



September 15, 2020

*Sent electronically*

**Subject: Support Reopening of Schools Quickly and Safely**

Dear Members of the FNSB School Board,

Thank you for your dedicated service to the local Fairbanks community and our school system.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce encourages you to bring children back into school buildings as soon and safely as possible. We acknowledge that this is not an easy task, and district staff are working hard with the healthcare community to plan for all possible scenarios. We would like to add our voices to the goal voiced by district officials, educators, and staff – to bring children back into the classroom with proactive minimization of the health risks for everyone involved.

The events of 2020 have reinforced the vital services that schools provide to our community. Having students at school is best for kids, it's best for parents, and it's best for the local economy. Teachers have professional expertise in educational methods, and they are best suited to educate future citizens and train the future workforce. Schools also provide an important service to the economy by providing a safe and productive environment for children. Public schools allow parents to participate in the workforce in ever-increasing numbers. Our member businesses benefit from the skills and institutional knowledge of these working parents. Having students at home, while it was a necessary interim solution this spring, is putting increasing pressure on working parents and their employers.

Educators and staff need to have the ability to do their jobs safely, and we encourage the district to continue working with the Medical Advisory Committee to address these needs based on the Alaska Smart Start Plan and CDC guidelines.

## EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

### DIAMOND

Alaska Airlines  
Denali State Bank  
Foundation Health Partners  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, TVC Orthopedics & Sportsmedicine  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
Vivlamore Companies

### PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.  
ConocoPhillips  
Doyon, Limited  
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
Golden Heart Utilities  
Kinross Fort Knox Mine  
Lockheed Martin  
MAC Federal Credit Union

### GOLD

Alaska Executive Search  
BP Exploration  
Carlson Center  
Design Alaska  
Doyon Utilities LLC  
First National Bank Alaska  
Matson Alaska  
Northern Star Pogo LLC  
TOTE Maritime Alaska  
Usibelli Coal Mine  
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.  
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel & Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge

### SILVER

Ahtna Incorporated  
Alaska USA  
Alaska Railroad  
Ambler Metals  
AT&T  
Costco Wholesale  
Crowley Fuels Alaska  
Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK  
Exclusive Paving/University Redi-Mix  
Flowline Alaska  
GCI  
Gene's Chrysler, Jeep & Dodge  
Golden Valley Electric Association  
Hale & Associates, Inc.  
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC  
HUB International  
Interior Gas Utility  
JL Properties, Inc.  
Key Bank  
LifeMed Alaska  
Lynden  
McDonald's of Fairbanks  
Northrim Bank  
Personnel Plus  
Seekins Ford Lincoln  
Sourdough Fuel  
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union  
TDL Staffing  
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project  
Trilogy Metals  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Verizon Wireless  
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska  
Yukon Title Company



The Chamber would like to continue to be involved in this process as we move forward. There are huge potential benefits to the community from resuming in-person education, and there are also risks. We would like to remain engaged in the discussion about solutions.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 650 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah  
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabrina Binkley".

Sabrina Binkley  
Board Chair