NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak
PO Box 51 · Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 · Phone (907) 442-1800

## FY27 State Legislative Priorities

Goal: to ensure every student can succeed academically, culturally, and personally.

**A.** Prepare, attract, and retain teachers, administrators and district staff
1. Grow our own teachers and administrators
2. Support a defined benefits Retirement plan
3. Invest in teacher housing construction and maintenance

**B.** Language and Culture - Targeted funding
1. Language revitalization.
2. Integration of Culture into Curriculum

**C.** Wellness Programs
1. Healthy relationships
2. Personal Wellbeing

**D.** Sustainable Investment in Education
1. Timely, Reliable, and Predictable revenue that keeps pace with inflation
2. School Construction and Major Maintenance Needs
   - Deering Replacement School Funding
3. Food Service
4. Career & Technical Education (CTE)
   - Aligns with regional economic opportunities
   - Supports local pathways to careers
   - Fund CTE positions in rural schools

## FY27 Federal Legislative Priorities

A. Impact Aide
B. USDA Food Program
C. ERATE

2026

# NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

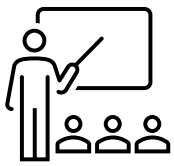
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# LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & PRIORITIES

1. Funding to support Deering new school construction and major maintenance needs to address the age of buildings.
2. Funding to increase the BSA allocation and account for inflation annually.
3. Funding for culture-based curriculum, including language immersion.
4. State-based initiatives to prepare, attract, increase, and retain teachers, administrators, and District staff with an emphasis on:
    - Teacher Housing
    - Defined Benefits
    - Grow-Your-Own
    - J1/H1B Visa
5. State based initiatives and funding to support student wellness, mental and emotional health.
6. NANA received federal funding for fiber optics in all villages - currently in progress.

Joint Priorities between the
North Slope Borough School District and Northwest Arctic Borough School District

| | |
|---|---|
|  **Capital Budget: Major Maintenance** | NSBSD: Funding to support the rebuild of the Harold Kaveolook School in Kaktovik.<br>NWABSD: Funding to support Deering new school construction and major maintenance needs to address the age of buildings. |
|  **Operating Budget: Base Student Allocation (BSA)** | Funding to increase the BSA allocation and account for inflation annually. |
|  **Language Immersion** | Funding for culture-based curriculum, including language immersion |
|  **Recruitment & Retention** | State-based initiatives to prepare, attract, increase, and retain teachers, administrators, and District staff with an emphasis on:<br>● Teacher Housing<br>● Defined Benefits<br>● Grow-Your-Own<br>● J1/H1B Visas |
|  **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health** | State based initiatives and funding to support student wellness, mental and emotional health. |
|  **Broadband** | NSBSD: Improved broadband infrastructure to all North Slope villages<br>NWABSD: NANA received federal funding for fiber optics in all villages - currently in progress. |

North Slope Borough School District and Northwest Arctic Borough School District support the following bills

- HB105, SB41, and SB90 in relation to mental health curriculum in public schools and treatment for minor's mental health;
- HB78, HB231, and SB28 in relation to retention of quality teachers, retirement systems, and defined benefits;
- HB152, an education tax; and,
- SB210 in relation to language recognizing Indigenous cultures in public education.

## NSBSD - Our return on investment requires sustainable and adequate funding from the State

- The North Slope Borough School District has outperformed the State percent change for movement of students on the AKSTAR test in Grades 3-9 from "Needs Support" to "Approaching Proficient," as well as moving students from "Approaching Proficient" to "Proficient" in literacy. Our greatest leap toward proficiency was in grade 3, with over 20% less students in the "Needs Support" category over 3 years.
    - This was achieved in part through adherence to the Reads Act, and the addition of essential interventionist positions at 11 sites.
    - We are also seeing a similar trend in our early literacy screener, with a change in the number of students benchmarking at a proficient level increasing by ~5% a year.
- To support employment and career pathways, NSBSD fully funds multiple intensive trade pathways in welding, construction, and health
- To support student social and emotional wellbeing, NSBSD fully funds social worker and wellbeing support positions and partners with NSB Health for clinical support.
- To support a culturally responsive learning environment, NSBSD fully funds an Iñupiaq immersion program K3- 1
- To support a focus on high quality instruction, NSBSD is utilizing a Murkowski appropriation and RUS grant funds to overhaul five regional government and history courses.

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- To support a culture-based education, the NWABSD fully funds a PreK Iñupiaq language immersion pilot program and the development of a high school place-based science curriculum.
- To support a grow-your-own initiative, NWABSD provides tuition assistance, stipends, and scholarships to reduce barriers for community members and district employees seeking a teaching certificate.
- NWABSD supports the expansion of early, structured career pathways for youth from middle school through the postsecondary transition.
- Through AHFC grant awards, NWABSD has constructed seven teacher housing units over the last three years and will complete four more next year, along with remodeling five additional units.
- Through a Federal Grant, NWABSD supports training and practice for counselors, signed partnerships with our local Health Organization to receive counseling services through Behavioral Health, implemented a Harm to Self and Others protocol and training with principals and counselors
- To support trauma-informed practices, NWABSD trains three to four staff members to obtain a trainer certification to train all staff.
- In partnership with DOT and DEED, NWABSD secured funds to begin a gravel stockpile for the Deering new school project, currently ranked #2 in DEED's New School Construction. With the new evacuation road scheduled to begin next summer, we can leverage the contractor to stockpile gravel while their equipment is in Deering.

## NWABSD - To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future requires sustainable and adequate funding from the state.

2026

# NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Anaktuvuk Pass • Atqasuk • Kaktovik • Nuiqsut • Point Lay • Tikiġaq • Ulġuniq • Utqiaġvik
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# LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & PRIORITIES




1. $33M to support Phase II of the Harold Kaveolook School classroom rebuild that burned down in Kaktovik of 2020

2. Funding to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) allocation and account for inflation annually

3. Funding for culture-based curriculum, including language immersion

4. State-based initiatives to prepare, attract, increase, and retain teachers, administrators, and District staff with an emphasis:
    - Teaching Housing
    - Defined Benefits
    - Grow-Your-Own
    - J1/H1B Visas

5. State based initiatives and funding to support student wellness, mental and emotional health

6. Improved broadband infrastructure to all North Slope villages