

Education does need full funding

If conservative efforts succeed in cutting funding for education, rural students may be forced into regional schools, similar to when educational requirements were first implemented in the state and students were sent away from their homes to places like Mt. Edgecumbe. While Mt. Edgecumbe has produced some of our current Native leaders, students were still traumatized – just like Molly Hootch was.

State government is showing us that education is not important, and in particular, rural education. In the 1970s, Alaska was tapped as having one of the best educational standards in the nation. That is no longer true. Demands by teachers and high costs of living are forcing a weaker educational learning system to the fore, while the students are being left behind.

Some rural residents do not like the idea of their children being sent away to school. They say, 'how would urban residents like it if their children were sent to rural areas for their education, being taken away from their home. It's unfair, it's biased.'

That is a legitimate concern. If Anchorage schools are over-populated, and rural schools are under-populated, there are two logical solutions. Either send urban students to rural schools, or provide for full-funding across the board. Which is easier?