



PEGGE ERKENEFF
Communications Liaison
907.714.8888
Fax 907.262.6867
148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, Alaska, 99669

e: Pegge@KPBSD.org
Facebook: [KPBSD](https://www.facebook.com/KPBSD)
Twitter: [@KPBSD](https://twitter.com/KPBSD)
www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

Offer your opinion about K-12 education funding to the Alaska Senate Finance Committee

The current version of [SB22](#) does not include a funding amount for education.

At the opening of public testimony on March 16, 2017, Co-chair Senator Lyman Hoffman clarified that education funding is not included in the current budget proposal because the Senate Finance committee, “contemplated that may be reduced by 5%, or a nickel on a dollar.”

Soldotna, March 16, 2017—Education funding is absent in the [SB22](#) operating budget work draft. State aid for the education foundation formula will be added back in on Monday. Except, testimony on the budget is today and tomorrow, this week.

Will you please take two minutes to tell the [Senate Finance Committee](#) why you value funding education? Give your perspective in person, by telephone, via email*

If the state budget cuts education funding by 5 cents on every \$1.00, it's likely that 50 KPBSD teachers would be eliminated, and no longer be educating our children in August, 2017.

***Senate Finance Committee – [SB22](#) Operating Budget - Statewide Public Testimony**

Time limit is two minutes. Thursday, March 16:

9:00 - 10:30: Juneau

1:00 - 2:00: Glennallen, Seward, Homer

2:00 - 3:30: Statewide Offnet

3:30 - 5:00: Anchorage

5:00 - 6:00: Kenai, Kodiak, Dillingham

Written testimony can be submitted to finance.committee@akleg.gov

Superintendent Sean Dusek said today, “I’m very concerned about what the Senate is contemplating. Now is the time for people’s voices to be heard, and fully engaged in this process.”

KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

FOR RELEASE MARCH 16, 2017

1 OF 3

KPBSD fiscal reality

KPBSD requests the Legislature maintain status quo funding, as proposed by Governor Walker.

The KPBSD FY18 proposed budget is calculated with a status quo funding for education. **Status Quo funding projects a KPBSD deficit of (\$ 3.45 million)*.**

To balance the budget, KPBSD identified **expenditure reductions of (\$ 2.48 million)**, and the use of General Fund Balance (savings) of \$ 1.13 million. This is prior to additional education funding cuts.

If the Alaska State legislature passes additional revenue cuts to state education funding, the KPBSD \$3.45 million budget deficit will increase. And, state reductions can affect the Kenai Peninsula Borough maximum allowable contribution to KPBSD. **This is the additional state funding impact to KPBSD:**

1% Reduction to BSA = (\$ 1.05 million)

3% Reduction to BSA = (\$ 3.18 million)

5% Reduction to BSA = (\$ 5.29 million)

Perspective: Ten KPBSD teachers equates to one million dollars.

For several years, budget reductions have come through efficiencies, Pupil to Teacher Ratio (PTR) increases, and reduction of staff. Expenses related to healthcare and workman's compensation continue to rise.

The effects of these cuts have been kept as far away from the classroom as possible and most of the public do not realize these are already in effect. **But, \$8,550,530 has already been reduced in KPBSD since FY15.**

- FY15 Budget Reductions (\$1.25 million)
- FY16 Budget Reductions (1.37 million)
- FY17 Budget Reductions (3.44 million)
- FY18 Budget Reductions (2.48 million)

Total Budget Reductions (\$ 8.55 million)

Further reductions to education funding in FY18 will increase the deficit, thus likely impact KPBSD staff, classroom instruction and support.

HOW-TO TESTIFY

Go to a [local LIO office](#) in Homer, Kenai, or Seward; call-in; or email your testimony.

General instructions

- Public testimony limited to 2 minutes per testifier
- If you are a member of a group with the same message, in the interest of time, please select a spokesperson to testify for the entire group
- Identify yourself (first and last name), the community in which you live, and any relevant affiliations

By Phone (LIO offices in Homer, Kenai, and Seward, plus Off-Net):

KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

- Public members are strongly encouraged to testify from their [Legislative Information Offices \(LIOs\)](#), as there are limited Off-Net phone lines that are prioritized for those who are unable to physically reach their LIO;
- If public members cannot reach their LIO, they may use the limited Off-Net phone system
- 844-586-9085 (toll-free) or 907-586-9085
- All Off-Net callers are required to hang up immediately after testifying in order to keep as many lines open as possible for other callers.

Written testimony:

- Email finance.committee@akleg.gov

Links

- [Senate Bill 22 \(SB22\)](#) – Operating Budget; Loans; Funds
- The Alaska State Legislature [webpage](#)
- KPBSD Finance webpage <http://bit.ly/KPBSDfinance>
- FY18 budget & funding videos <http://bit.ly/VideoFY18Budget>
- KPBSD and the Legislature <https://bit.ly/KPBSDandTheLegislature>
- KPBSD Communications Blog and announcements <http://bit.ly/KPBSDnews>
- Story: [KPBSD FY18 Budget 101 ~ funding, expenses, links, facts](#)

The number one KPBSD Board of Education legislative priority is, “Provide sustained, reliable, and adequate education funding for Alaska’s students.”



KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA