

Debra Thompson

From: Kacey Hammer <kaceybanester@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 7:09 AM
To: Assembly
Subject: School funding and support

Dear Members of the Borough Assembly,

I am writing to show my full support of our teachers and staff.

The right to an education is guaranteed to all students because an educated citizen is important to the foundations of our country. We are fortunate to have dedicated teachers and staff doing their best every day. Unfortunately, our state doesn't think access to a public education is as important as I do. The state has chosen to sit on its hands rather than put public education first. Alaska used to be a place where it was difficult to find a teaching job because we paid our teachers well. Paying teachers well means we can attract quality teachers to our school and community. It means we can keep good teachers. Sadly, with the lack of an increase in allotments per student that comes close to matching the rising costs to all Alaskans, we lost teachers. They simply cannot afford to live here with the salary they are given.

I challenge anyone of you who hasn't spent time in a classroom to think about how you would feel after spending a day with a group of 5 year olds. Would you be able to not only keep your composure but to teach those kids? Would you be able to ensure that all the needs of each of those students are met, all day, every day? Our educators do this. Every day. We owe it to our teachers to ensure that they have the funding they need to keep our children thriving.

*Best wishes,
Kacey Hammer*