



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

John O'Brien, Superintendent

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Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members and Mayor Pierce,

I would like to thank each of you for your ongoing support and dedication to our Kenai Peninsula Borough students and their education. I am hopeful that at this evening's Assembly meeting, each of you will show your support again tonight **by voting in favor of Resolution 2020-061 "in Support of the State's Use of Estimated Student Count Data to Fund K-12 Education for Fiscal Year 2021."**

These are uncertain times for all of us, but especially for our Borough's parents whom in the face of this COVID-19 global pandemic have had to make difficult decisions concerning sending their children back to in-person on site instruction at their neighborhood school, remote learning through their neighborhood school, or instruction at home through multiple home school program options. Most parents have indeed elected to enroll their students for in-person learning at one of our district schools. However, many are waiting to see what happens with the virus over the next several months and have chosen either remote or home school options. For KPBSD this has resulted in approximately a 10% reduction in our enrollment counts, potentially reducing our state revenue for education by over 2 million dollars this year. I know that you understand the financial crisis that this puts KPBSD and most other Alaskan school district's in.

One thing that I am certain of is that once more parents feel comfortable that the pandemic is under control, they will return their children to our KPBSD neighborhood schools. We are already seeing a gradual return of students and an increase in our enrollments from the first week of school in every Region of our vast school district. I am concerned however, that when the State's designated 20 day count period of enrolled students opens in October there will still be a significant number of parents choosing to wait this virus out a bit longer before deciding to re-enroll their students. The 20 day count determines our district funding from the State of Alaska. This is why all of Alaska's school districts need a different way of approaching this year's funding of K-12 education. Your support this evening is so important to our District and the students and families that we serve.

This evening Assistant Superintendent Dave Jones will be testifying in support of this resolution on my behalf and on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Should you have any questions after his testimony he will be happy to address them. Take good care.

Wishing you success and positive impact,

John O'Brien
Superintendent