

Presented by: Assembly Finance Committee
Introduced: 03/20/89
Drafted by: Ad Hoc Committee on
Public School Funding

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1371

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
SUPPORTING LOCAL FORMULA FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, education provides the opportunity for reaching personal fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency, and

WHEREAS, the right to a free education for every child has been universally recognized, and in Alaska is mandated by the Alaska Constitution, and

WHEREAS, education is of primary importance to the citizens of Juneau, and

WHEREAS, Article XIII of the Charter of the City and Borough of Juneau and Section 03.15.020 of the city and borough code provide that the Board of Education shall be responsible for operating the public school system for the city and borough, and

WHEREAS, state law requires that the school district submit its school budget for the following school year to the Assembly by April 1 of each year, and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute 14.17.025 mandates a contribution to the school district from the local government of the equivalent of a four mill property tax levy, but limits that contribution to a certain percentage above the district's basic need, and

WHEREAS, the school district is dependent upon the city and borough to provide approximately one third of its revenue, and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau has traditionally provided a high level of local support for its school system, with the result that the local contribution is approaching the state and federally-mandated cap on local support, and

WHEREAS, the local appropriation for schools includes items such as pupil transportation, student activities, and community services accounts that are not subject to the local contribution cap, and

WHEREAS, future state oil revenues are projected to decrease with the gradual decline of Prudhoe Bay production, making state general fund support of public education more difficult and uncertain, and

WHEREAS, dramatic swings in funding for education cause serious disruptions in the delivery of educational services to the great detriment of school age children in Juneau, and

WHEREAS, the state uses a foundation funding formula based on a per pupil allowance which facilitates school district projections of likely funding from state sources, and

WHEREAS, while the state foundation funding formula provides a somewhat reliable basis for school district planning and budgeting purposes, the school district has no similar basis for projecting the level of local support, with the result that an accurate projection of the total dollars likely to be available for education is not known until well after the school district has submitted its budget to the Assembly, and

WHEREAS, local contributions in recent years have generally been consistent with a formula based on funding on a per student basis multiplied by the number of students, plus a reasonable increase for inflation, and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to both the city and borough and the school district to have adequate planning time for budgeting purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. That by October 15 of each year, the Juneau School District shall inform the city and borough Assembly of the projected number of students for the following fiscal year. The district shall immediately inform the Assembly of any changes in the projected student enrollment.

2. That for planning purposes, the level of local support for the general educational operating fund, pupil transportation, student activities, and community services,

will be calculated as follows:

Support = Number of students X \$ per student in
the base year of 1987 X change in the
Seattle CPI since the base year

3. That the resulting number will be budgeted in the city and borough manager's preliminary budget presented to the Assembly.

4. That in April of each year the Assembly will review the school district budget as provided by state law.

5. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 20th day of March, 1989.


Mayor

Attest:


Clerk