

Talking Points Worksheet – Special Education Services Agency (SESA)

- What we are asking for: Increase SESA’s funding formula
- What does SESA do: They provide training and resources to special education teachers and school staff in rural communities across Alaska who are teaching kids with “Low Incidence Disabilities” (LID).
- What are Low Incidence Disabilities (LID): autism, deaf and hard of hearing, vision impairment, deaf blind, emotional disabilities, and multiple disabilities.
- Why does SESA need more money?
 - Their budget is based on how many kids are enrolled in public schools across Alaska. This number is getting smaller.
 - At the same time, the number of kids SESA helps gets bigger every year. This means they are helping more kids with less money. Every year this gap gets bigger.
 - Without an increase, they will have to use a waitlist because they do not have enough money to hire more staff. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Federal law) does not allow waitlists for special education services.
 - Without an increase, Alaska will be forced to break Federal law.
- The increase we are asking for equals about \$480,000/year.

Notes:
