
CCSD Superintendent Report

August 2026

CCSD Appreciations

- Thank you to CCSD's Maintenance Crew for their hard work and dedication throughout the summer. They completed the CMS new locker installation and updated the four (4) upper CMS classrooms that were not part of the CEMS Rehabilitation Project. They are also working to address the drainage issue on the back side of CMS before our rainy season begins, while tending to numerous other maintenance needs, including moving the middle school storage items from the middle school gym back into CMS classrooms and work areas. We very much appreciate their hard work and commitment to keeping our schools in great shape and ready for our students when school opens on August 31, 2026!
- Thank you to CCSD's Business Manager, Ms. Melinda Bass, and our new Accounts Payable Specialist, Ms. Erin Terwilliger, in advance for all of their hard work associated with CCSD's Annual Audit with Altman & Rodgers. Their time and attention to detail as we work through the audit process will be greatly appreciated.

CCSD Finances/Budget

- The Alaska Legislature has completed its work for the year, including several education-related funding measures. One-time funding of up to \$115 million is anticipated to be distributed to districts based on FY2027 adjusted average daily membership. While the final amount will not be known until August 31, 2026, payments are expected in two (2) installments - one based on preliminary OASIS data in December 2026 and the second following final ADM reconciliation in late March 2027.
- The Legislature also approved \$29.1 million in Energy Relief Funding for named-recipient districts. CCSD's designated amount is based on 30 percent of the highest reported energy costs from FY2024 and FY2025 audits and the FY2026 budget. DEED will verify that districts have budgeted energy expenditures equal to or greater than their designated award amount, with payment anticipated at the beginning of September following approval of the FY2027 budget.
- Melinda and I will continue to monitor these funding streams and provide updates as additional guidance becomes available.
- **Please note, I am concerned about the potential impact of CCSD's Foundation Funding next fiscal year (FY 2028), as the District is currently in the final year of the hold-harmless provision.** While our brick-and-mortar enrollment numbers remain steady, PACE Statewide Correspondence Homeschool enrollment is lower than normal for this point in the year. PACE currently has approximately 250-students projected, compared to the 380-students CCSD had projected by the start of the Alaska Student Count on September 28, 2026. Last year, PACE reported approximately 400-student bodies, and our original projection was based on reaching a similar enrollment level this year. While it's still early in the game, continued monitoring of PACE enrollment will be important as we move toward the official student count (9/28/26).

Human Resources/Staff Updates

- Please join me in welcoming the following staff to CCSD: Ms. M'Lissa Parker (CCSD/SERRC Itinerant Counselor - see biography/profile attached with my Board Report).
 - In response to the recent tragedies impacting our community, CCSD has arranged for M'Lissa Parker, Ed.S., M.Ed., to provide interim school counseling support while our current counselor is on leave.
 - Ms. Parker brings more than 20-years of experience in education, including school counseling, special education, emotional and behavioral support, crisis response, social-emotional learning, trauma-responsive practices, and educator support. She also has experience working in rural and remote Alaska communities.
 - Ms. Parker will be serving CCSD in-person from August 31st through September 11, 2026, and will return September 28th through October 15, 2026. During her time with CCSD, she will work with students and staff across the District and provide support based on the needs identified by each school. I am pleased we were able to secure this additional counseling support for our school community during a time when it is especially needed. It is my hope that Ms. Parker's experience and background will be a valuable resource as we continue to support our students and staff.
- CCSD currently has the following positions posted: CHS Head Swim Coach, CCSD Part-time Bus Driver, CEMS Special Education Paraprofessional, CHS Special Education Paraprofessional.
- CCSD is grateful for our returning staff and are extremely excited to welcome new members to the CCSD Panther Family. Together with our families, we aim to create a positive, engaging, and successful school year for each and every one of our students.

CCSD Curriculum/Instruction & Professional Development/PLC Committee Updates

- CCSD's 2026-2027 school year will begin with In-Service Days on Tuesday, August 25 and Wednesday, August 26, 2026, followed by Teacher/Staff Workdays on Thursday, August 27, and Friday, August 28, 2026. School will open on Monday, August 31, 2026 this year.
- Our In-Service Days will focus on welcoming new staff, reconnecting returning team members, and providing required annual trainings and professional learning. Planned sessions include the following:
 - Precautions Against Blood-Borne Pathogens, EpiPen, & Naloxone Spray Training: This training will satisfy this year's annual Bloodborne Pathogens and Naloxone training requirements.
 - District Operations Overview & State of the District Updates
 - Educators' Obligations to the Code of Ethics & Professional Boundaries
 - CCSD Standard Response Protocol (SRP) Training
 - Defining, Assessing, & Supporting Print in Schools: This training is specific for special education staff and will explore print disabilities, how to identify student needs, accessible materials, assessment tools, and strategies for improving student access to curriculum and learning activities.
 - Grief-Informed Practices: Recognizing and Supporting Grieving Students: This training will help staff recognize how grief may present in students, understand the range of emotional and behavioral responses to loss, and learn practical strategies for supporting grieving students while recognizing when additional intervention or resources may be needed.
 - QPR Suicide Prevention Training: This training will help staff will learn the three steps of the QPR model, Question, Persuade, and Refer, and gain practical strategies for recognizing warning signs, having supportive conversations, and connecting individuals with appropriate resources.

- Time for principals to connect and collaborate with their staff and time for staff to connect and collaborate with their colleagues.
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- As mentioned in my May Board Report, CCSD will move forward with an in-person professional development opportunity with James Nottingham, creator of *The Learning Pit*, on Friday, September 18, 2026. Due to available Title II-A grant funding and the need to preserve resources for other professional development throughout the year, CCSD will pursue the one-day option at this time. The estimated cost is \$6,400, which includes professional fees, travel, and accommodations and will be charged to CCSD's Title II-A grant. The day will include classroom-based support with teachers in the morning, followed by district-wide professional development in the afternoon. Mr. Nottingham's approach to building a positive learning culture through productive struggle continues to be a strong fit for CCSD's instructional priorities.
- In addition, please remember that CCSD is partnering with Island Hands and Brightway Learning to plan another Prince of Wales Island-wide in-service on Friday, October 30, 2026. Planning is underway with Superintendent Rebecca Stallworth (Klawock City School District), Superintendent Rod Morrison (Southeast Island School District), and Superintendent Robert Freeman (Hydaburg City School District). Through various grant funding sources, we anticipate covering the full cost of the October in-service, providing another valuable opportunity for collaboration and professional learning across Prince of Wales Island.

CCSD Special Programs

- The migration of student special education records to EMBRACE has recently been completed and EMBRACE will now serve as our new special education student information system. Special Education Teachers will have access to EMBRACE Training through the "Training" links located within the EMBRACE System. We are hopeful that all student data and files migrated successfully; however, it is still too early to know for certain. As staff begin using the system and the training links, we should have a better understanding of the migration and be able to identify and address any issues that arise.
- With the EMBRACE migration complete, we will now begin working to establish special education caseloads and case management assignments across CES, CMS, CHS, and PACE. With the transition to our new Embrace special education system and changes in staffing, we are still working through the current student numbers and case management assignment. With that said, I will provide an update once we have had an opportunity to review the data and establish assignments.
- CCSD once again welcomes Nona Lindquist as our new CES/CMS Special Education Teacher.
- SERRC has secured a new Virtual Speech-Language Pathologist. Her name is Shelby Martin and she will be fulfilling CCSD's Virtual SLP services for the 2026-2027 school year. Shelby will begin working with PACE (Bobbie) the week of August 17th and with CES, CMS, and CHS (Nona & Maggie) the week of August 24th.
- Over the summer, DEED contracted with an outside reviewer to conduct a more detailed review of intensive special education funding claims across all Alaska school districts. The findings from CCSD's review have raised questions and discrepancies compared to the District's previous internal review and the annual intensive funding review. While the results have been somewhat confusing, DEED has clarified that the current review is intended to identify documentation concerns and ensure student files continue to support eligibility moving forward. CCSD will work with DEED and the outside reviewer to address the identified concerns and provide any additional documentation and/or corrections needed.

CCSD Projects

CEMS Rehabilitation Project

- The CEMS Rehabilitation Project is now in the final stages of closeout. Remaining project documentation, including Operation and Maintenance (O&M) manuals, training, and final administrative closeout items, is being completed. CCSD's Maintenance Director, Mr. Zack Cross, will be working to connect with the project team to identify priority systems for targeted training, as required by the project specifications.
- Remaining punch list and closeout items have been substantially addressed, and CCSD continues to work with McG Constructors and the project team to finalize the remaining documentation and project reconciliation. CCSD has also completed its annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) report for submission to DEED.
- A recent change order includes additional work and credits related to existing building systems, including inspection and patching of the north CMS roof, replacement of water-damaged R1 light fixtures, and credits for changes to engraved plaques and removal of an exterior speaker from the project scope. The change order (CO) increases the contract by \$8,301.98, bringing the new total construction contract amount to \$11,515,860.66.

Current/Upcoming District Events

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| ● July 1st: | FY 2027 PACE Enrollment Begins! |
| ● August 11th: | CCSD FY26 Principals & Classified 10-Month Employees Start Date |
| ● August 12th: | CCSD Facilities Committee Meeting |
| ● August 25-26th: | CCSD In-service / CCSD FY26 Teacher & Paraprofessional Start Date |
| ● August 27-28th: | CCSD Staff Workdays |
| ● August 31st: | CES, CMS, CHS School Opens! |

*Please be sure to check CCSD's Website for specific dates of events and activities at CES, CMS, and CHS.