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**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](mailto: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**

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## 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):**

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- 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](mailto: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.”



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