

Passed Resolutions

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals

October, 2005

**Fall Principals Conference
Anchorage, Alaska**

**AAESP Resolution Committee
Sandy Hill, Chair
AASSP Resolution Committee
Denise Greene Wilkinson, Chair**

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution 05-01
(ACSA Joint Resolution)

FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, success as a school district and as a state in complying with Alaska's performance standards and the federal requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), aka No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) requires funding sufficient to meet the requirements of law and the educational needs of our students; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary Principals accept responsibility for raising student achievement for all students, and for the efficient and effective use of resources; and

WHEREAS, safe, efficient, and technologically appropriate infrastructure is an essential ingredient in achieving academic success; and

WHEREAS, academic achievement also depends on our schools having highly qualified and committed employees; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of SB 36 in 1998, the area cost differential has not been adjusted by the state, despite two studies that produced rationale for changing the cost factors; and

WHEREAS, the failure to adjust the area cost differential threatens the integrity of the foundation formula program and the ability of many school districts to cope with higher operating and labor costs; and

WHEREAS, appropriating an adequate amount of funding for education to allow all districts to bring their students to proficiency is the responsibility of policymakers; now

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary Principals believe our policymakers must appropriate sufficient funding for our public schools to meet the requirements of law and the educational needs of our students, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary Principals support a revised area cost differential that reflects the high cost of operating schools and Alaska, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary Principals believe any area cost differential should be accompanied by an increase to the base student allocation for all districts, to better assure adequate funding for all districts regardless of the cost differential adjustment.

ADOPTED by Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 18th day of October, 2005.

AAESP President, Barbara Nagengast

AASSP President, Joe Braach

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution 05-02
(ACSA Joint Resolution)

FUNDING FOR HIGH COST SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, Alaska's public schools desire to meet their legal and educational responsibilities to provide effective education for all students, regardless of severity of disability or location in the State, and

WHEREAS, these responsibilities include the obligation to provide services in the least restrictive placement and manner appropriate to the child, and

WHEREAS, recognizing the much higher costs of educating children with extreme needs, the Alaska School Foundation Program has long provided Intensive Services funding to defray higher costs, and

WHEREAS, even where provided, Intensive Services funding has not reflected actual excess costs in comparison to other special education programs, and

WHEREAS, the funding level of intensive needs children receiving special education as block grant funding provides an inadequate level of support; and

WHEREAS, the federal Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) requires that public schools enroll students with disabilities at age three; and

WHEREAS, preschool students with intensive needs who enroll after the October count date, and after State funding has become fixed, incur costs to a district that are not typical of other students enrolling after the count date; and

WHEREAS, other intensive-needs students who move into a district after the October count date pose a similar financial challenge; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary Principals urge the Alaska State Legislature to adequately fund intensive needs student services separate from the existing block grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary Principals urge the Alaska State Legislature to both increase the multiplier used to allocate funding to intensive-needs students, and provide funding for all special education pre-school and K-12 intensive- needs students who enter a district past the count date.

ADOPTED by Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 18th day of October, 2005.

AAESP President, Barbara Nagengast

AASSP President, Joe Braach

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution 05-03
(ACSA Joint Resolution)

FULL FUNDING OF TRS/PERS EMPLOYER RATE INCREASES

WHEREAS, the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary Principals believe in and support the defined benefits Alaska Teacher Retirement (TRS) and Public Employee Retirement Systems (PERS) as an important element in attracting and retaining capable employees; and

WHEREAS, school districts are struggling to meet basic costs of payroll, benefits, utilities, books, teaching supplies and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, effective Fiscal Year 2007 employer costs for TRS and PERS will increase for the third consecutive year to roughly the same degree as previously increased in Fiscal 2005 & 2006; and

WHEREAS, these continuing and new increases will require reduced services in other areas of school district operations, because school districts are required by the State to maintain the district share of these programs and are thus mandated to absorb these much higher costs; and

WHEREAS, the State retirement programs are critical to its members for long-term financial planning and support; and

WHEREAS, despite recent increased appropriations by the Alaska Legislature, funding increases to school districts and other local governmental agencies have not kept up with inflation over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, the passage of SB 141 in 2005 did not resolve the current extraordinary budget requirements for TRS and PERS; now

IT IS RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary Principals recommend that the State of Alaska bears the rightful responsibility for supporting TRS/PERS programs, including any and all cost increases to them, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no additional benefit changes are implemented that would add to the retirement systems burden, and pursue a long-range protection plan for these retirement systems.

ADOPTED by Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 18th day of October, 2005.

AAESP President, Barbara Nagengast

AASSP President, Joe Braach

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution 05-04
(ACSA Joint Resolution)

SUPPORTING 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, vocational education and training are an integral component of the education provided by schools; 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 Principals recognize workforce development opportunities and training are an integral part of education; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary Principals support adequate and equitable funding for implementation of school-to-work programs and Career Pathways into all grade levels, while ensuring resources to satisfy requirements of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) and demands of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), aka No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), and the Individual With Disabilities Act (IDEA).

ADOPTED by Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 18th day of October, 2005.

AAESP President, Barbara Nagengast

AASSP President, Joe Braach

**Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Resolution 05-05
(ACSA Joint Resolution)**

ENERGY FUNDING

WHEREAS, the energy costs for school districts and the university system have escalated to new, all-time highs; and

WHEREAS, public schools are one of the State's largest consumers of energy; and

WHEREAS, providing well-heated and maintained facilities are necessary to conduct effective instruction; and

WHEREAS, school districts and the university system need adequate funds to address increased energy costs to ensure that we are not forced to use instructional funding to meet the costs of these obligations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals request that the State of Alaska provide monetary relief to school districts and the University of Alaska for the high costs of energy to operate our public schools and university system.

ADOPTED by Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 18th day of October, 2005.

AAESP President, Barbara Nagengast

AASSP President, Joe Braach

Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals

Resolution 05-06

(ACSA Joint Resolution)

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, the pupil transportation costs for school districts have escalated to new, all-time highs; and

WHEREAS, pupil transportation is an important part of overall school funding; and

WHEREAS, getting students safely to and from school is a vital part of public education; and

WHEREAS, school districts need adequate funds to address increased pupil transportation costs to ensure that we are not forced to use instructional funding to meet the costs of these obligations; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals request that the State of Alaska fully fund the actual cost of pupil transportation.

ADOPTED by Alaska Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals this 18th day of October, 2005.

AAESP President, Barbara Nagengast

AASSP President, Joe Braach