

## 2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The North Slope Borough School District's priorities are:

- ♦ **Local governance;**

Public education is the responsibility of the states and of the local school boards created by those states. This system of local school board governance is one of the purest examples of democracy in action today in that school boards, as locally elected representatives, are held accountable for public education by the public they serve as locally elected representatives.

- ♦ **Meeting school facility needs for Alaska students;**

The Alaska State Legislature and the Governor must adequately fund the constitutionally mandated need for educationally appropriate school facilities and major school maintenance.

- ♦ **Funding for early learning programs in Alaska;**

Support of legislation to add additional funding for the planning and programming of voluntary learning and family support programs, including online programs, for all children from birth to school age as an important long-term investment in Alaska's future workforce and citizenry.

- ♦ **Equity in education;**

All children must have access to an educational program that meets their individual physical, academic, cultural, social, and emotional needs. The allocation of educational resources including access to technology and connectivity, must provide equity for every student regardless of their economic status, geographic location, or the economies of scale.

- ♦ **Alaska native teacher hire & retention; and,**

Studies have shown that Native teachers have had a very positive effect on Native students. The hiring and retention of qualified Alaska Native teachers has long been supported by educational and Native organizations. Colleges and universities within the state are encouraged to recruit Native students more actively and to develop Indigenous certification programs designed to build on the strengths of indigenous pedagogies. Local school districts, with the help of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, are encouraged to provide leadership in developing programs to encourage Native students to choose education as a field of study, and to make every effort to foster the hiring and retention of Native teacher aides and teachers.

- ♦ **Early childhood education.**

All children should have rich learning opportunities during the formative early childhood years.

In conjunction, the Northwest Arctic Borough School District's priorities include:

- ♦ Increasing funding for the foundation formula;
- ♦ Establishing a forward-funded education system that provides certainty to local school districts so they can accurately plan and fund their budgets;
- ♦ Ensuring statewide access to high quality pre-elementary and early education, including effective reading instruction; and,
- ♦ Increasing funding and program development for vocational and career training, including apprenticeship programs.

These priorities are echoed and a reoccurring theme throughout the State of Alaska from the Association of Alaska School Boards, Alaska Council of School Administrators, Coalition for Education Equity, and the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

<b>Governance</b>	
R/NS	1.1 Opposing Mandated School Consolidation
	1.12 Supporting Local Control for Determining School Board Term Limits and Sectional Representation
	1.14 Cultural Regalia for High School Ceremonies
R/NS	2.1 Sustained, Reliable, and Adequate Educational Funding for Alaska's Students Through Non Volatile Funding Source
R/NS	2.2 Urging Adequate, Equitable, and Predictable Funding
R/NS	2.6 Funding Standards Based Early Learning Programs in Alaska
<b>Funding</b>	
R/NS	2.8 Following the Capital Improvement Project Priority list for non-bonded projects
R	2.23 Funding for Schools by Establishing the Base Student Allocation in Advance
	2.26 Urging Revisions to the Step-Down Hold Harmless Clause for Reductions in ADM
	2.29 Urging the State to Conduct and Fund Facility Condition Surveys (et al);
R	2.34 Focus on Grade Level Proficiency K-3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Students
R/NS	2.41 Funding for Internet Services
R	2.50 Inflation-proofed Base Student Allocation (BSA) Investments
R/NS	2.51 Fully Funding the REAA Rural Construction Fund and Bond Debt Reimbursement
R/NS	2.57 Addressing Equity Issues with Internet Access and Connectivity
R/NS	2.58 No title submitted
	2.59 School Funding During Covid-19 Pandemic
	2.60 Support for the Power Cost Equilization Program Funding for Rural Alaska
	2.61 Funding for Skill Proficiency and Credit Recovery Related to COVID Disruptions
R/NS	2.62 Support for the Adoption of Legislation for State Funded Voluntary Early hildhood (Pre-K) Education in Public School Districts
<b>Child Advocacy</b>	
	3.6 Opiates, Inhalants, Alcohol, Tobacco, Methamphetamine & Other Drug Abuse
	3.7 Cooperation Among Service Providers Serving Children;
	3.8 Suicide Prevention, Education, and Treatment Efforts
R/NS	3.26 Supporting the Adoption of Trauma-Informed and Culturally Relevant Practices to Improve Student Achievement and Reduce Behavioral Deficits for all Alaskan Students
R	3.28 Education on the Dangers of Tobacco, E-nicotine delivery systems, Marijuana Use and Second Hand Smoke
	3.30 Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments for LGBTQ+ Students
<b>Personnel</b>	
R/NS	4.5 Addressing the Teacher, Specialist, and Administrator Shortage
R/NS	4.6 Repeal the Social Security Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision
R	4.7 Defined Benefit Retirement
R	4.11 Alternative Pathways to Certify Effective Teachers
<b>Education &amp; Programs</b>	
R/NS	5.8 Supporting Regional Career and Technical Education Centers

R = Rural Priorities    R/NS = Rural and North Slope Priorities    Blank = North Slope Priorities