

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

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RESOLUTION 23-029(A)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA MAKE A MEANINGFUL
INCREASE TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer is within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, which is required by AS 29.35.160 to constitute a borough school district and establish, maintain, and operate a system of public schools on an areawide basis; and

WHEREAS, Paul Banks and West Homer Elementary, Homer Middle, and Homer High Schools are Kenai Peninsula Borough School District schools within Homer's city limits; and

WHEREAS, Maintaining high quality public schools is important to the quality of life of the Homer residents; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.17.470 currently states that the base student allocation provided by the State is \$5,960; and

WHEREAS, At current funding levels the State's base student allocation will only provide 59.5% of fiscal year 2024 Kenai Peninsula Borough School District education funding and local government contributions will make up the majority of the balance; and

WHEREAS, Education is the single largest budgetary item for the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, The base student allocation amount per student has slowly degraded due to an upward inflationary trend in the cost of student education; and

WHEREAS, Requiring the Kenai Peninsula Borough to continually increase local contributions to keep pace with rising costs results in decreased spending on other essential programs; and

41 WHEREAS, The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is facing a \$13.1 million budget
42 deficit for fiscal year 2024, requiring an increase in class size and the elimination of programs
43 important to students and community members; and
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45 WHEREAS, The State has not made meaningful base student allocation increases since
46 fiscal years 2015 through 2017 totaling an additional amount per student of \$250; and
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48 ~~WHEREAS, Alaska State Senate members have proposed SB 52 which would increase~~
49 ~~the base student allocation by \$1,000 and Alaska House State members have proposed HB 65~~
50 ~~which would increase the base student allocation per student by \$1,250; and~~
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52 **WHEREAS, Alaska legislators are considering bills in the House and Senate to raise**
53 **the base student allocation; and**
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55 WHEREAS, On February 28, 2023, the Legislative Finance Division Director stated to the
56 House Finance Committee that “today, the base student allocation is the lowest it’s been in
57 the last 20 years – adjusted for inflation”; and
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59 WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly adopted Resolution 2023-027 on
60 March 14, 2023, requesting the State of Alaska make a meaningful increase to the base student
61 allocation for public schools.
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63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, requests a
64 meaningful increase to the base student allocation for Alaskan students to bridge the fiscal
65 gap created by a lack of inflationary increases to the base student allocation over the last
66 several years.
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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to Governor Dunleavy, the Kenai
69 Peninsula legislative delegation, the President of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
70 Board of Education, the Education Committees of the Alaska House and Alaska Senate, and
71 other interested parties.
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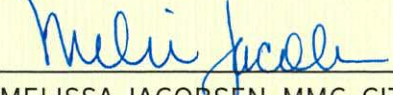
73 PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, this 28th day of
74 March, 2023.
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76 CITY OF HOMER

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80 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR
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83 ATTEST:

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85 _____
86 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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88 Fiscal Note: N/A

