



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board of Education

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520  
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

### Kenai Peninsula Borough School District 2017 State Legislative Priorities

#### **Provide sustained, reliable and adequate educational funding for Alaska's students**

While the State of Alaska is currently experiencing fiscal challenges, a multi-revenue fiscal plan to eliminate the highs and lows of oil dependent funding must be developed. Adequately funding public education is a legal responsibility of the State of Alaska and is its primary financial concern. The education funding plan should be consistent, reliable and predictable. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is accountable for the dollars entrusted to our District and supports measures that will allow our District to operate in a more efficient manner. The District stands ready to work with the Legislature to find the right solutions for solving today's fiscal crisis.

#### **Control health care costs to school districts**

The cost of health care for KPBSD increases every year. KPBSD has worked hard to find efficiencies to lower these costs; it has not been able to slow the overall increases. More funds for health care reduces the amount of funding that can be devoted to the classroom. KPBSD stands ready to work with the Legislature to explore all options to control the increase of health care costs to all districts.

#### **Develop an efficient and effective educational accountability system**

With the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act through the Every Student Succeeds Act, the District stands ready to work closely with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to redefine the state accountability system. We believe that local control should be honored in this process and that any state-wide assessments should provide timely and relevant information to positively impact instruction. Multiple measures of student data should be reported to give a complete picture of a school's performance. Multiple opportunities for critical thinking and problem solving should be afforded to all students instead of a focus on the state-wide assessment which only provides a small snapshot of student performance.

***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.***

#### **KPBSD Board Members and Superintendent**

Joe Arness, President	Marty Anderson
Penny Vadla, Vice-President	Dan Castimore
Bill Holt, Clerk	Lynn Hohl
John Kelly, Treasurer	Mike Illg
Brian Dusek, Student Representative	Tim Navarre
Sean Dusek, Superintendent	

BOE approved 11-7-16



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### Kenai Peninsula Borough School District 2017 Federal Legislative Priorities

#### **Every Student Succeeds Act**

KPBSD calls on the United States Department of Education to honor local control with developing and implementing ESSA. Further, KPBSD requests that USED allow more time for states and districts to develop their plans than is currently being considered. A regulation under consideration that is particularly troubling is the insistence by USED that a school's performance be defined by a single designation. This has proven to be unfair through NCLB and was specifically left out by Congress in the passage of the act. Alaska is in a unique situation in the development of a state-wide assessment and should not have the Act be a "one size fits all" as a way to respond to proposed regulations that are not suitable for Alaska.

#### **Fund early learning programs in Alaska**

All children should have opportunities to learn during the formative early childhood years. Studies show that for every \$1 spent on early childhood education, \$8 is saved in later services that are not necessary. Many of Alaska's children are placed at risk for future school failure because they do not have access to rich early childhood learning opportunities. The District uses a portion of its federal Title I money to offer preschool to about a one-third of its four year olds. KPBSD recommends that Congress offer grant opportunities directly to school districts for early childhood education. Further, the District advocates that enrollment in early childhood education be optional for students.

#### **Reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act**

Career and Technical Education is an important component of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District instructional model. The Perkins Act fundamentally supports this model and should be reauthorized by the U.S. Congress and signed by the President. The U.S. House of Representatives recently reauthorized this Act in a bipartisan manner that strengthens federal support that reflects today's economic needs and challenges that students and workers currently face. KPBSD calls on the U.S. Senate to also reauthorize this Act in a bipartisan manner that also strengthens federal support.

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