

JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

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April 30, 2014

Juneau School District
Board of Education
10014 Crazy Horse Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

City and Borough of Juneau Assembly
155 South Seward Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: K-12 Education Funding

The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly is a long-standing partner and champion of quality schools in our community. Its steadfast history of support is evidenced by the many volunteer hours individual Assembly members have spent in our schools, by the ongoing generous financial support of our programs, and by the public advocacy of our efforts to increase the success of students in our community.

As a leadership team, you demonstrate your understanding that a strong public school system is essential to the economic viability of our community. You have consistently funded our schools at the maximum allowed by statute and have generously provided funding outside of the funding cap to support specific programs. That "outside the cap" funding represents an investment of \$770,000:

From the General Fund:

Pupil Transportation – After School Activities	\$35,000
Pupil Transportation – Homeless Students	\$35,000
Community Schools	\$135,000
High School Activities	\$365,000

From the Roaded Service Fund:

High School Activities	\$155,000
Middle School Activities	\$15,000
Elementary Activities	\$30,000

Total Outside the Cap	\$770,000
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As the publicly elected governing body of our schools, we sincerely appreciate your commitment to our work. We recognize that you collectively face a serious financial challenge to provide key community services in a declining revenue environment. We understand the difficulty of that dilemma all too well and empathize regarding the magnitude of the problem. We also are

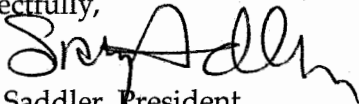
compelled to ask that, as you consider where to invest scarce available resources, you again consider a deep investment in our public schools.

The actions taken by the Alaska State Legislature to increase school funding provide the option for our City and Borough to contribute additional funds to public schools. An increase in the State's foundation formula enables the CBJ to contribute an additional \$363,700 to public schools. CBJ also has the option of matching one-time State funding up to \$347,700. With the increase in local property values, the Assembly could choose to increase funding by another \$193,200. The total allowable increase inside the funding cap is \$904,600.

Within our current budget for FY2015 – bolstered by the recent Legislature decisions – we are able to maintain our investments in essential infrastructure such as curriculum and professional development and to minimize class size increases. We understand that the statutory ability to provide these additional funds does not contribute to the Assembly's financial ability to spend to that level. That stated, to the degree that you are able to provide any additional funding, our commitment would be to invest those funds to avoid any increase in class size. That could be accomplished with an additional investment of \$768,608.

To reiterate, as a Board we greatly appreciate the longstanding support of our neighbors who serve on the Assembly. We value the collaborative and respectful relationship we share as community leaders. We appreciate the fiscal challenges for school districts and municipalities statewide and especially here in our hometown. We ask that members of the Assembly consider the degree to which additional K-12 educational investments can be provided from the City and Borough of Juneau. We will, as we always have, respect the decisions you make in that regard. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Sally Saddler, President
Juneau School Board