Resolution of The State Board of Education & Early Development

Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force

Resolution 01-2008

The Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force, convening in the summer of 2007, diligently examined Alaska’s school funding formula and related statutes and regulations; and

The Task Force recommended adjustments to the formula so that schools are funded fairly and adequately; and

The Task Force recommended an increase in the base student allocation in each of the next three years; and

The Task Force, recognizing that schools across the state face differing costs for the same goods and services, recommended phasing in of increases to the district cost factors; and

The Task Force, recognizing the costs to school districts of serving students with intensive needs, recommended a series of increases in intensive needs funding; and

The Task Force, recognizing school districts’ increased costs in providing pupil transportation, recommended the state provide more grant funds for this purpose; and

The Task Force, recognizing the need for school districts to prepare their budgets in a timely manner, recommended that the Alaska State Legislature appropriate funds for education by the 60th legislative day; and

The Task Force -- recognizing that publicly funded charter schools, correspondence schools and home-schooling are integral to providing a broad spectrum of school alternatives -- recommended that legislative Standing Committees on Education make certain that those programs are fairly and adequately funded; so
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board of Education & Early Development hereby expresses deep appreciation for the efforts of the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force on behalf of Alaska’s school children and strongly endorses the Task Force’s recommendations and Governor Sarah Palin’s proposal to implement it.

Esther Cox, Chair
On behalf of the State Board of Education & Early Development

January 25, 2008