



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Governor Dunleavy intends to implement deep cuts next year, as he was thwarted this year by the Legislature's previous decision to forward fund in order to prevent pink slips and provide stability to education.

The question before Alaska now is how to find a path forward out of this tangled mess. It is not going to be easy, and substantial damage has been done -- to the University, to seniors, to the homeless, to health care, to Alaska's reputation.

The majority in the Legislature intends to try again, beginning with a new appropriation bill and hearings in House Finance starting yesterday in Anchorage.

In the meantime the House and Senate propose enacting a new appropriation bill that restores all cuts. This fits the special session call, which is about the "subject of appropriations," and appropriations are a permissible omnibus bill.

What the legislature's strategy does is challenge Dunleavy to do his vetoes again, which then sets up another override session. If necessary, the Legislature will call itself into special session. Override, again, then needs eight more votes from somewhere, which will be difficult. *What this does is increase the focus on Dunleavy legislators.*

Some cuts were huge and devastating, like those to the University (*41 percent*). Other cuts were smaller, but sizable to those they serve, i.e. Child Nutrition, Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Early Childhood grants, Community Grants, grants for things like School and Student Achievement, Village Public Safety Officer cuts, and others similar reductions.

The fight is not over!

(Information obtained and summarized with permission from the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) and Bradners' - Legislative Digest.)