



# Senator Lyman F. Hoffman

Member, Senate Finance Committee

Alaska State Legislature \* State Capitol \* Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
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## District S

Adak  
Akiachak  
Akiak  
Akutan  
Aleknagik  
Aniak  
Anvik  
Atka  
Atmauthluak  
Attu Station  
Bethel  
Chefornak  
Chignik  
Chignik Lagoon  
Chignik Lake  
Chuathbaluk  
Clark's Point  
Cold Bay  
Crooked Creek  
Dillingham  
Dutch Harbor  
Eek  
Egegik  
Ekwok  
False Pass  
Flat  
Goodnews Bay  
Grayling  
Holy Cross  
Igiugig  
Iliamna  
Ivanof Bay  
Kasigluk  
King Cove  
King Salmon  
Kipnuk  
Kokhanok  
Koliganek  
Kongiganak  
Kwethlik  
Kwigillingok  
Lake Minchumina  
Levelock  
Lime Village  
Lower Kalskag  
Manokotak  
Marshall  
McGrath  
Mekoryuk  
Mertarvik  
Naknek  
Napakiak  
Napaskiak  
Nelson Lagoon  
Newhalen  
New Stuyahok  
Newtok  
Nightmute  
Nikolai  
Nikolski  
Nondalton  
Nunapitchuk  
Oscarville  
Pedro Bay  
Perryville  
Pilot Point  
Platinum  
Pope-Vannoy Landing  
Port Alsworth  
Port Heiden  
Portage Creek  
Quinhagak  
Red Devil  
Russian Mission  
Sand Point  
Shageluk  
Sleetmute  
South Naknek  
St. George  
St. Paul  
Stony River  
Taktotna  
Togiak  
Toksook Bay  
Tuntutuliak  
Tununak  
Twin Hills  
Ugashik  
Unalaska  
Upper Kalskag

## Sponsor Statement

SB 74

"An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts."

SB 74 increases the minimum broadband requirement for schools from 10 megabits per second (Mbps) to a minimum of 25 Mbps and provides funding to help schools reach the 25 Mbps through the School Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG).

Districts that qualify for discounted rate for internet services under the Federal Universal Services Program are eligible.

The Universal Service Administrative Company, Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as "E-rate," provides discounts of up to 90 percent to help eligible schools and libraries in the United States obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.

The School BAG was established in 2014 and created to assist schools to reach internet download speeds of 10 Mbps. Currently the grant funds may be used to cover eligible costs incurred by the school districts for schools that have less than 10 Mbps each fiscal year. Since 2014 new and improved technologies and increases to internet services have allowed for more and faster delivery of internet services. Because the cost of internet in some rural districts has decreased, the annual internet costs have fallen below the 2014 benchmark established by state law. To allow school districts to utilize these advances, SB 74 will increase the minimum requirement of Mbps from 10 to 25 which will increase the amount of Broadband Assistance Grants (BAG) that the state can pay to school districts.

In 2019, 80 schools in 20 school districts will benefit from the school BAG awards.

The funding leverages federal E-rate funds at approximately 8:1. The program allows for leverage for up to 9:1 based on a formula for free and reduced lunch calculation by district.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 74 to help bring improved broadband services to rural Alaska and improve service for schools across the state.

I urge your support of this legislation to provide Alaskan students, classrooms and teachers and all educators better access to the digital world.