



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



Inuunialiptigun Ataurchikun

Margaret Hansen, School Board President

Terri Walker, Superintendent

Box 51 • Kotzebue, AK 99752

907.442.1802

twalker@nwarctic.org

Serving the communities of:

Ambler • Buckland • Deering • Kiana • Kivalina • Kobuk
Kotzebue • Noatak • Noorvik • Selawik • Shungnak

2032 Students

92% Alaska Native

100% Free & Reduced Lunch

360 Migrant

242 Special Needs

368 Employees

205 Certified

163 Classified

39,000 Sq. Mi.

13 Schools in 11 Villages

FY24 Legislative Priorities

Funding for Alaska's Public Schools

- Investing in our schools through increased funding and resources is an investment in our future.
- Adequate school funding is essential to provide students with a high-quality education, equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in an ever-evolving world. By allocating more resources to our schools, we can
 - reduce class sizes
 - hire and retain highly qualified educators
 - provide access to a well-rounded education, including extracurricular activities, advanced courses, and support services
 - update and maintain facilities
 - invest in technology and modern teaching tools
 - provide supportive programs that address the diverse needs of our students

Ultimately, when we prioritize school funding, we empower our students to reach their full potential, strengthen our communities, and build a brighter future for all.

OUR MISSION: To provide a learning environment that inspires and challenges students and employees to excel
OUR VISION: To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hiring and Retaining Highly Qualified Teachers

Ensuring that we have the necessary funding to hire and retain highly qualified teachers is a critical investment for the future of our communities and the State of Alaska.

- Quality education begins with quality educators
- These dedicated professionals shape the lives of our students and prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow.

By providing the financial resources needed to attract and retain the best teachers, we not only enhance the learning experience for our students but also strengthen our educational system.

Well-compensated and highly motivated educators are more likely to stay in the profession, leading to a stable and experienced teaching workforce. This will create an excellent educational experience that benefits students, schools, and the broader community.

As legislators, your support for funding to hire and retain highly qualified teachers is an investment in our children's futures, and it's an investment we wholeheartedly endorse and appreciate.

Broadband Capacity and Affordability

Students cannot achieve excellence in education without adequate and affordable internet access in their schools and homes.

The equity implications of unequal access to internet and broadband capacity have been brought into sharper focus as schools have been awarded high dollar Emergency Connectivity Fund monies. This fund provides access to reliable internet and adequate broadband capacity to connect student homes only until December 2023. After this point, rural homes will once again be unable to afford internet the more than \$1,700/month cost in their homes.

Schools have also been throttled well below the 2014 FCC goals for internet with a School Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) that only funds 25Mbps per school instead.

In addition, schools are working to create safer environments online and protect all student and staff data with cybersecurity plans and policies. School districts need a sustainable source of funding to implement and plan for future broadband use. E-Rate needs to continue to fund internet and hardware as well as adding the data protection component of cybersecurity.

In the long term, we urge Alaska's elected leaders to address the existing inequity in broadband capacity and internet access for all Alaska students and families by improving community broadband infrastructure, coordinating funded projects, and lowering families' costs. The School Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) needs to be increased minimally to allow all schools to get to the 2014 FCC Broadband goals. In addition, E-Rate needs to support cybersecurity costs for all schools.

In the short term, Legislature must quickly address the cost of Cybersecurity for the next E-Rate funding year. The State of Alaska USF (Universal Service Fund) should be reformed to help anchor institutions pay for broadband as other states are doing. Supporting broadband through Alaska USF monies could help to fund the increase School BAG mentioned above.



In 2022 the Governor vetoed \$63M of \$100M for School Major Maintenance. This veto meant that none of the NWABSD capital projects (roofs, HVAC, etc.) were funded. In 2023, of \$30 million in funding for school maintenance projects (funding the first eleven projects on the list) the Governor vetoed \$ 10.4 million, leaving funding for only the first five on the maintenance list. Again, the NWABSD missed the cut off for getting any funding for school repairs. Lack of funding for school construction projects further limited funding for school upgrades.

Deering K-12 School (\$43.6 million) - not only has an exterior envelop and mechanical system that are at the end of their useful life, the school population has grown so that the school is now at 128% over capacity and projected to grow to 169% in five years. Unfortunately, the existing school site has no area available for expansion. In addition, the building is 44 years old. The best solution is a new school on a new site as soon the DOT road to the airport is completed.

Davis Ramoth K-12 School Renewal in Selawik (\$9.6 Million)- will replace building components that are beyond their useful life. The fire suppression system which is now so old repair parts are no longer available and fire alarm is no longer automatic. The controls for the heating system on longer function and the heating system is “running wild.” Diligent maintenance over the years has addressed interior conditions but HVAC, DDC and fire protection systems required additional funding.

Districtwide Fire System Repair and Replacements (\$6 million) – The fire protection systems at five schools are so out dated repair parts are no longer available and the systems are unreliable.

June Nelson Elementary Roof (\$3.5 million) - is 20 years past its useful life. The District found other funds for JNES gym roof but additional assistance is needed to replace the roof over the original school to protect the structure below.

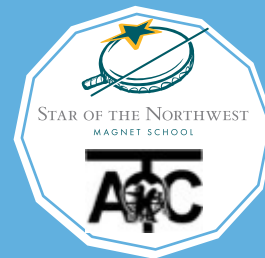
Districtwide DDC Controls (\$9 million) - New DDC systems are needed throughout the District to maintain and control heat. This will reduce operating and maintenance costs while improving building comfort for occupants.

Know that the District continually seeks other sources of funding to support school capital needs. For example, a Denali Commission grant was received to complete Buckland HVAC upgrades. The initial funding was a pass-through state grant from the Borough.

OUR MISSION: To provide a learning environment that inspires and challenges students and employees to excel
OUR VISION: To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Capital Project



Alaska Technical Center Family Housing

The Alaska Technical Center currently has a 40-bed dormitory located across the street from the ATC training facility. The 10,000 square foot, two-story building has 11 residential rooms on each floor that houses two training participants each.

ATC has been unable to meet the demand for family housing. ATC's demographic is no longer the just-out-of-high-school, single, mobile individual willing to share a typical dorm room with a roommate. It is now 30–50-year-old men and women looking to enter or reenter the workforce who require training. The demands of family, the time away, the uncertainty of support while away are all obstacles for individuals wishing to complete training. Families are unable to secure housing due to unavailability and affordability in the local housing market. Lack of adequate housing is an obstacle for individuals who wish to complete training to prepare themselves for the job market to support themselves and their families. Potential trainees are subsequently forced to postpone or cancel scheduled training plans.

Iñupiaq Values run strong. Hard Work, Sharing, Love of Children, Family Roles, Responsibility to Tribe, and modern-day Hunter Success, through gainful employment and support of one's family, contribute to the need to keep family units together as adults complete 8-10-12 or 14-week training. This bond and shared experience will keep families together and advance the employability of the residents of our region and the State.

IñUPIAT	ILITQUSIAT
Ilisimatiq Uqapiatigmiik	Knowledge of Language
Aatchuqtuutitig Avatmun	Sharing
Kamakkuutitig	Respect for Others
Savaqatigiyutitig	Cooperation
Piqpaksrititig Iilgaanik	Love for Children
Kamakksrititig Utuqqanaanik	Respect for Elders
Savvaqtutitig	Hard Work
Ilisimatiq Ilaglitigmiik	Knowledge of Family Tree
Paaqsaagatautitig	Avoid Conflict
Kamakksrititig Nutim Iñiqtanik	Respect for Nature
Kanijqsimauraatig Irrutchikun	Spirituality
Quvianniuhikun Tipsisaagititig	Humor
Anjunialguitig	Hunter Success
Anayuuqaagiiich Savaaksranjich	Family Roles
Kinjunigmi Suragatlasiiñatig	Domestic Skills
Atchiksuaatig	Humility
Iñuuniaqatiunik Ikayutitig	Responsibility to Tribe

NURSING, PROCESS TECH, EDUCATION, CONSTRUCTION TRADES & CULINARY ARTS

