

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SESSION

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## SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

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## Stedman Advances Education Funding Bill

*Historic legislation will increase per-student funding and aid rural school districts*

(Juneau) – The Senate Finance Committee passed one of the most significant education plans to come before the legislature. Senator Stedman chaired the hearing on House Bill 273, a bill to increase school funding and implement the recommendations of the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force.

“Education funding is at the heart of our state budget. I have been working hard with my colleagues in both the House and Senate to ensure an equitable funding for remote school districts,” Senator Stedman said. “Provisions such as fixing the district cost factor help level the playing field for small community school districts.”

As a member of the task force, Senator Stedman worked through the interim to address long standing issues facing school districts such as the disproportionate costs in rural districts. The bill also implements the recommendations advocated by the Institute of Social & Economic Research (ISER). Provisions include:

- Fully forward fund education for the first time ever
- Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$300 over three years
- Implementing a hold-harmless clause for districts with sharp drops in enrollment
- Adjusting the District Cost Factor and Transportation Cost funding

“I can’t think of a better use of the surplus funds than to implement a sustainable education funding plan,” said Stedman. “This proposal offers major changes and collaboration of educational professionals across Alaska.”

For more information, contact Miles Baker at (907) 465-3873

### DISTRICT A

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