



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: October 9, 2007
TO: Members, Board of Education
FROM: Donna Peterson, Ed.D. *Donna Peterson*
Superintendent of Schools
RE: 2008 State Legislative Priorities

During the worksession on October 1, 2007 in Seward, a single state priority regarding support for the Education Task Force recommendations was developed. That recommendation language is contained in Option A (attached). The Board also passed a resolution in support of the task force work and recommendations during the October 1, 2007 meeting.

Last week I attended the Alaska Association of School Administrators Conference where the Education Task Force recommendations were discussed thoroughly. As a result of the discussion, a resolution will be moving forward that asks for more than was recommended by the task force. There is indication that other school districts and associations may proceed with similar wording. Specifically, the Association recognizes that the true costs of delivering education exceed the recommendations of the task force and proposed that a better solution to long-term funding issues would be using the task force recommendations for cost differential and intensive needs multipliers but phasing them in over three years, as well as a \$200 increase per year to the Base Student Allocation formula. Thus, Option B (attached) is also included under State Legislative priorities for your review and discussion.

**Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
2008 State Legislative Priorities**

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District calls on the Alaska State Legislature to recognize **that children are the first priority**, by:

Implementing the Recommendations Included in the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force Report

The Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force was created by the legislature to debate the merits of various changes to the education funding formula. As a result of their work the Task Force prepared a report to the state legislature and the governor which will improve public education in Alaska and provide school districts with a more equitable and stable funding scheme. Compromises were made during the creation of the report to reach a generally acceptable consensus. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education supports the recommendations of the Task Force; and specifically finds the following recommendations to be of high importance:

- The passing by the Legislature of SB 125 (PERS/TRS cost sharing) in substantially the same form as it currently exists;
- The creation of standing Education Committees in the House and Senate to oversee and review all education issues in the state;
- The referral to the Education Committees of the various long-term issues discussed in the Task Force report;
- The implementation of the ISER district cost factors, phased in to statute over time as set out in the Task Force recommendations;
- The phased increases in the intensive need funding with those increases set into statute;
- The recalibration of the transportation reimbursement rate based on the most recent actual audited costs; and
- An increasing Base Student Allocation amount, set in statute for fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011, at an amount that will keep pace with projected cost increases over those years.

**Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
2008 State Legislative Priorities**

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District calls on the Alaska State Legislature to recognize **that children are the first priority**, by:

Implementing, at a minimum, the Recommendations Included in the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force Report

The Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force was created by the legislature to debate the merits of various changes to the education funding formula. As a result of their work the Task Force prepared a report to the state legislature and the governor which will improve public education in Alaska and provide school districts with a more equitable and stable funding scheme. Compromises were made during the creation of the report to reach a generally acceptable consensus. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education supports the recommendations of the Task Force; but recognizes the costs of delivering education exceed the recommendations. Therefore the following solution is proposed:

- The passing by the Legislature of SB 125 (PERS/TRS cost sharing) in substantially the same form as it currently exists;
- The creation of standing Education Committees in the House and Senate to oversee and review all education issues in the state;
- The referral to the Education Committees of the various long-term issues discussed in the Task Force report;
- The implementation of the ISER district cost factors, phased in to statute over three years
- The three-year phased increases in the intensive need funding with those increases set into statute;
- The recalibration of the transportation reimbursement rate based on the most recent actual audited costs; and
- An increasing Base Student Allocation amount, set in statute for fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011, of \$200 per year that will help keep pace with projected cost increases over those years.