

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #25-33

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ,  
ALASKA, OPPOSING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DEFINITION OF  
LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN TITLE 4 CHAPTER 9 OF ALASKA  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has proposed regulatory changes under 4 AAC 09 that would expand the definition of 'local contributions' beyond its historical interpretation, capturing community supports that have long existed outside the statutory cap; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has consistently failed to provide adequate education funding to school districts within incorporated communities, which has driven a need for municipal governments to support local school districts through providing additional services and funding sources to enhance educational opportunities and lessen dependence on fluctuating state and federal revenue streams; and

WHEREAS, due to a lack of state support and a commitment to continued student success, the City of Valdez has a long-standing practice of partnering with Valdez City Schools to invest in a robust public education system by providing support to our local schools through both direct financial contributions and additional forms of support that reflect our community's values; and

WHEREAS, the proposed reclassification will severely limit the ability of municipal governments to support local schools, disproportionately penalizing districts like Valdez that have cultivated collaborative partnerships with their municipality to enhance opportunities for their community's children; and

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez owns the public school facilities in Valdez, and the proposed regulation would inappropriately hinder the city's ability to maintain and improve our own buildings and maintain flexible community programming in the facilities; and

WHEREAS, if adopted, the proposed regulatory change will adversely impact all families in Valdez, including families who choose to home school their children, since it will threaten existing funding for extracurricular activities and community schools programming; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes are not mandated by federal law or requested by a federal agency but are instead a state-level policy choice, positioning Alaska as the only state actively pursuing regulatory strategies to offset its education funding responsibilities by redirecting federal Impact Aid dollars to itself first; and

WHEREAS, the state has not demonstrated that the proposed regulatory changes will resolve Alaska's existing disparity test compliance issues, nor has it provided evidence that expanding the definition of local contributions will have any measurable impact on achieving the desired federal determination; and

WHEREAS the proposed regulations introduce additional administrative and accounting burdens for districts, municipalities, and the state, likely increasing costs without providing clarity or resolving existing challenges transparently or equitably; and

WHEREAS, restricting the scope of allowable local contributions diminishes local control, limits a community's ability to safeguard public assets and infrastructure, and disregards the right of communities to invest in their educational priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Valdez City Council strongly opposes the proposed regulatory changes to 4 AAC 09 that would expand the definition of 'local contributions' in a manner that restricts community financial support, erodes local control, and reduces the overall resources available to Alaska's students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that:

Section 1. The City of Valdez urges the state to prioritize open dialogue with school and municipal leaders before adopting regulations with significant fiscal and operational consequences and to work collaboratively to protect federal Impact Aid, maintain local authority, and recognize the unique needs of districts with strong community partnerships.

Section 2. The Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tempore), and the City Manager (or his designee) are authorized to advocate on behalf of the City of Valdez in opposition to this proposed regulatory change and in favor of policies that uphold educational excellence, equity, and local control and support while maintaining responsible, community-driven support for Alaska's public schools.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 15th day of July, 2025.

City of Valdez, Alaska

---

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk