



Anchorage School District

Education Center

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June 26, 2026

Janelle Earls
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Revenue

Alaska State Legislature
Legislative Finance Division

Re: Timely Reporting of Projected State Revenue Targets and Implications for One-Time Education Funding

Dear Commissioner Earls, Legislative Finance Division, and Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

On behalf of the Anchorage School Board and Anchorage School District, we respectfully request the timely reporting of the projected state revenue information which is poised to determine whether Alaska's public schools will receive additional one-time education funding under HB 263 before the start of the 2026-27 school year.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued attention to the needs of Alaska's students and public schools. We also recognize that HB 263 includes potential one-time education funding contingent upon actual FY26 unrestricted general fund revenue, and that the Commissioner of Revenue must make a final determination in accordance with the statutory requirements established in the bill.

Our request is for any preliminary revenue information, projections, timelines, or planning guidance that can be shared lawfully and responsibly before that final determination occurs, ideally by mid-July.

That timeframe is of critical importance. Anchorage School District teachers return on August 14 to prepare classrooms, finalize instructional plans, and participate in professional learning. Students in grades 1 through 6 and grade 9 begin classes on

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August 19, followed by students in grades 7, 8, and 10 through 12 on August 20. Preschool and kindergarten students begin on August 26.

Under HB 263, however, the final revenue determination shall occur “on August 31,” which will be weeks after every Anchorage School District student has returned to school. By then, schedules will have been finalized, classes will have formed, and students’ and families’ rhythms will have been established. Earlier planning information would help school districts make informed staffing and budget decisions for students across Alaska before the school year begins, when those decisions have the greatest impact.

If districts do not receive meaningful revenue information until on or after August 31, well after school has started, the highest-impact uses of those funds may no longer be feasible. By then, the available pool of certificated teachers will be extremely limited and staffing decisions will be largely complete. It will be extremely challenging to make timely investments in classroom staffing and student supports, and principals will face enormous headwinds in hiring new teachers and redistributing students across new classrooms.

This creates a difficult dilemma. Districts cannot responsibly hire new teachers, restore positions, lower class sizes, or make commitments to families based on funding that remains conditional and uncertain. At the same time, waiting for final confirmation until August 31 or later may mean that the funding cannot be used for the very purposes families, educators, and communities most expect.

To support responsible planning, we respectfully request that the Department of Revenue and the Legislative Finance Division provide school districts, legislators, and the public with the earliest possible information that can be shared, including:

1. Whether current revenue projections indicate that the HB 263 threshold is likely, unlikely, or uncertain to be met;
2. Any preliminary revenue ranges, confidence levels, or scenario estimates available before the August 31 final determination;
3. The earliest date by which the Department of Revenue expects to have sufficient information to provide meaningful public guidance; and
4. Estimated statewide and district-level education funding ranges, even if preliminary and clearly labeled as subject to change.

Preliminary guidance by mid-July would be especially valuable for district planning. Even appropriately qualified information at that juncture could help districts determine whether and the extent to which potential one-time funds could be responsibly incorporated into staffing, program, and budget decisions before the school year begins.

This request is also intended to help inform the broader Anchorage School District community. Families, educators, staff, and community members are understandably following state budget developments closely. Many have heard that additional education funding may become available and are asking whether those funds can be used to restore reductions. The answer depends not only on whether the funding is

ultimately available, but also on when districts can rely on that funding with enough certainty to act.

Funding confirmed after the school year begins has a much narrower path to the classroom than funding districts can plan for before students arrive.

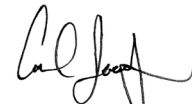
The Anchorage School District remains committed to transparency, responsible budgeting, and student-centered decision-making. We will continue to evaluate all available options, but we must also be clear with our community: conditional one-time funding that is confirmed too late may have limited ability to restore staffing, reduce class sizes, or reverse reductions for the upcoming school year.

Thank you for your continued service to Alaska's students, families, educators, and communities. We stand ready to work with the Department of Revenue, the Legislative Finance Division, and members of the Legislature to support a transparent process that helps school districts plan responsibly and maximize the impact of any available education funding on improving student outcomes.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jharrett Bryantt
Superintendent
Anchorage School District



Carl Jacobs
President
Anchorage School Board