

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold/Lord

RESOLUTION 24-015

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA MAKE A MEANINGFUL AND
TIMELY 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, Homer High, Homer Flex and Fireweed Academy Schools are Kenai Peninsula Borough School District public 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 competitiveness to attract a strong workforce; and

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

WHEREAS, The State is currently providing about 56% of 4 Kenai Peninsula Borough School District education funding and local Kenai Peninsula Borough contributions make up the majority of the outstanding balance; and

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

WHEREAS, without a BSA increase or one-time funding, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District will again be facing a budget deficit of over \$13 million for FY25 which will most likely require an increase to class size and the elimination of programs important to our students and community members; and

WHEREAS, our school district has made significant cuts to administration and the central office over the past several years and we no longer have cuts to propose that won't impact large numbers of students and community members; and

43 WHEREAS, In addition to quality educational programs, the current state funding levels
44 for Alaska's schools leave programs like our pools, theaters, athletics, and extracurricular
45 activities in serious risk of cuts as the School Board works to protect the instructional mandate
46 of the School District with insufficient funding; and

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48 WHEREAS, a stagnant BSA amount coupled with a constant upward inflationary trend
49 has eroded away the effectiveness of the formulated Basic Need amount; and

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51 WHEREAS, The Kenai Peninsula Borough has continually increased local contributions
52 to keep pace with these rising costs and has reached the maximum allowable amount resulting
53 in a need to decrease school district spending on programs essential to our students' growth
54 for this upcoming fiscal year; and

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56 WHEREAS, the dollar amount of the BSA directly affects not only how much the State
57 will fund the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, but also how much the Kenai Peninsula
58 Borough is allowed to contribute to schools; and

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60 WHEREAS, The State has not made meaningful base student allocation increases since
61 fiscal years 2015 through 2017 totaling an additional amount per student of \$250; and

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63 WHEREAS, the State has given much appreciated one-time funding to Alaska's schools
64 for the past several years; and

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66 WHEREAS, these one-time funds do truly help relieve budget deficits for a current year,
67 however they in no way contribute to a permanent solution, effectively "kicking the can down
68 the road" to be discussed again each year; and

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70 WHEREAS, On February 28, 2023, the Legislative Finance Division Director stated to the
71 House Finance Committee that "today, the base student allocation is the lowest it's been in
72 the last 20 years – adjusted for inflation"; and

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74 WHEREAS, the FY12 value of the BSA in today's dollars would be approximately \$1,200
75 more than Alaska school districts are currently receiving; and

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77 WHEREAS, an inflationary increase matching this amount would ensure Alaska school
78 districts could continue current educational programs with no anticipated cuts; and

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80 WHEREAS, last year Alaska State Senate and House members proposed bills to begin
81 addressing this inflationary deficit with increases to the BSA; and

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83 WHEREAS, the Alaska State Senate forwarded a bill to the House of Representatives
84 increasing the BSA to \$6,640 per student; and

85 WHEREAS, the Alaska State House will now have the opportunity to consider this BSA
86 increase as well; and

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88 WHEREAS, if passed by the legislature, Governor Dunleavy will be in the position to
89 accept or veto the proposed increases to the base student allocation; and

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91 WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly adopted Resolution 2024-002 on
92 January 2, 2024, requesting the State of Alaska make a meaningful increase to the base student
93 allocation for public schools and include an annual inflationary adjustment.

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95 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, requests
96 that the State Legislature pass a meaningful increase to the base student allocation in a timely
97 manner to permanently reduce the fiscal gap created in the Alaska educational system due to
98 a lack of inflationary increases to the BSA over the last several years. Additionally, that the BSA
99 be adjusted every year in an amount equivalent to the annual percentage change in the
100 Consumer Price Index for Urban Alaska (CPI) for the December ending previous to the fiscal
101 funding year.

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103 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska petitions Governor
104 Dunleavy to implement a permanent increase to the base student allocation, to include an
105 annual inflationary adjustment, as brought forth by the Alaska Legislature with no vetoes
106 exercised that would reduce or eliminate the State budget funds needed to successfully make
107 the increase a reality. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to Governor
108 Dunleavy, the Kenai Peninsula legislative delegation, the President of the Kenai Peninsula
109 Borough School District Board of Education, the Education Committees of the Alaska House
110 and Alaska Senate, and other interested parties.

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112 PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, this 22nd day of
113 January, 2024.

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ATTEST:

124 Melissa Jacobsen
MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

125 Fiscal Note: N/A

CITY OF HOMER

Ken Castner

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

