



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Matt Claman

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Serving West Anchorage

February 2025 Community Council Update

CAPIS Deadline Reminder — The CAPIS subaccount submissions will close on **Monday, February 17th at 5:00 PM**. Please contact our office if you'd like to open a subaccount to submit Capital budget projects for consideration or if you have any questions.

Education Legislation — Education funding is a top priority for both the tripartisan coalition in the House and bipartisan coalition in the Senate. Members in both the House and Senate as well as the Governor have introduced legislation related to education funding.

HB 69: EDUCATION FUNDING: INCREASE BSA *sponsored by Representative Himschoot*

- HB 69 addresses Alaska's education funding crisis by instituting inflation proofing for the future and increasing the BSA by \$1,808 per student to account for rising costs since 2011. HB 69 will spread out the \$1,808 BSA increase over three years. HB 69 also includes an annual inflation adjustment to the BSA beginning in FY 2026.

SB 46: EDUCATION FUNDING *sponsored by Senator Claman (our office)*

- In the ten years I've been in the Legislature, we have only raised the BSA by eighty dollars. Prices have risen over thirty-two percent due to inflation over the same period. Rather than funding schools based on a formula that must be debated each year, the Legislature can choose to appropriate money just like it does for each department. The bill includes language requiring the Governor to publish the prior year's education expenses adjusted for inflation. SB 46 aims to move the conversation away from the BSA and towards a transparent, more sustainable, long-term solution to fund our schools.

HB 76/SB 82: EDUCATION: SCHOOLS; GRANTS; FUNDING; DEBT *by request of Governor Dunleavy*

- This omnibus education legislation establishes a number of changes and would cost \$105 million annually. It includes increases in funding for homeschool, career and technical education, student transportation, reading instruction in elementary schools, and residential schools. The bill would also allow children to enroll in whatever school they choose, regardless of where they live, if that school is not at capacity. The bill includes annual bonuses for teachers and would ban the use of cellphones in schools.

HB 59/SB 66: STATE-TRIBAL EDUCATION COMPACTS *by request of Governor Dunleavy*

- This legislation establishes a five-year pilot program to launch State-Tribal Education Compact (STEC) schools in partnership with five federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations. This bill would allow the Department of Education to negotiate compacts for tribally-operated schools, provide funding, and mandate reporting and annual progress reports to the legislature over a period of five years.