
CCSD Superintendent Report

September 2026

CCSD Appreciations

- A big thank you to all CCSD staff for helping us kick off another school year with such a welcoming and positive atmosphere - your enthusiasm, flexibility, and continued commitment to our students have been evident from day one!
- Thank you to Mr. Mike Nelson and everyone who helped make the CEMS Cross Country meet on Saturday, September 26, 2026 a success. Coordinating an event like that takes a tremendous amount of planning and teamwork. CCSD is especially grateful to all of the staff, volunteers, and others who gave their time on a Saturday to support our students and make the meet possible!
- A special thank you to Zack Cross for his dedication and commitment to completing his school bus driver certification and obtaining the appropriate endorsements. We also greatly appreciate Chris Demmert and Wes Schlueter from First Student for stepping in as relief bus drivers during this transition and helping ensure our students continue to have reliable transportation to and from school.

CCSD Finances/Budget

- CCSD has now received the Energy Relief payment in the amount of **\$112,885**. This is the funding that was anticipated as part of the state's energy relief program, and we appreciate having those funds in hand.
- We have not yet received the one-time state funding discussed last month. That funding will be based on FY2027 Adjusted Average Daily Membership (AADM), so the final amount will not be known until the student count and reconciliation process is complete. We anticipate receiving the funding in two (2) payments, with the first expected in December 2026 and the second in March 2027 following the final ADM reconciliation.
- PACE enrollment continues to be an area that we are closely monitoring. PACE's enrollment numbers are down from where we had projected them to be, and this will have a direct impact on the District's ADM and future state funding. As of September 24th, PACE had 252 students enrolled, with another 52 students pending, for a potential total of 304-students. This is **76 students below** our projected enrollment of 380, and is also below the enrollment level we experienced last year as well. With that said, I have been in communication with the PACE Staff regarding the importance of getting students through the enrollment process as quickly as possible during the state's 20-day student count period. I shared the funding implications of each day a student remains pending and stressed the importance of completing Dual Enrollment documentation for students who are also enrolled in another public school district. Our PACE team is working hard to finalize enrollments, and I appreciate the time and effort they are putting into that process.
- We will continue to monitor PACE enrollment closely. While our brick-and-mortar enrollment remains steady, the lower PACE enrollment is something we need to keep an eye on, especially as we look ahead to FY2028 and the potential impact on Foundation Funding as the District reaches the final year of the current hold-harmless provision.
- Thanks to Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) funding, a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Education, we've been able to make meaningful investments in our music and library programs! Music Director and teacher, Rachael Balcom, was allotted \$10,000 to purchase new instruments, while Librarian Tamara Cross was allotted \$5,500 to add new books and encourage a love of

reading. It's important to recognize that CCSD continues to find ways to support our programs to provide our students with quality opportunities and resources.

Human Resources/Staff Updates

- Please join me in welcoming the following staff to CCSD: Ms. Karen Fraley (CEMS Special Education Paraprofessional), Aaron Handy (CEMS Special Education Paraprofessional)
- CCSD currently has the following positions posted: CCSD Part-time Bus Driver & CHS Special Education Paraprofessional.
- CCSD's itinerant counselor, M'Lissa Parker, is no longer available to provide services to CCSD. As a result, we did not have itinerant counseling services September 8-11, 2026 and Ms. Parker will not be returning for the previously scheduled September 28-October 15, 2026 visit. CCSD will work with local partners as we always do and we continue to have Gaggle ReachOut available through the end of the semester, providing students, families, and staff with free, confidential, 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors by phone, text, or web chat.

CCSD Curriculum/Instruction & Professional Development/PLC Committee Updates

- Professional development continues to be an important focus for CCSD, with continued opportunities for staff to learn, collaborate, and strengthen instructional practices. The James Nottingham professional development opportunity on September 17 & 18, 2026 was downright fantastic! Mr. Nottingham spent time with classroom teachers providing demonstrations and modeling effective teaching and instructional strategies. His session on Friday afternoon (9/18) with instructional staff also provided practical approaches for encouraging productive struggle, deeper thinking, and a positive learning culture in the classroom. We are looking forward to pursuing a follow-up webinar with Mr. Nottingham after the new year to continue building on the learning and momentum from this fall and our work with him last year.
- We are also looking forward to our second Prince of Wales Island-wide in-service on October 30, 2026, which will be hosted at CHS. Planning with our neighboring districts and community partners continues to provide a valuable opportunity for staff across the island to learn together as well as share ideas, collaborate, and network.
- Looking ahead to the spring, CCSD is exploring a First Aid and CPR In-service for staff on April 23, 2027. The continued growth and variety of professional development opportunities since 2024-2025 have been a positive development for CCSD, and we look forward to continuing that momentum.
- Please see the following schedule for [CCSD's FY27 Semester 1 Friday Afternoon Rotation Meetings](#). All meetings on Friday afternoons will be held from 2:15-3:30pm.
 - Friday, September 4th: Teacher Time - Opening of School Preparations (No meetings)
 - Friday, September 11th: Student Focus Meetings
 - Friday, September 18th: James Nottingham Professional Development @ CHS Auditorium
 - Friday, September 25th: Building Level Meetings
 - Friday, October 2nd: PLC Committee Meetings
 - Friday, October 9th: Teacher Time - PTC Preparations (No meetings)
 - Friday, October 16th: (N/A) No School - PTC Day 2
 - Friday, October 23rd: Building Level Staff Wellness Activity (QTR 1)
 - Friday, October 30th: POW Island-wide In-service (No meetings)
 - Friday, November 6th: Student Focus Meetings
 - Friday, November 13th: Building Level Meetings - *MS Stikine BB Tournament (staff may be volunteering @ tourney)
 - Friday, November 20th: PLC Committee Meetings
 - Friday, December 4th: PLC Committee Meetings
 - Friday, December 11th: ALL Staff Wellness Activity (QTR 2) - Staff Holiday Gathering!!

- Friday, December 18th: Early Dismissal for Staff @ 2pm - Happy Holidays!! (No meetings)
- Friday, January 8th: Building Level Meetings - *HS Cultural BB Tournament (staff may be volunteering @ tourney)
- Friday, January 15th: Teacher Workday (No meetings)
- The FY27 CCSD PLC Committee Sign-up Sheet may be accessed by clicking the following link:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TjB4umsyJ_PyDzA8i_WDNoU8dnZQQ6iGQC-MqBhJ0HY/edit?usp=sharing

CCSD Special Programs

- The Special Education Department is off to a strong start this year. Staff have been focused on student transitions, reviewing and updating IEPs, completing screenings and evaluations, and ensuring students are receiving the appropriate supports and services. Collaboration with general education teachers continues to be an important focus as we work to strengthen inclusive practices and support student success. We are also encouraging special education paraprofessionals to attend grant-funded special education paraprofessional training opportunities, (paid Saturday sessions), to strengthen instructional strategies, services, and compliance.
- CCSD has also maintained strong access to itinerant and specialist support. Our virtual Speech & Language Pathologist, Ms. Shelby Martin, is already providing services, and our on-site SLP, Ms. Claire Cereghino, was here September 17–18, 2026. Our School Psychologist, Theresa Slavik, and Physical Therapist, Sean Whittcare, are scheduled to be on-site September 30, 2026. We are also planning for an Autism Specialist, Ms. Erin Land, to be on Prince of Wales during the third week of October, with one (1) day in Craig currently being coordinated. Our Occupational Therapist is also working on scheduling her next trip to Craig. These on-site and virtual services continue to be an important part of ensuring our students have access to the specialized support they need.

CCSD Projects

CEMS Rehabilitation Project

- On September 1, 2026, CCSD submitted an application for DEED's FY2028 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Major Maintenance and School Construction Grant program. Our application is for a \$2 million partial roof replacement at Craig Middle School (CMS). The project would address the remaining existing roof areas not included in the current renovation, including the areas near the music room and the low and high gym roof areas. The work would include removal of failed roofing and wet insulation, necessary decking repairs, new insulation and roofing membrane systems, and replacement of associated flashing, drainage, penetrations, and edge components. Initial priority lists are expected to be released by DEED on November 5, 2026.
- We continue to work through the remaining roof leak concerns from the CEMS Rehabilitation Project. There have been a couple of leaks in areas of the new roof assemblies, and we continue to press the contractor (and architects) for a clear resolution while the work remains under warranty. The District is not letting these issues go unresolved and will continue to pursue the repairs and documentation needed to protect CCSD's interests.
- At the same time, our Maintenance Department has been working hard on the CMS drainage project to help prevent future flooding around/in CMS. As the Board may recall, rather than move forward with the approximately \$85,000 contractor change order (CO) CCSD received, our maintenance team has been able to address the work for only a few thousand dollars in materials, along with their time and effort. I want

to sincerely thank our Maintenance Director, Zack Cross, and crew for their continued work and willingness to find practical, cost-effective solutions for the District.

- DEED is preparing to conduct CCSD's required Preventive Maintenance (PM) program site visit on November 4, 2026. The upcoming review will include both an office review of required documentation and an on-site assessment of our maintenance, energy management, custodial, training, renewal and replacement, and capital improvement planning programs. Full access to our schools will be required, and DEED will document its review with photographs. CCSD is currently working to ensure our records and facilities are prepared for the visit and that the District remains in compliance with the state's PM requirements.

Current/Upcoming District Events

- September 28th-October 23rd: State of Alaska's Student Count Period
 - September 30th: CCSD Regular School Board Meeting
 - October 5th: CCSD Policy Committee Meeting (tentative)
 - October 6th: CCSD Indigenous Education Committee Meeting (tentative)
 - October 6th: City of Craig Municipal Elections
- *Please remember: Within 7-days after certification of election results, the Board shall meet to elect a president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer (BB 9120).*
- October 9th: CCSD Special Board Meeting (Time TBD)
 - October 9th: Office of Indian Education Annual Report Due
 - October 15th: DEED Fall Staff Accounting Data Collection Due
 - October 15-16th: CCSD Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School 10/16/26)
 - October 28th: CCSD Regular School Board Meeting (October)
 - October 29th: CCSD End of Quarter 1
 - October 30th: POW Island-wide In-service Day (No School)

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