

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
RESOLUTION #2025-07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
REQUESTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE INCREASE THE BASE
STUDENT ALLOCATION AND PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE
FORMULA FOR EDUCATION FUNDING**

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

WHEREAS, as per AS 29.35.160 the Petersburg Borough is required to form a borough school district and provide a minimum local contribution of 2.65 mils (or equivalent);

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

WHEREAS, in FY2025 the Petersburg Borough provided the maximum local contribution, and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough is uncertain it will be able to continue to provide the maximum contribution due in part to the Federal Secure Rural School's funding coming to an end; and

WHEREAS, education is THE largest budget item for the Petersburg Borough; and

WHEREAS, the State has not made a meaningful Base Student Allocation increase since FY2016; and

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

WHEREAS, continuing to flat-fund our public school system while expenses continue to increase will force increasing class size, and eliminate programs important to our students and community members; and

WHEREAS, the most recent substantial increase to the BSA took place between FY2015 and FY2017, raising the amount by \$250 per student, with the Alaska Reads Act providing an additional \$30 increase in FY2024; and

WHEREAS, the state has provided temporary budget relief, a long-term solution is necessary to ensure financial stability and continuity in education programs for future years; and

WHEREAS, the 34th Alaska State Legislature has the opportunity to consider a BSA increase and forward funding of the school system; and

WHEREAS, any long-term education package must provide both stable, predictable funding increases and strategic improvements in student achievement and school operations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Petersburg Borough Assembly that we are doing our part to support the public education in our borough to the maximum amount allowable and support and encourage the Alaska Legislature to significantly increase the Base Student Allocation.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Petersburg Borough Assembly urges the Alaska Legislature and Governor Dunleavy to prioritize a long-term bipartisan solution for FY2026 and beyond, providing school districts with predictable funding levels while incorporating policy measures that enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Alaska's education system.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg, Alaska this 7th day of April, 2025.

Donna Marsh, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca Regula, Borough Clerk