



Craig City School District

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January 24, 2025

Dear CCSD Staff, Parents, Families, and Community Members,

As we enter the new year, I want to share two important updates with you, one concerning a critical moment in education advocacy and the other celebrating an essential group of leaders in our school community.

The 34th Alaska Legislature convened on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, and Priority Funding for Public Education was noted as a key focus. The bill associated with this initiative (**House Bill 69**) aims to adjust and increase Alaska's Base Student Allocation (BSA). With that noted, I've been asked to share how CCSD Staff, Parents, Families, and Community Members can get involved.

Active participation in the legislative process may be demonstrated by:

- **Writing to Legislators or Providing Public Testimony** to ensure lawmakers hear the perspectives from all stakeholders within our school communities.
 - Alaska Legislators for CCSD include:
 - Senator, Bert Stedman Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov
 - Representative, Rebecca Himschoot Representative.Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov
 - Providing Public Testimony is typically done at a Legislative Information Office (LIO). Since there isn't an LIO in Craig, Public Testimony can be provided by calling **844-586-9085**.
- **Participating in School Board Meetings** to learn more and join other advocacy efforts.
- **Engaging with Community Members** to create a united voice for our district and schools as well as other districts and school across Alaska.

Enclosed with this letter, you'll find the following:

- Information on **House Bill 69**:
 - This is the BSA Bill that dropped this morning, which would authorize a BSA increase of \$1808 over the course of three (3) years.
 - There are two (2) opportunities for Public Testimony on HB69. Both opportunities are currently scheduled for **Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 8am and at 5pm** (*Note: call-ins must be received by 6:30pm to be heard during the 5pm public testimony session).
 - Once again, public testimony can be provided by calling **844-586-9085**.
- A Talking Points Template
 - This may help guide your chosen public testimony.

There's no better time to get involved and actively engage in the legislative process. Our collective effort will be key to closing the funding gap and providing our students with the opportunities they deserve.

Our students will be compassionate, resilient, self-sufficient, engaged members of their community.
CCSD will establish a community of learning that empowers the whole child to embrace life-long learning and a growth mindset.

The second point I would like to highlight is honoring a vital group of leaders within our school community. Since its launch by the National School Boards Association in 1995, School Board Appreciation Month has been a time to celebrate the role school boards play in our local communities.

This February, CCSD encourages all members of our school community to join us in recognizing and thanking our school board members for their dedication and service to our students and schools. A simple way to join our initiative and show your appreciation is to send thank you emails to our current CCSD School Board Members in February, highlighting specific ways the district/schools have positively impacted your child(ren). It's incredible how a small gesture of appreciation or a few kind words can make a lasting impact.

Our CCSD School Board for the 2024-2025 school year includes the following members:

- **Hans Hjort** – President hhjort@craigschools.com
- **Ben Page** – Vice President bpage@craigschools.com
- **Julie McDonald** – Secretary/Treasurer jmcdonald@craigschools.com
- **Trish Conatser** – Member trishconatser@craigschools.com
- **Bonnie Morris** – Member bmorris@craigschools.com
- **Art Frank**, CCSD Board Student Representative afrank@craigschools.com

In closing, thank you for your ongoing support of our students, staff, and school community. If you have questions about these initiatives or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to reach out to me directly at 907-826-3274 ext. 4003 or via email at jhanson@craigschools.com.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jackie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hanson".

Jackie Hanson
Superintendent, Craig City School District

HOUSE BILL NO. 69

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES HIMSCHOOT, Dibert

Introduced: 1/24/25

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to education funding; and providing for an effective date."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 14.17.470 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

4 (b) On July 1, 2025, the department shall increase the base student allocation
5 in effect on June 30, 2025, by a percentage equal to the average percentage of increase
6 over the first three of the preceding four calendar years in all items of the Consumer
7 Price Index for all urban consumers for urban Alaska prepared by the United States
8 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, plus an additional \$1,000.

9 (c) On July 1, 2026, the department shall increase the base student allocation
10 in effect on June 30, 2026, by a percentage equal to the average percentage of increase
11 over the first three of the preceding four calendar years in all items of the Consumer
12 Price Index for all urban consumers for urban Alaska prepared by the United States
13 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, plus an additional \$404.

14 (d) On July 1, 2027, the department shall increase the base student allocation
15 in effect on June 30, 2027, by a percentage equal to the average percentage of increase

1 over the first three of the preceding four calendar years in all items of the Consumer
2 Price Index for all urban consumers for urban Alaska prepared by the United States
3 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, plus an additional \$404.

4 (e) Beginning July 1, 2028, the department shall, on July 1 of each year,
5 increase the base student allocation in effect on June 30 of the previous fiscal year by
6 a percentage equal to the average percentage of increase over the first three of the
7 preceding four calendar years in all items of the Consumer Price Index for all urban
8 consumers for urban Alaska prepared by the United States Department of Labor,
9 Bureau of Labor Statistics.

10 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2025.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee:

For the record, my name is _____, (title or position), and I am representing (district/community).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

I am here in support of/opposition to _____ (bill/argument/idea)...

Talking Points:

- Stable, predictable funding is necessary to ensure districts can attract and retain high-quality educators.
- Research shows high teacher turnover has a direct negative impact on student performance, as measured through standardized assessments.¹
- Reliable funding is the key to improving student outcomes through stabilizing schools and reducing teacher turnover.
- Early notification of funding allows schools to properly plan and prepare for upcoming school years, and early funding is crucial to sound financial management, as well as educator recruitment and retention.

Tailor your testimony to your community and the specific potential impacts the legislation will have on your district

Please ... (consider/support/etc.) ...

Thank you.

¹ National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research - *How Teacher Turnover Harms Student Achievement*