
To: State Board of Education and Early Development
Subject: FW: NAACP part of draft response, fyi

From: Mike Bronson <Bronsonconsulting@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:24 AM
To: Robinson, Grant F (EED) <grant.robinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: NAACP part of draft response, fyi

Hi, Mr. Robinson,

We recently looked over DEED's proposed FT23 budget released by the governor. We've drafted up a response.

If DEED folks are interested, here's part of that draft:

"The governor said in December that his budget will fully fund public schools as a high priority. By full funding he means the legal minimum. However, the amount he proposed for the schools' core foundation funding is down from last year's actual costs by enough to pay for 500 teachers next year. Mr. Dunleavy's school proposals are important because school instruction has proven inadequate. After he first joined the Legislature in 2013, class sizes in Alaska have grown well above the U.S. average and statewide reading and math results have reached new lows.

"Dr. Michael Johnson, the state education commissioner since 2016, says his mission is an excellent education for every student. But he also says Alaska is challenged by one of the largest achievement gaps in the country and it ranks at and near the bottom nationally in reading and math scores. In addition, we know that only 38 percent of high school graduates go on to further education, the lowest rate in the U.S. and falling. Nevertheless, to stop the declines Dr. Johnson and the state board of education have not moved beyond recommendations. That is, they haven't overseen the deployment of teachers at a scale capable of letting 80,000 public school students rise to state standards."

Thank you,

-Mike Bronson
Education Committee
NAACP Anchorage

"There is no freedom without education." –Frederick Douglass