

Greetings YKSD,

If you have been following the Alaska legislative session, you are very much aware that the one-time funds for districts was removed. There are many other important programs that are also on the chopping block. However, the removal of the one time funds was unexpected and all districts across Alaska have been impacted by the shortage of funding. The one-time funds amounted to over \$350,000 for YKSD. When we thought it couldn't get any worse, the Senate Finance recently passed an amendment that prorates FY16 foundation funding by 4.1% or \$47,563,000. Based on the FY16 projected student count in YKSD, our budget will be reduced even more by approximately \$492,000. This is unacceptable! Our educational programs, teachers and students are the backbone of this state.

**I am requesting that you please take a few minutes to write to our legislators.** YKSD has two sets of Senators and Representatives.

Minto and Manley have Senator Click Bishop and Representative Dave Talerico. The remaining sites have Senator Donny Olson and Representative Neil Foster.

It would also be beneficial to write to Senator Dunleavy, Senator Kevin Meyer, Senator Hoffman and Representative Mark Neuman. Of course, you can always plug in all of their emails, including everyone listed below, into one message and express your views that way too. All of their emails are listed below.

You can simply click on the email link to send them your supporting statements.

As always, please be polite, thank them, and remember that they do have a tough job ahead of them and many important organizations to balance. Keep your message short and to the point. This is an urgent matter. Below is a suggested list of supporting statements.

Thank you for taking the time to write to our representatives. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent YKSD

1. Respect the public process
2. The Proposed cuts would be devastating
3. Prioritize Alaska's future

1. **Respect the public process.**

- a. Public notice, public input and transparency are essential to public trust
- b. Lack of public trust will undermine smart, long-term solutions
- c. Short notice impacts RIF requirements & reduces options
- d. Together, Alaskans can better solve the fiscal challenges

2. **The proposed cuts would be devastating.**

- a. \$79.7 million statewide, unprecedented and draconian
- b. Districts have been cutting programs & staff for years
- c. The additional 4% amplifies drastic cuts already proposed
- d. Cuts of this magnitude will impact students and the workforce

3. **Prioritize Alaska's future.**

- a. Education is the only constitutional mandated state responsibility.
- b. Cutting essentials at the same rate as non-essentials is short-sighted.
- c. Alaska cannot fill the fiscal gap with cuts.
- d. Smart priorities protect Alaska's people, its economy, its future.

Senator.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov (866) 465-4945 336-7383	Senator.John.Coghill@akleg.gov Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov (877) 465-3719 (800) 773-4968	(800)
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Senator.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov Senator.Johnny.Ellis@akleg.gov (877) 465-6601 330-3704	Senator.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov Senator.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov (855) 465-4947 (800) 331-4930	(888)
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Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov Senator.Charlie.Huggins@akleg.gov (800) 892-4843 862-3878	Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov Senator.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov (866) 465-4453 (877) 665-3709	(800)
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Senator.Anna.Mackinnon@akleg.gov Senator.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov (800) 861-5688 964-5733	Senator.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov (800) 365-2995 (800) 597-3707	(800)
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Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov (877) 463-3873 465-4958	Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov Senator.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov (800) 821-4925 (800) 550-2435	(866)
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Representative.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov Representative.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov (800) 469-3779 (888) 465-4859	Representative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov (888) 465-2137
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Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov Representative.Les.Gara@akleg.gov (800) 922-3875 (888) 465-2647	Representative.Bryce.Edgemon@akleg.gov (800) 898-4451
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Representative.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov Representative.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov (800) 782-4833 (800) 928-4457	Representative.Max.Gruenberg@akleg.gov (865) 465-4940
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Representative.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov Representative.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov	Representative.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov
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(800) 478-4950

(800) 323-4942

(800) 565-3743

Representative.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov  
Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov  
(866) 465-4993

Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov  
(800) 465-4939

(866) 465-3466

Representative.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov  
Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov  
(800) 468-2186

Representative.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov  
(877) 465-4766

(888) 461-3732

Representative.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov  
Representative.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov  
(800) 689-4998

Representative.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov  
(800) 870-4931

(888) 269-3879

Representative.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov  
Representative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov  
(800) 968-6744

Representative.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov  
(888) 288-3473

(800) 505-2678

Representative.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov  
Representative.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov  
(800) 463-2693

Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov  
(800) 686-3824

(888) 478-3438

Representative.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov  
Representative.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov  
(800) 770-3822

Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov  
(877) 460-3783

(800) 665-2689

Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov  
Representative.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov  
(800) 895-2487

Representative.Dave.Talerico@akleg.gov  
(800) 491-4527

(800) 303-2455

Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov  
Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov  
(877) 465-3004

Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov  
(800) 342-2199

(866) 465-2095

Representative.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov  
Representative.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov  
(866) 465-3892

Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov  
(800) 860-4797

(866) 465-4976

Representative.Neil.Foster@akleg.gov