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By: David Guttenberg, Assembly  
Kristan Kelly, Assembly  
Scott Crass, Assembly  
Nick LaJiness, Assembly  
Liz Reeves-Ramos, Assembly  
Savannah Fletcher, Assembly  
Brandy Harty, Board of Education  
Tim Doran, Board of Education  
Erin Morotti, Board of Education

Board of Education Introduced: 02/06/2024  
Board of Education Adopted: 02/06/2024  
Assembly Introduced: 02/08/2024  
Assembly Adopted: 02/08/2024  
Assembly  
Immediately Reconsidered: 02/08/2024  
Assembly Adopted: 02/08/2024

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AND THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR  
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 03

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AND  
THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR, INFLATION-ADJUSTED STATE FUNDING REQUIRED TO  
MAINTAIN A QUALITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND INCREASE STUDENT  
PERFORMANCE

WHEREAS, Strong educational systems are a vital part of economically  
strong and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska  
mandates that "The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of  
public schools open to all children of the State"; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska’s Foundation Formula (AS 14.17) is the  
statutory mechanism for funding Alaska’s system of public schools based on a per-student  
basis; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Urban Consumer Price Index calculates that inflation  
increased 27.6% since July 2016; and

44 WHEREAS, The Base Student Allocation (BSA), which is the primary  
45 component within the Foundation Formula, remained unadjusted between July 1, 2016,  
46 and June 30, 2023 and the BSA increased from \$5,930 to only \$5,960 effective July 1,  
47 2023, comprising a 0.5% increase since July 1, 2016; and

48  
49 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska’s formula for funding pupil transportation  
50 has not been adjusted since July 1, 2015 despite significant inflationary drivers in fuel  
51 and labor costs; and

52  
53 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska, in June 2015, halted its established model  
54 for reimbursing municipal governments for 60-70% of their debt service for new school  
55 construction and major maintenance and subsequently asserted that it will reimburse only  
56 up to 50% of that debt service when funding resumes in FY 2025; and

57  
58 WHEREAS, Significantly increasing assessed valuations have increased the  
59 Required Local Contribution (RLC), thus shifting the additional funding burden to tax  
60 payers; and

61  
62 WHEREAS, Static funding provided through the State of Alaska’s Foundation  
63 Formula since the 2017 fiscal year and its Pupil Transportation Formula since the 2016  
64 fiscal year despite inflationary drivers and dynamic changes to the costs of educating  
65 students in districts across the State of Alaska, have significantly increased the structural  
66 deficit and diminished the purchasing power of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School  
67 District (FNSBSD) and districts across the State; and

68  
69 WHEREAS, Despite periodic but unpredictable allocations of one-time funds,  
70 the State of Alaska’s nearly static BSA, multiple unfunded mandates, outdated District  
71 Cost Factor, and unadjusted pupil transportation funding, together with its deviation from  
72 prior practices of reimbursing school construction and maintenance, have produced  
73 marked cost shifts to Fairbanks’ taxpayers; and

74  
75 WHEREAS, In response to these challenges, the FNSBSD and Administration  
76 have made more than \$50 million in cuts, decreased FNSBSD’s administrative positions,  
77 closed multiple schools, increased class sizes, cut educator salaries in real dollars  
78 (accounting for inflation), shifted a greater percentage of healthcare costs to employees,  
79 maximized efficiencies and additional revenue streams; and

80  
81 WHEREAS, Since 2017, the FNSBSD has confronted the necessity of laying  
82 off 148 educators and administrative staff, a figure that would have been significantly  
83 higher were it not for the judicious utilization of CARES funds and the general fund  
84 balance to sustain essential positions. The district, in its commitment to aligning available  
85 resources with the aspirations of the community, has been compelled to make challenging  
86 decisions. These include, but are not limited to, increasing class sizes at all grade levels,  
87 discontinuing the district-wide Art Center Program, eliminating elementary band and

88 orchestra, ceasing elementary reading intervention programs (RTI), reducing foreign  
89 language offerings and various elective programs, as well as implementing cuts in  
90 numerous sports and activities programs; and

91  
92 WHEREAS, The FNSBSD has moderated the impact to student learning over  
93 each of the past four budget cycles by allocating the majority of its \$33 million in Federal  
94 relief funds (CARES money) to maintain pupil-to-teacher ratios, facilitate continuity of  
95 learning, measure and address student learning loss, and address students' social,  
96 emotional, mental health and academic needs resulting from the pandemic and such relief  
97 funds will be completely exhausted by the close of September 2024; and

98  
99 WHEREAS, FNSBSD's commitment to providing all students an excellent,  
100 equitable education in a safe, supportive environment while ensuring they have an equal  
101 and adequate opportunity to achieve to the State's curriculum and performance standards  
102 is now at unprecedented risk; and

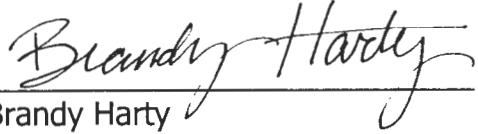
103  
104 WHEREAS, The FNSBSD Board of Education may be forced to eliminate  
105 approximately 150 additional educators, paraprofessionals, and key support staff in May  
106 2024 unless early Legislative action is taken, in advance of the FNSBSD Board of  
107 Education's obligation to pass a balanced budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

108  
109 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough  
110 (FNSB) Assembly and FNSBSD Board of Education hereby urge the Alaska State  
111 Legislature and Governor to address the State of Alaska's Constitutional responsibility to  
112 maintain its system of public schools by passing immediate legislation to 1) raise the Base  
113 Student Allocation by no less than \$1,413 to \$7,373 so as to account for inflation since  
114 July 1, 2016, and enable strategic investments in improved student outcomes; and 2)  
115 increase its transportation funding by at least \$270 per pupil to \$1,172 per pupil for FY  
116 2025; and

117  
118 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the FNSB Assembly and FNSBSD Board  
119 of Education hereby urge the Alaska State Legislature and Governor to establish a means  
120 for the State of Alaska to be able to maintain its system of public schools by 1) passing  
121 additional legislation that will adjust the Base Student Allocation to account for inflation  
122 on an annual basis; 2) Passing additional legislation requiring the state to fund to the  
123 total basic need, allowing all local contributions to be added to the basic need, not  
124 deducted from it; and 3) return to traditional models of cost sharing for capital projects.

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ADOPTED THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024 by the Fairbanks North Star  
Borough School District Board of Education.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brandy Harty  
President

ADOPTED THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024 by the Fairbanks North Star  
Borough Assembly.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Savannah Fletcher  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
April Trickey, MMC  
Borough Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carm Richardson  
Board of Education Executive Assistant

Board of Education Vote:

Yeses: Maple, Burnett, Burgess, Morotti, Doran, Harty

Noes: None

Other: Sanderson (Excused)

Assembly Vote:

Yeses: Guttenberg, Rotermund, Reeves-Ramos, LaJiness, Crass, Kelly, Fletcher

Noes: Haney

Other: O'Neill (Excused)