



MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY19-02

A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION AT LEVELS PROJECTED IN THE ORIGINAL STATE OF ALASKA FY20 OPERATING BUDGET AND MAINTAINING THE SCHOOL DEBT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution provides that the State of Alaska will establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, a sound public-school system is vital to produce qualified workers and attract new businesses to locate in Alaska, two important tenants of economic development; and

WHEREAS, schools located in the SWAMC region are more expensive to support and operate due to small population bases spread out over a large rural area not connected to the Alaska road system; and

WHEREAS, historically, based on its constitutional mandate, the State of Alaska has provided significant support for urban and rural school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed FY20 budget calls for a 25.7% cut in unrestricted general funding for the School Foundation formula totaling \$303,648,200; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed FY20 budget calls for a 100% cut of \$30,000,000 in unrestricted general funding in the original FY20 budget to supplement the School Foundation formula; and

WHEREAS, these combined cuts reduce State School Foundation funding for the nine school districts in the SWAMC region by an estimated \$15,175,253; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed FY20 budget introduces legislation, SB 64 and its companion HB 66, in the 31st Legislature to repeal the State reimbursement for municipal school construction programs; and

WHEREAS, several school districts in the SWAMC region constructed school facilities in recent years in reliance on receiving significant reimbursement from the State based on a population-based formula; and

WHEREAS, these State cuts will force local governments in the SWAMC region and around the State to raise local taxes and fees significantly to adequately fund public education or allow education programming to deteriorate due to larger class sizes, increased teacher and administrator turnover, fewer key support personnel, and less preventive maintenance for school facilities; and

WHEREAS, reduced resources for public education will significantly affect the quality of life in Alaska communities, the education of Alaska's next generation of workers and citizens, and competitive compensation for teachers, administrators, and key school personnel.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership urges the Governor to work with the 31st Legislature to restore undesignated general funding to the School Foundation program to adequately fund Alaska's public schools.

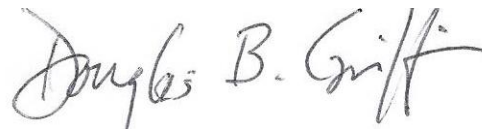
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership opposes enactment of SB 64 or HB 66 repealing the State reimbursement for municipal school construction programs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 28th day of February 2019.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Mary Swain, SWAMC Board President



Doug Griffin, SWAMC Executive Director