

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ASDR 2020-2021-02

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING COMMUNITYWIDE SUPPORT OF SAFE IN-
PERSON LEARNING**

WHEREAS the Anchorage School District's core mission is to educate every student enrolled in academic programs across our Municipality, and

WHEREAS the Anchorage School District has been and continues to be a leader and partner in public health throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS the majority of Anchorage's public schoolchildren have not had in-person instruction since March 2020, which has significantly impeded the academic progress of the majority of students, and

WHEREAS community transmission of COVID-19 has increased dramatically since the start of the 2020-2021 school year, despite Municipal Executive Orders aimed at mitigation, and

WHEREAS this high rate of community transmission has led to an increase in teachers and staff in quarantine and unable to support in-person instruction, and

WHEREAS most students learn better with in-person instruction, and prolonging virtual learning, including its limited instructional time, holds many students back from gains they would make in a traditional classroom setting, and

WHEREAS unequal access to academic supports leads to disparities in student learning in a virtual setting and is thereby significantly increasing equity and opportunity gaps, and

WHEREAS Anchorage School District students in primary grades are suffering from lack of direct in-person instruction during critical years when not learning reading and other essential educational skills can have lifelong consequences, and

WHEREAS in-person school provides an essential community service, not only for its critical educational value, but also for:

- allowing parents and caregivers to work, and
- being a consistent learning environment, and
- supporting students' mental, emotional and physical health, and
- reporting suspected child abuse as mandated by law, and

WHEREAS since March 2020 Anchorage's public schoolchildren have borne a disproportionate burden of sacrifice for our community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Anchorage School Board requests the Anchorage Municipality continue to partner with the Anchorage School District to increase community understanding of the relationship between COVID-19 mitigation and the ability to return to and maintain in-person instruction for Anchorage's public schoolchildren, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the Anchorage School Board requests that before the Municipality relaxes COVID-19 mitigation restrictions, the Municipality's highest priority be a phased-in return to in-person instruction for Anchorage's public schoolchildren for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, and

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage School District Board on this 15th day of December, 2020.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

Elisa Vakalis, School Board President



Margo Bellamy
Dave Donley
Alisha Hilde

Andy Holleman
Starr Marsett
Deena Mitchell

Dr. Deena Bishop, Superintendent


