

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT**

NO: 8c

MEETING OF: February 12, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Consent Calendar

A Resolution of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Board Calling on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska to Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA)

SUBMITTED BY: Michael Robbins, Superintendent (907)247-2109

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Board will be discussing a resolution with the Borough Assembly, calling on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska to increase the Base Student Allocation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Joint Resolution on BSA

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
AND
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD**

**ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 3109
SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION NO.**

A Resolution of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Board Calling on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska to Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA)

RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS**, Article VII, §1 of the Alaska Constitution commands that the Legislature “shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the state”, a provision that obligates the legislature in equal measure to provide for all 53 school districts in the State of Alaska; and
- B. WHEREAS**, in support of this mandate of the Constitution, the Legislature enacted AS 14.17.410 which provides for a base student allocation (BSA) by which the adequate funding for each school district is calculated; and
- C. WHEREAS**, the current BSA has increased only \$280 since 2011, a 4.9% increase during a time in which inflation has increased the costs of school operations by a cumulative amount of 40.31%; and
- D. WHEREAS**, by virtue of losses due to inflation, the current BSA provided to Alaska school districts of \$5960 is the equivalent of only \$3849 per child in 2011 dollars, a net loss of 35.41%; and
- E. WHEREAS**, data show that because of the nominal BSA increases, Alaska school districts have effectively lost \$2111 per annual enrollment since 2011 due to inflation, and the aggregated loss to Ketchikan schools equals \$4,215,780 in State funding during the current fiscal year; and
- F. WHEREAS**, Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District continues to experience substantial increases in property and liability insurance costs of double-digit percentages; and
- G. WHEREAS**, budgeted District health insurance costs have more than doubled since 2020, and current year health care claims are now close to 20% of the total District budget; and
- H. WHEREAS**, Alaska is facing a teacher shortage and hiring crisis, and Alaska school

districts' wages and benefits are no longer competitive compared to prevailing wages provided in other neighboring states; and

- I. **WHEREAS**, as a result of years of inadequate State funding, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District faces a FY26 budget that will require the elimination of dozens of teaching and paraprofessional positions, the elimination of programs, the districtwide restructuring of schools, and/or closure of one of its five (5) non-charter schools; and
- J. **WHEREAS**, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly has effectively funded the District to the statutory cap in recent years, and there remain no more lawful options for the Borough to provide additional funding to the District; and
- K. **WHEREAS**, in recent years, supplemental appropriations by the Legislature to public education have often been provided and later subject to gubernatorial veto, a phenomenon that frustrates the need for timely, reliable and predictable funding that enables districts' ability to conduct necessary long-term educational planning; and
- L. **WHEREAS**, in order for the State to meet its constitutional obligation of maintaining its public schools, the BSA should be increased by an amount, at minimum, equal to recent one-time funding provided in FY25 to provide adequate funding for each school district, that makes up for past erosion, and offsets ever-increasing costs of operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS JOINTLY RESOLVED BY THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH AND THE KETCHIKAN SCHOOL DISTRICT, as follows:

Section 1. The Assembly and the School Board find that the multi-year failure to appropriately adjust the Base Student Allocation undermines the ability of districts statewide to provide the level of funding required to operate a comprehensive K-12 educational system; and

Section 2. The Assembly and the School Board strongly urge the Alaska Legislature and the Governor to significantly and appropriately increase the Base Student Allocation to adequately fund education for all Alaska students, and to support districts with long term timely, stable, and predictable funding.

Section 3. The Assembly and School Board further urge the Alaska Legislature and the Governor to implement a mechanism to provide increased funding to the school districts in organized boroughs in amounts no less than funding increases provided to the Rural Education Attendance Areas (REAs).

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption by the Assembly and the School Board, whichever occurs later.

ADOPTED by the Assembly this _____ day of February, 2025.

ADOPTED by the School Board this _____ day of February, 2025.

Michelle O'Brien, Board President

Katherine Tatsuda, Board Clerk-Treasurer

Rodney Dial, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Glenn Brown, Borough Attorney