

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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**REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON  
HOUSE DISTRICT 2**

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### CSHB 233 (EDU)

**“An Act relating to the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education; and providing for an effective date.”**

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School districts all over the state are budget trimming to cope with inflationary factors including but not limited to greatly increased insurance costs. The legislature supports the concept of the “No Child Left Act” and it is imperative that increased funds be allocated in order to implement this act and assure that no child is left behind. In addition greatly increased costs of PERS /TRS were largely unforeseen and if additional dollars are not added to cover these increased costs that will cause direct cuts to the classroom.

Public education is charged with assuming greater responsibility at the same time they face a reduction in the purchasing power of the student dollar. Alaska cannot continue to ask its school districts to meet all these additional responsibilities with insufficient dollars; therefore additional funding is a necessity.

Providing additional funding for K-12 education this early in the session would be tremendously helpful to school districts. It would keep many school districts from having to hand out pink-slips, which cause unnecessary anxiety in schools across the state.

The substantial increase of \$419 to the base student allocation in CS [House Bill 233](#) as amended would bring needed help to our local schools districts at this very challenging time. This would assist them in meeting and hopefully exceeding the public’s expectations and demands. The time to act is now and I ask your support of CSHB 233 as amended which will raise the base student allocation to \$4,588.