

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution #08-01

Attracting and Retaining Qualified Teachers and Administrators

WHEREAS, school districts across the nation are experiencing teacher and administrator shortages; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant teacher shortage in Alaska in many specific teaching areas (special education, science, math, business education, vocational education, technology, music, and others); and

WHEREAS, highly effective teachers in highly effective schools result in optimum gains in student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Alaska school districts are finding it increasingly difficult to attract and retain quality certified teachers and administrators; and

WHEREAS, recruiting and training new teachers are significant costs within current school budgets; and

WHEREAS, salaries in the lower forty-eight are approaching and in many instances exceeding Alaska's salaries for teachers and administrators; and

WHEREAS, living conditions and a higher cost of living in many Alaska communities do not compare favorably to other parts of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Teacher Retirement System is no longer a competitive draw to teachers from other states; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals thank the DEED and State Board of Education for repealing the requirement for videotaped performance review as a criteria for certification and encourage the development of a comprehensive state-wide program to attract and retain quality educators in our schools.

Adopted by the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 21st day of October 2008.

AAESP President, Pete Swanson

AASSP President, Michael Perkins

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution #08-02

Workforce Development

WHEREAS, the creation of and long-term commitment to a plentiful Alaskan workforce – educated and skilled for the occupations of the future – is a key to economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, workforce development is a lifelong process of preparing and placing people into jobs; and

WHEREAS, workforce development and economic development require quality and relevant education from preschool through technical training or college; and

WHEREAS, career and vocational education and training are integral components of the education provided by schools, especially at the middle school and high school levels; and

WHEREAS, a plan must be developed, based on a shared vision with key stakeholders that can be implemented in a phased approach over time; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals recognize workforce development opportunities and training are an integral part of education and critical to Alaska's economic stability and growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals support the involvement of educators in the process of identifying existing rural and urban programs for improving and expanding workforce development opportunities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals support adequate and equitable funding for career development opportunities for students at all grade levels while meeting the requirements of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE), demands of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and the Individual With Disabilities Act (IDEA).

Adopted by the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 21st day of October 2008.

AAESP President, Pete Swanson

AASSP President, Michael Perkins

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution #08-03
Early Childhood Coursework Requirement for Certificated Elementary Teachers

WHEREAS, certificated teachers in the State of Alaska are licensed to teach in grades k-6; and

WHEREAS, staff development and district improvement plans already address instruction throughout the spectrum of grade levels, including early childhood development and instruction; and

WHEREAS, teaching a variety of grade levels enhances a teacher's professional scope, develops a deep understanding of curricular strands across grade levels, and strengthens knowledge of childhood development; and

WHEREAS, administrators need flexibility in placing teachers to ensure continuity within a teaching staff; and

WHEREAS, required staff development and district improvement plans already address strategies to improve student performance and effective instruction where needed; and

WHEREAS, specific requirements in early childhood further reduces the pool of qualified teacher applicants at a time when retaining and recruiting qualified teachers is problematic; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals recognize the unique needs of early childhood instruction, but oppose mandating a requirement for additional Early Childhood coursework beyond requirements for state licensure.

Adopted by the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 21th day of October 2008.

AAESP President, Pete Swanson

AASSP President, Michael Perkins

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution #08-04

Full Funding of the ISER Cost Study Recommendations and Intensive Funding

WHEREAS, there have been several studies over the last ten years that indicate inequities in the foundation formula; and

WHEREAS, the legislature recognized need for equalization of school district funding through an adjustment of the foundation formula; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the full cost factor formula was scheduled to be completed over a five year implementation period because of lack of the state's ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, there was also a phased-in schedule for the intensive student formula adjustment over three years; and

WHEREAS, the state has had a windfall of revenue as a result of high oil prices that can help implement this important and necessary funding equalization now; and

WHEREAS, there has been a huge increased cost to school districts resulting from the higher costs of energy; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals supports fully implementing the "ISER district cost factors" and the "intensive factor" retroactively in the FY 09 Foundation Program, immediately mitigating these inequities and allowing districts to make up some of the funds redirected to address high energy costs.

Adopted by the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 21st day of October 2008.

AAESP President, Pete Swanson

AASSP President, Michael Perkins

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution #08-05

Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) Audit of all School Buildings and Creation of a Facility Replacement List

WHEREAS, Alaska's public schools must provide safe and energy-efficient school facilities for all students regardless of location; and

WHEREAS, it is DEED's obligation to provide annually to the legislature and the Governor accurate data on the state of school buildings in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, school districts in Alaska are expected to provide a six-year plan of maintenance and building replacement needs every year; and

WHEREAS, those plans do not provide the legislature a complete picture of the condition of all school facilities in Alaska and replacement needs in the next three year, five year, and ten year timeframes; and

WHEREAS, the legislature and Governor must have an accurate picture of facility retrofit needs to become greener and sustainable for the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, the current energy cost crisis in Alaska, coupled with old, inefficient buildings, impacts the ability of districts to provide safe, healthy, and energy efficient learning environments; and

WHEREAS, DEED's recommendations affect the funding for facility replacement and major renovations; and

WHEREAS, DEED needs to model the requirement it has used for school districts by creating a six-year facility replacement list that covers the status of all school buildings in the state; and

WHEREAS, Alaska should be leading the nation in energy efficiency buildings with lighting that mitigates Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and reflects our unique construction needs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals urges the Alaska Legislature to fund a statewide audit of all school facilities to be conducted by DEED over the next three years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this audit should focus on the need for all facilities to be at the very least retrofitted to energy efficiency to create "green schools" and lighting that enhances health and learning for students and the list should accurately assess which buildings must be replaced in three years, five years, and 10 years, and the list must be updated every five years.

Adopted by the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 21st day of October 2008.

AAESP President, Pete Swanson

AASSP President, Michael Perkins

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution #08-06
Increase to the Base Student Allocation

WHEREAS, all districts in Alaska are experiencing increased costs in all programs and operations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education and Early Development has a foundation formula designed to address these costs; and

WHEREAS, the Governor recognized the need for a \$200.00 a year increase over three years with a total increase of \$600.00 in the base student allocation and had recommended that increase during the last legislative session; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals encourages the Governor and State Legislature to increase the base student allocation to \$5,780.00 effective July 1, 2009.

Adopted by the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 21st day of October 2008.

AAESP President, Pete Swanson

AASSP President, Michael Perkins

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution #08-07

Hold Harmless

WHEREAS, school districts are currently negatively impacted by loss of funds due to decreased enrollment less than the five percent trigger; and

WHEREAS, districts do not know actual state revenue until the first of November; and

WHEREAS, districts are required under current laws to notify tenured teachers of their contractual status by March 16; and

WHEREAS, districts are required under current laws to notify non-tenured teachers of their contractual status by the last day of the school term; and

WHEREAS, the loss of a school and/or decreased enrollment can have large, unexpected negative effects on the budget of the district; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals encourages the Legislature to reduce the hold harmless trigger from five percent (5%) to two and one half percent (2.5%) and to continue the hold harmless provisions currently in statute.

Adopted by the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 21st day of October 2008.

AAESP President, Pete Swanson

AASSP President, Michael Perkins