

January 10, 2022

Re: AS 14.11.013 Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)
Major Maintenance Grant Funds

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

We are writing to you in response to Governor Dunleavy's FY 23 budget proposal that was released on December 15, 2021.

Galena City School District (GCSD), Denali Borough School District (DBSD), Kake City School District (KCSD) and Craig City School District (CCSD) would like to draw your attention to a concern we have with the Governor's FY 23 budget proposal. Currently, there are no dollars targeted within Governor Dunleavy's FY 23 budget proposal for DEED's Major Maintenance Grant Fund. DEED's Major Maintenance Grant Fund provides monies for Alaska's K-12 school districts to address critical instructional facility problems related to three categories:

- Protection of structures,
- Building code deficiencies, or
- Operational cost savings.

Addressing each of these Major Maintenance categories ultimately improves the educational context of our instructional facilities and reduces maintenance and operating costs, providing districts additional monies that can be targeted for our primary purpose – improving student learning.

Since FY 18 there has only been one fiscal year where monies were allocated for Alaska's K-12 school district's major maintenance needs. In FY 19 the legislature approved and the Governor signed off on a \$24,203,372 allocation to the Department of Education and Early Development's Major Maintenance Grant Fund to address critical major maintenance infrastructure needs for our state's school systems. Since then (FY 20, FY 21, and FY 22) no monies for K-12 major maintenance needs were allocated and the Governor's proposed FY 23 budget calls for the same lack of attention.

Attached with this letter is DEED's ranking of the FY 23 Major Maintenance Grant submittals. The projects submitted address critical instructional building needs including ADA compliance, International Building Code (IBC) compliance, HVAC, fire alarm and suppression, building safety and security, and the protection of building systems. All of the Major Maintenance Grant submittals ultimately improve the safety and security of Alaska's K-12 instructional facilities and ultimately improves the educational context and programs that we can provide the students and families we are privileged to serve.

GCSD, DBSD, KCSD, and CCSD respectfully request the 32nd Legislature provide funding within DEED's Major Maintenance Grant Fund to address some of the top-ranked Major Maintenance projects. Ultimately, each dollar spent now addressing our K-12 major maintenance

needs saves monies in the future due to the inflationary drivers associated with major maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration.

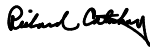
Respectfully submitted,



Jim Merriner, GCSD Superintendent



Dan Polta, DBSD Superintendent



Rich Catahay, KCSD Superintendent



Chris Reitan, CCSD Superintendent