NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Qatqiññiaġvik Learning Center

Career and Technical Education Program Utilization Student Success and Workforce Development

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A regional resource connecting North Slope students with technical instruction, credentials, and workforce opportunities.



QLC / REGIONAL ACCESS / STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

Executive overview

The Qatqiññiaġvik Learning Center (QLC) is a regional hub for the North Slope Borough School District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Its instructional space and student accommodations help students from village schools access specialized learning experiences that are difficult to provide in every home community.

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation's (ASRC) investment supports practical skills development, career exploration, and connections to postsecondary education and employment. Growing student demand and reported outcomes demonstrate the facility's educational value and the opportunity to strengthen its role in preparing a local workforce.

Growing demand

The Fall CTE Intensive, which concluded on October 2, 2026, received 64 student applications. The previous highest number of applications for a single intensive was 32. This represents a 100 percent increase, doubling the prior record. Applications indicate demand; they do not represent final enrollment or program completion.

Regional access and facility utilization

Students travel from their home communities, stay at the QLC, participate in concentrated CTE instruction, and return to their villages with new skills and a clearer understanding of career possibilities. The combination of learning space and residential accommodations makes this regional model possible.

Village schools may have limited access to specialized equipment, instructional facilities, and industry-specific training. Geographic isolation, transportation costs, and limited local training resources can further restrict access. The QLC helps the District address these barriers through a shared facility rather than duplicating specialized programs at each school.

Direction for continued development

NSBSD is working toward connected training pathways in which students build technical competencies over time. Continued collaboration among ASRC, the North Slope Borough, NSBSD, employers, and training partners can expand student access and strengthen the connection between secondary education and regional workforce needs.

Construction and Mechanical Trades

Programs offered or being developed through the District's CTE intensive model provide hands-on learning in trades relevant to North Slope communities. The emphasis is on safe practice, technical skill development, and progressively more demanding work.

Small Engines

Students develop foundational mechanical skills through instruction in engine components, maintenance, troubleshooting, tool identification, and safe equipment operation. Snowmachines, generators, and other small-engine equipment support transportation, subsistence activities, and daily community operations across the North Slope.

The program introduces pathways in mechanical maintenance, equipment repair, and related technical occupations while building skills that students can also use within their families and communities.



Small Engines intensive: students learn equipment maintenance and mechanical skills.

Construction Trades I and II

The multi-phase Tiny Home Project builds on previous construction instruction, including completion of a student-built 10-foot by 10-foot shed. Students gain experience with construction materials, measurements, framing, tools, safety procedures, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Participating in multiple construction phases helps students understand how individual skills contribute to a complete project. The progression from a shed to a tiny home provides a more challenging, authentic learning experience that requires planning, accountability, and collaboration.

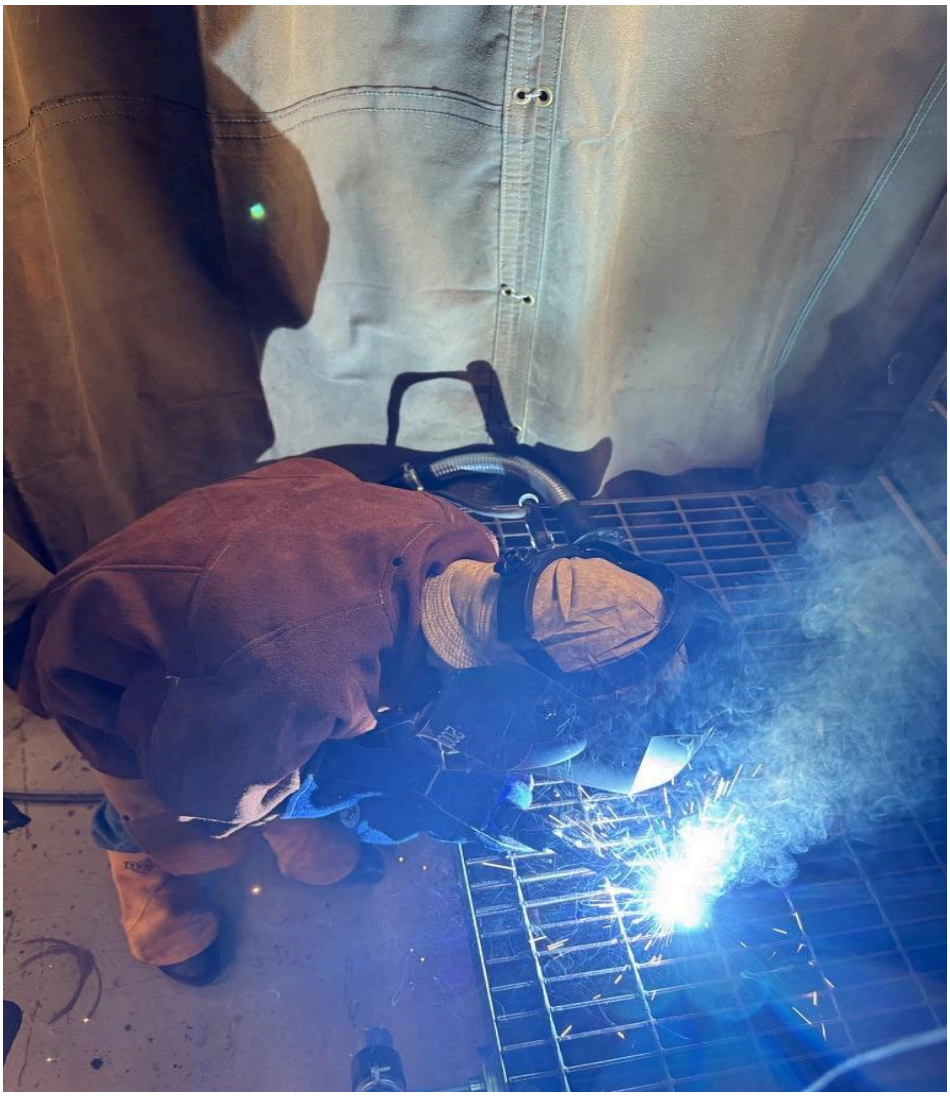


Students and instructors with the ongoing Tiny Home Project.

Welding Intensive

Students learn welding shop safety, the proper use of personal protective equipment, equipment operation, basic welding processes, and introductory metal fabrication. These skills introduce occupations in construction, industrial maintenance, fabrication, and other trades that support North Slope industries.

Three welding students were offered summer employment opportunities. These offers show how technical instruction can connect students with potential workforce experience beyond the classroom.



Welding intensive: hands-on technical training and safe equipment practices.

Media health and emergency response

The intensive model also introduces students to technical communication, healthcare, behavioral health, and emergency response. These pathways connect student interests with services and skills relevant to rural Alaska.

Audio Photography and Video Production

Students explore digital media, audio production, photography, video production, and technical communication. Instruction introduces careers in communications, technology, media production, and digital content development. It also offers opportunities to use storytelling and technology to document and preserve Iñupiat culture, traditions, and community knowledge.



Students collaborate during a hands-on learning activity.

Introduction to Healthcare

Students explore healthcare terminology, patient care concepts, professional responsibilities, workplace safety, communication, and teamwork. The program introduces educational and training pathways that can lead to careers serving students' own communities.

Four healthcare students were invited to participate in the HOSA conference in Anchorage, with participation funded through a HOSA grant. The experience provided exposure to healthcare careers, leadership development, and peers with similar professional interests.



Students explore career-connected skills through hands-on instruction.

Introduction to Behavioral Health

Students explore mental wellness, communication, professional ethics, community support services, and the responsibilities of behavioral health professionals. This introduction connects students with career pathways that address healthcare and wellness needs in rural Alaska. Developing local capacity can help strengthen access to community-based support and care.

Emergency Trauma Technician

The Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) Intensive introduces emergency scene safety, patient assessment, basic emergency care, injury response, and the responsibilities of emergency medical services. These skills are especially

relevant where distance, weather, and transportation limitations affect access to emergency care. Students can explore further training in emergency medical services, healthcare, and public safety.

Student outcomes and workforce connections

Recent CTE programming has produced outcomes in student demand, college credit, credentials, career exposure, and connections to employment. Together, these measures show how technical learning can create opportunities beyond participation in an individual course.

Outcome	Result	Context
Student applications	64	Fall 2026 intensive; previous record of 32 applications
Application growth	100%	Increase over the previous single-intensive high
College credits	52	Credits earned through CTE-related learning opportunities
OSHA 10 certifications	10	Certifications earned by students
First Aid CPR AED certifications	12	Certifications earned by students
Forklift and Heavy Equipment Operations	12	Credentials earned by students
HOSA conference participation	4 students	Grant-supported healthcare conference experience in Anchorage
Summer employment offers	3 students	Opportunities offered to welding participants
Construction progression	10 × 10 ft shed	Completed student-built shed; Tiny Home Project continuing

Applications are distinct from enrollment and completion. College credits are an aggregate credit total, and employment offers are distinct from confirmed employment. Credential totals should not be added together as a count of unique students.

Strengthening outcome tracking

The District intends to strengthen tracking of program completion, technical competencies, credentials, employment opportunities, and progression into additional training. Consistent tracking will help demonstrate the long-term educational and workforce value of the QLC.

Student development and workforce pathways

Benefits beyond technical instruction

QLC programming helps students develop independence, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. For many participants, an intensive also involves traveling outside their home community, living alongside peers from other North Slope villages, and taking part in structured residential and instructional programming.

These experiences strengthen relationships across the region and help students build confidence as they prepare for further education and employment. Practical skills in small-engine maintenance, construction, healthcare, and welding can benefit students' families and communities as well as support future careers.

Meaningful CTE programming connects student interests with regional opportunities while recognizing the importance of Iñupiat culture, community relationships, and local workforce needs.

A more connected training model

NSBSD's vision is to continue developing the QLC as a regional center of excellence for CTE. The District aims to connect middle and high school career exploration with advanced technical instruction, industry-recognized credentials, apprenticeships, postsecondary education, and employment.

This direction supports the need for local capacity in construction, maintenance, mechanical trades, healthcare, emergency response, technology, and other skilled occupations. The welding employment offers and the healthcare students' HOSA experience illustrate how initial instruction can lead to additional opportunities.

Priorities for coordinated partnerships

- Expand access to specialized instructors, equipment, and industry expertise.
- Align training opportunities with local and regional workforce priorities.
- Develop mentorship, job shadowing, internships, and work-based learning.
- Clarify pathways into apprenticeships, postsecondary education, and employment.
- Support North Slope students' participation in the region's economic future.

ASRC investment and continued partnership

ASRC's investment in the Qatqiñ̃iaġvik Learning Center provides a foundation for regional educational access. The District recognizes this commitment to North Slope youth and values the opportunity to translate it into technical skills, credentials, career exploration, and connections to employment.

Building on the existing facility

Growth in applications, the range of technical programming, college credit opportunities, credentials, and workforce connections demonstrate the value of maintaining a regional learning facility. The QLC allows the District to bring students together for specialized instruction while supporting their accommodation needs.

As student participation increases and programs become more technically advanced, demand for instructional resources, equipment, materials, transportation, and industry partnerships will also grow. These needs create an opportunity for ASRC, the North Slope Borough, and NSBSD to coordinate support around the existing facility and its educational purpose.

Opportunities for continued collaboration

A coordinated approach could allow the District to serve more students, broaden technical offerings, strengthen connections to local employment, and maximize the educational value of the QLC. Collaboration with employers, training organizations, and postsecondary institutions can help students see a clearer route from school-based learning into further training and work.

The shared long-term goal is a skilled, confident, locally rooted workforce prepared to contribute to the North Slope's future.

Closing perspective

The QLC's success should be assessed through both facility use and the opportunities it creates. A student who gains a technical skill, earns a credential, completes a construction project, discovers a career interest, attends a professional conference, or receives an employment offer demonstrates the practical value of this investment.

The continued development of CTE programming reflects the work of students, instructors, school staff, community partners, and industry representatives. NSBSD sincerely appreciates ASRC's investment and looks forward to strengthening the partnership among ASRC, the North Slope Borough, and the District to prepare students for meaningful careers and support the long-term success of North Slope communities.

Student Learning and Cultural Engagement

Additional photographs highlight cultural learning, creativity, and hands-on participation alongside the technical pathways documented in this report.



Students engage in cultural learning through traditional drumming.



Students practice hands-on skills during a group learning activity.



Students display their completed creative projects.



Student-created carved and decorated masks.



Students participate in a cultural group activity featuring drumming and movement.