

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING THE BOROUGH'S 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES.

AGENDA OF: February 3, 2026

Assembly Action:

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Present to the Assembly for consideration.

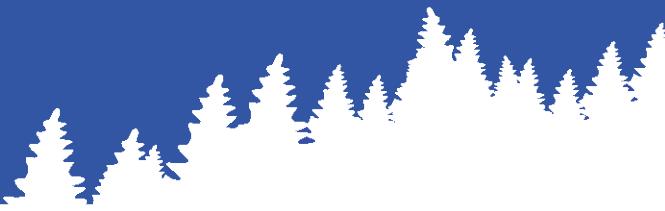
Route To	Signatures
Originator M. Brown	<p>X Michael Brown Signed by: Michael Brown Recoverable Signature</p>
Finance Director	<p>X Cheyenne Heindel Signed by: Cheyenne Heindel</p>
Borough Attorney	<p>X Nicholas Spiropoulos Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos</p>
Borough Manager	<p>X Michael Brown Signed by: Michael Brown</p>
Borough Clerk	<p>X Lonnie McKeechnie Signed by: Lonnie McKeechnie</p>

ATTACHMENT(S): Resolution Serial No. 26-012 (2 pp)
MSBSD Resolution No. 26-003 (3 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: This resolution comes forward at the request of State legislators to provide more detailed financial information related to the first paragraph of the Education funding legislative priority request on page 10 of Resolution 25-072 approved by the Assembly on October 21, 2025.

A committee including three Borough Assembly members and three Mat-Su School Board members met on January 12, 2026, along with respective staff, to discuss this request and recommended that the School Board adopt revised priorities. The School Board approved the attached revisions on January 21, 2026 in their Resolution No. 26-003. The request is now being brought forward to the Borough Assembly for consideration for the 2026 State Legislative Priorities.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Respectfully request approval.



OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD
RESOLUTION 26-003**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTING
INCREASED STATE FUNDING FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION, CORRESPONDENCE
STUDENTS, AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District serves the second largest student population in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, students in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District consistently demonstrate strong performance on state assessments, reflecting effective instruction, high expectations, and responsible stewardship of public education resources; and

WHEREAS, the District's ability to provide safe, equitable, and high-quality educational opportunities for all students is directly dependent on adequate and sustainable state funding; and

WHEREAS, inflation in Alaska has increased the costs of goods and services essential to school operations over the last five years, including a rise of approximately 4.9 % in 2021, 8.1 % in 2022, 1.5 % in 2023, 2.2 % in 2024, and 2.1 % in 2025 as measured by the Urban Alaska Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for all items; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District serves an expansive geographic area and operates a highly complex pupil transportation system, driving more live route miles than any other school district in the state as a result of long distances, dispersed communities, and varied road conditions; and

WHEREAS, an adequate and reliable pupil transportation system directly impacts student attendance and access to learning, and improving student attendance is a stated priority of the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development; and

WHEREAS, pupil transportation costs continue to increase due to rising fuel prices, vehicle maintenance expenses, labor costs, and fleet replacement needs, while state pupil transportation funding has not kept pace with these escalating costs; and

WHEREAS, correspondence education continues to grow as families seek flexible, blended and hybrid learning options that combine the adaptability and autonomy of home-based education with access to a robust offering of district programs and services; and

WHEREAS, in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District approximately ten percent (10%) of correspondence students have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are receiving special education services, requiring instructional supports, staffing, and resources that are not adequately reflected in current correspondence student funding levels; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are essential to preparing students for Alaska's workforce by providing hands-on learning, industry-recognized credentials, and pathways to high-demand careers, technical training, military service, and post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, students in Alaska who participate as Career and Technical Education (CTE) concentrators demonstrate significantly higher levels of engagement and completion, and in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District CTE concentrators have a graduation rate approaching ninety-eight percent (98%), underscoring the effectiveness of these programs in supporting student success and on-time graduation; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with delivering high-quality CTE programs—including equipment, facilities, consumable materials, instructor certification, and industry partnerships—continue to rise and are not fully supported by existing state funding mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, increased investment in pupil transportation, correspondence education, and Career and Technical Education will improve student access, safety, achievement, and post-graduation opportunities while strengthening Alaska's long-term workforce and economy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board formally requests that the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor of the State of Alaska take action to increase state funding in the following areas:

1. **Increase the Pupil Transportation Funding** for the MSBSD from \$1,106 to \$1,406 and incorporate future inflationary adjustments to more accurately reflect the actual and escalating costs incurred by districts with large geographic service areas and complex transportation systems; and
2. **Increase Correspondence Student Funding** by allowing correspondence students access to the special needs factor and increasing the correspondence multiplier to 1.0 to better align funding levels with the instructional, staffing, and support services required to equitably serve correspondence students, including those receiving special education services; and
3. **Increase the Career and Technical Education Funding Factor** from 1.015 to 1.035 to reflect the actual expenditures by the MSBSD related to CTE and to ensure districts can sustain, expand, and modernize CTE programs aligned with workforce needs and meaningful postsecondary pathways.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board respectfully requests the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly formally adjust and prioritize its state legislative priorities to include advocacy for increased funding for pupil transportation, correspondence education, and Career and Technical Education, recognizing that a strong and adequately funded public education system is foundational to a healthy, resilient, and thriving community.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board directs this resolution be transmitted to the Alaska State Legislature, the Governor, the Department of Education and Early Development, and other appropriate stakeholders.

APPROVED by the Mat-Su Borough School Board this 21st day of January, 2026.



Kathy Mc Collum, Board President



Dr. Randy Trani, Superintendent

ATTEST:



Stacy Escobedo, Board Administrative Assistant



IM 26-029

RS 26-012