

CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATURE INCREASE THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION AND ANNUALLY ADJUST FOR INFLATION

WHEREAS, it is a constitutional obligation of the State of Alaska to establish and maintain a system of public schools ; and

WHEREAS, state provided educational funding currently is equal to only 64%, with the remaining 46% to be made up by local governments and local impact aid; and

WHEREAS, the funding formula designed by the state, adopted under Senate Bill 36 in 1998 and implemented in 1999, requires a minimum local contribution of 2.65 mils (or equivalent); and

WHEREAS, the City of Dillingham recognizes its partnership role with the Dillingham City School District in ensuring a healthy and sustainable primary and secondary education for all students in the District; and

WHEREAS, education is one of the largest budget items for the City of Dillingham; and

WHEREAS, Federal Impact Aid is intended to be distributed directly to school districts impacted by federal lands and activities, and to supplement local budgets; and

WHEREAS, increasing local contributions to match rising costs leads to decreased spending on necessary essential projects and programs, like infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the State's failure to fund public schools in a manner that keeps pace with inflation and increased costs jeopardizes the health, quality and sustainability of our local schools and students; and

WHEREAS, no increase to the Base Student Allocation since 2017 while nearly all expenses continue to increase for our public school system will force schools to reduce offerings and in some cases, close schools altogether; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dillingham maximizes our local contribution of the required 2.65 mils, with an additional 1% from the City's sales tax, and increased to 1.3 million each year; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the increase in expenses without a corresponding increase to the Base Student Allocation, the Dillingham City School District is forced to consider alternatives to reduce services and costs; and

WHEREAS, all Alaskans understand the vital role the local school has as the heart, future, and center of the entire community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; the Dillingham City Council requests the Alaska Legislature increase the Base Student Allocation and enact a statute to automatically adjust for inflation and return to forward funding for education.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Dillingham City Council on May 4, 2023.

Alice Ruby, Mayor

ATTEST:

[SEAL]

Greta Hayden-Pless, Acting City Clerk