

DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 15-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY TO MAINTAIN
THE CURRENT MINIMUM SCHOOL SIZE AT TEN (10) STUDENTS
NECESSARY TO BE COUNTED AS A SCHOOL

WHEREAS, there have been discussions that the State of Alaska Legislature may consider increasing the minimum student count for school funding to 25 in order to reduce State spending on education; and

WHEREAS, the current funding formula provides funding as a school where a community has an Average Daily Membership (ADM) of 10 students; and

WHEREAS, such action could potentially close more than 60 schools (over 10% of Alaska schools) and have an adverse effect on over 25 districts; and

WHEREAS, increasing the minimum student count for school funding to 25 would result in the likely closure of one, if not two, of the three schools in the Denali Borough School District with a significantly disparate impact on Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, education is a fundamental right of all Alaska students; and

WHEREAS, a substantial number of the affected students would be elementary and middle school aged youth; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has a constitutional obligation to provide an equitable and adequate education to all Alaskan students regardless of where they live and this constitutional obligation must be honored with regard to the students who would be negatively affected by the school closures; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing a constitutionally adequate education, the State must also meet federal and state requirements including, but not limited to, the obligation to provide a free appropriate public education to eligible students; and

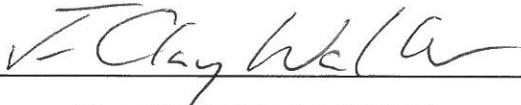
WHEREAS, Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA) were hired as consultants by the Alaska State Legislature to examine statewide school finance systems, to evaluate the equity and adequacy of such systems, and/or to propose significant structural changes to those systems. Within the APA Review of Alaska's School Funding Program, it noted that, "school closures have additional impacts in small Alaska communities where closure of the school essentially dismantles the community itself." APA also noted that, "the closure of small schools may also force other remaining students into correspondence programs that may not be appropriate if the student does not have the

community and family supports necessary for a successful and constitutionally adequate educational experience.”

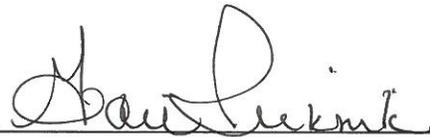
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Denali Borough Assembly opposes the increase of Average Daily Membership (ADM) student count for state funding to 25 in order to reduce state funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT; the Denali Borough Assembly supports the current ADM of ten (10) student minimum school size for State of Alaska school funding.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this 11TH day of NOVEMBER, 2015



CLAY WALKER, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

GAIL PIEKNIK, BOROUGH CLERK



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ABSENT: BOELSMA, TATUM and ZAPPONE