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State; and

WHEREAS: Predictable and adequate funding is essential for healthy management of districts, maintaining high educational standards, recruiting and retaining highly skilled educators, and academic success; and

WHEREAS: In 2024, the Legislature prioritized education funding, but in the wake of the administration's veto coupled with prolonged flat funding, rising inflation, and escalating costs in healthcare, transportation, operations, and maintenance, has eroded Nome Public Schools' purchasing power and ability to adequately pay staff, making it increasingly difficult to support student achievement; and

WHEREAS: One-time funding poses undue burdens on school districts with respect to developing bargaining agreements with staff and the ability to develop budgets for future fiscal years; and

WHEREAS: It is imperative that the State invest in education to reverse the ongoing out-migration and economic decline in the State of Alaska and the Bering Strait Region; and

WHEREAS: Shifting state expenditure responsibilities onto local governments undermines municipalities' ability to fund vital programs such as community services and public safety, which is vital to the well-being of students and families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Coalition for Education Equity urge the State of Alaska to raise the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1,808 and to annually adjust the BSA for inflation, thereby restoring the purchasing power schools have lost since FY11, ensuring all schools can meet all the educational need of their students.

BOARD ACTION: