

Vision: We grow self directed, life-long learners who are grounded in their culture and contribute to their communities.



Mission: We will nourish student growth by investing in partnerships and implementing culturally responsive, place based education.

Date: March 11, 2025
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Kasie Luke, Superintendent
Re: Report: March 13, 2025

Dates & Happenings:

- Congratulations, Lady Malamutes! Newhalen will represent LPSD at the State Basketball Tournament (this week)
March 12-15, 2025 in Anchorage
- BBRCTE
 - ◆ Session III - March 23 - 29, 2025
 - ◆ Session IV - March 31 - April 4, 2025
- AK STAR State Testing: April 7 - 11, 2025
- SNAP Meet @ Newhalen School: April 14 - 18, 2025

Alaska Legislative Session Update

HB 69 - Education Funding, Increase BSA (original)

- Inflation proofs education funding
- Increases the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1000 in 2025-2026 (FY26)
- Increases the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$404 in 2026-2027 (FY27)
- Increases the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$404 in 2027-2028 (FY28)
- Inflation proofs the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in 2028-2029 (FY29) and beyond

This past week, the House Rules Committee passed a committee substitute for HB 69 which is titled: *CSHB 69 (RLS)* which is a compromise effort to ensure, or at strive to get to a place where the Governor, ideally won't veto the bill.

- The title was changed to reflect the additions/subtractions in the committee substitute for HB 69;
- Section 1 – Vouchers are prohibited in accordance with the Alaska State Constitution;
- Section 2 – Students are to be provided a free education in their assigned school or another school within their district;
- Section 3 – The “open enrollment” provision shall sunset after three years;
- Section 4 – Open enrollment may be requested for their children by a parent within the district. A lottery system may be utilized for assignment in a new school. An appeal process for denial of an enrollment in a different school will be created by the local school board;
- Section 5 – The Alaska State Board of Education must issue a decision on the denial of a school charter within 45 days rather than the current requirement of 90 days;
- Section 6 – A local school board must provide a written decision on the denial of a school charter within a reasonable time period;
- Section 7 – A charter school may carry 10% of its unreserved budget forward . The charter school budget shall be reviewed by the local school board;

- Section 8 – The allowable administrative fee for a school board to deduct from charter school funding is increased to 8% from the current 4%;
- Section 9 – Charter school contracts may be renewed for successive terms;
- Section 10 – DEED shall provide a report on correspondence programs and include all allotments, demographics, funding, assessment scores, and curriculum reviews;
- Section 11 – The report in Section 10 shall be included in the Alaska State Board of Education report to the Legislature;
- Section 12 – The Alaska Reads Act is repealed;
- Section 13 – The Base Student Allocation (BSA) is increased by \$1000 in FY26 to \$6960;
- Section 14 – A model policy on the use of non-school issued communications devices during the school day shall be developed by DEED. Exceptions must be included for devices used for medical, translations, or educational use. The school must adopt the model policy or one of their own that includes the exceptions. A definition of “communications devices” is included;
- Section 15 – The open enrollment provision in Section 2 sunsets July 1, 2028;
- Section 16 – A Legislative Task Force on Education Funding shall be created to analyze funding and accountability and make recommendations. The Task Force report must be submitted no later than the 2nd session of the 34th Legislature;
- Section 17 – DEED shall submit a report on the reduction of regulatory and statutory burdens levied on school districts no later than the 2nd session of the 34th Legislature.

Committee members voted 5-2 to advance the bill to the House floor for amendments and further debate. Chair Stutes and Representatives Costello, Edgmon, Kopp, and Schrage voted in favor. Representatives Tilton and Vance were opposed.

Alaska Legislative Session Update continued...

Major Maintenance: Friday, March 14 Senate Education will meet regarding School Major Maintenance. There are school districts invited to present on their deferred maintenance projects to the committee. If you haven't already read the following article, it is gaining traction and attention in hopes of maintenance monies being allocated by the State to support infrastructure of schools and facilities: [A Rural Alaska School Asked the State to Fund a Repair. Nearly Two Decades later, the Building Is About to Collapse](#)

The Lake and Peninsula School District, ranked #9 on the DEED major maintenance list, which requires \$4,407,516.00 for Fire Suppression System Upgrades at Chignik Lake, Igiugig, Nondalton and Chignik Lake, at the time of submittal of the application (Fall 2024). The state's share of this amount is \$3,085,261.00 after accounting for the participating share of \$1,322,255.00. To fund this project, the state must allocate at least \$38,110,038.00 in total funding, as this is the cumulative amount required to reach rank #9 on the list.

Cell Phones in Schools: **HB 57** discussed in House Education Committee would require DEED to create a model policy banning cellphone use during school hours including passing periods and lunch. Districts would be required to create their own policy or adopt the model policy. There are exceptions to the ban for emergencies and medical purposes (section 14 in HB 69's adjustments above)

Federal Legislation / Potential Impacts for Public Education in Alaska

ACSA (Alaska Council for School Administrators) is closely watching Federal legislation and we are doing our best to stay informed. There is great concern and strong opposition within ACSA, regarding legislation like the Educational Choice for Children Act (S.292, H.R.817). This legislation would divert \$10 billion per year in tax dollars to private schools and families who homeschool, leading to school closures and negatively impacting our existing workforce readiness programs such as CTE among other things, with limited to no accountability requirements.

Food Service Update

Nondalton, Perryville, Chignik Lake and Levelock will continue participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) utilizing USDA foods for the 2025-2026 school year based on their feedback and current available funds submitted to their individual accounts January 2025. LPSD will maintain communication with these communities regarding their food service balance at the start of the year, on a quarterly basis or as needed.

As presented in the School Board work session February 13, 2025 school cook positions cost LPSD \$315,800.00 not including substitute cook costs which could potentially be \$10,000. Cooks have been paid for from an endowment withdrawal in FY24 and we will pull monies for cooks for FY25.

We anticipate a \$165,289.40 endowment withdrawal from the Borough to cover food service costs for the 2024-2025 school year (in addition to cost of cooks) with an additional \$115,000 withdrawal to cover the anticipated deficit of our general fund for 2024-2025 as well which could increase as we progress through the 2024-2025 spring semester.