

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2016-11:

**IN SUPPORT OF A STATE FISCAL PLAN
TO RESOLVE THE STATE BUDGET GAP**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska faces a significant budget deficit estimated at \$3.5 billion for FY 17 that could, if not addressed quickly, force deep cuts in essential public services, significantly diminishing public education and work opportunities for all Alaska's children and their families; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has a constitutional mandate to maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District cut \$8.67M from the 2015-16 budget; and

WHEREAS, under the current funding process, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, as well as all other Alaska school districts, are required to develop budgets without consistent forward-funding by the state; and

WHEREAS, a long-term plan for fiscal integrity is essential to instill confidence, provide a stable business climate, keep our favorable bond rating, ensure Alaskans receive basic, essential community services, and provide public education with consistent, sustainable forward funding; and


WHEREAS, business and community members, educators, parents, and students have every reason to be concerned about the effect our current fiscal challenges will have on our communities and our students' futures; and

WHEREAS, with the rapidly diminishing Constitutional Budget Reserve, postponing action to close the budget gap to future years places the state at greater peril; and

WHEREAS, all Alaskans have a shared interest in decisive action this legislative session to substantially close the budget gap between revenue and expenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education encourages the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to work collectively to address the State of Alaska's unprecedented budget gap and to secure a stable financial future for all Alaskans by considering other revenue sources such as the use of the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve.

Passed and Approved: January 19, 2016



Heidi Haas, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:



Sharon Tuttle
Executive Assistant to the Board

