

Introduced by:

Cooper, Cox

Date:

09/01/20

Action:

Vote:

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2020-061**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE’S USE OF ESTIMATED STUDENT
COUNT DATA TO FUND K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to Alaska Statutes, school districts shall prepare and submit to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (“DEED”) a student count estimate by November 5, 2020 that will assist the DEED in determining the state aid for each school district for the current school year, and also to determine the amount of state aid for the succeeding fiscal year for which the district may be eligible under AS 14.17.400; and
- WHEREAS,** student count estimates are used each year by the State of Alaska as the basis for state aid to school districts through the Foundation Program allocation; and
- WHEREAS,** the state's operating budget (HB 205) was signed into law on May 18, 2020 with funding for the Foundation Program based on student count estimates; and
- WHEREAS,** school districts are required to submit their budget for each fiscal year to DEED by July 15th of the fiscal year; and
- WHEREAS,** a final determination for state aid under the public school funding program is based on a 20-day student count period ending the fourth Friday in October; and
- WHEREAS,** in response to the global pandemic brought about by the coronavirus, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (“KPBSD”) is developing flexible plans that respond to various levels of community spread and allow teaching and learning to continue throughout the 2020-2021 school year under several learning models; and
- WHEREAS,** these plans call for a variety of learning models and options for families to consider, including attending their neighborhood school in person, attending their neighborhood school through remote learning, and attending KPBSD Connections Homeschool; and
- WHEREAS,** the KPBSD may experience a significant loss in revenue for any families choosing to enroll their children in correspondence study programs on a temporary basis; and
- WHEREAS,** a significant loss in state revenue would result in a significant reduction in the maximum allowed local contribution from the borough which would exacerbate the financial challenges faced by KPBSD; and

WHEREAS, this funding uncertainty complicates planning efforts and will likely limit the KPBSD's ability to provide essential services amid the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, supporting holding the school district harmless from the current school year student count results in determining this year's school district budget would best serve the interests of the borough and school district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports the state's use of estimated student count data, submitted November 2019, in determining the amount of state aid under the public education funding program for Fiscal Year 2021.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution shall be provided to Governor Michael Dunleavy, Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson, Senator Gary Stevens, Representative Harriet Drummond and Representative Andi Story.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 1ST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.

Kelly Cooper, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk

Yes:

No:

Absent: