



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FY2027 SCHOOL FUNDING SUMMARY: 03/04/2026

When districts begin talking about closing schools, cutting more than a hundred positions, and reducing services like nursing and counseling, it usually means the system has been under financial pressure for quite some time.

Fact: school closures are not really a solution. They are a **symptom** of a structural problem.

In Alaska, public schools depend heavily on **state funding formulas**. When those formulas don't keep pace with inflation, enrollment changes, and rising operating costs, districts are forced to make decisions that affect classrooms, communities, and families.

The question before us isn't simply how to close a budget gap this year.

Schools are more than buildings where classes happen. They are community infrastructure. They attract young families, support working parents, prepare our future workforce, and bring neighbors together. When a school closes, the effects ripple outward – into local businesses, housing stability, and community life.

If we want strong communities, a prepared workforce, and opportunities for every child, we need stable, sustainable investment in public education. Our Alaska representatives must do the work necessary to ensure our system is designed so that budgeting, formulas, and family choices that impact enrollments don't unintentionally weaken the neighborhood schools that many students still depend on.

The deeper question is this: **what kind of public education system does Alaska want ten years from now? Let the conversation - and the work - begin!**