

**LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 15-17**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND URGING STATE LAWMAKERS TO MAINTAIN
THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN EACH SCHOOL AT TEN**

WHEREAS there have been discussions that the Legislature may consider increasing the minimum student count to 25 students; and

WHEREAS the Lake and Peninsula Borough requests that the state maintain the minimum student count at 10; 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 such action would have a substantially disproportionate impact on Alaska Native/Minority students; and

WHEREAS the Lake and Peninsula Region values its small school sites and the distinct cultures within these predominantly Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS recognizing that small schools are the heart of this region; when a school closes, a village will likely cease to exist. Unique, individual village cultures will be lost; and

WHEREAS, the closure of small schools can force parents/guardians to implement correspondence programs for which they are unprepared or ill equipped; and

WHEREAS, Alaska history documents long term damage to family structure when children are removed from homes for schooling. Forcing a minor child to leave home for education may prove to be detrimental; and

WHEREAS, by allowing children to remain within their family and cultural environment, we provide key elements for a well-educated and healthy individual; and

WHEREAS, loss of a community school often forces families to relocate to a larger village or urban area. This often results in a cultural and social environment that does not support their overall wellbeing, at the same time further damaging the villages chances of survival; and

WHEREAS, there are other ways of reducing the cost of government that does not require denial of an adequate or equitable education to Alaska students especially where the impact of the cost reduction has a disparate impact on rural and Native Alaska students; and

WHEREAS, the closure of small schools cannot relieve the State of Alaska's obligation to provide an adequate and equitable education.

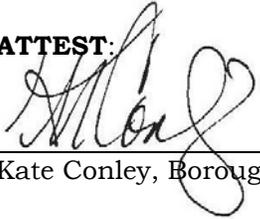
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly that for the continued well-being of our culture, communities, and children the Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly is resolved to petition the State Legislature to maintain school size at ten students.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly this 19th day of October, 2015.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Glen Alsworth Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:


Kate Conley, Borough Clerk