

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: August 30, 2023

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report

ATTENDANCE:

The district's attendance rate for the first day of school ranged from 88% to a high 95%. Students are still registering and scheduled so the attendance will fluctuate. Students are very happy to be back to school!

Classes began on time at all schools except for the Kisimgiugtuq in Kivalina. We anticipate start up for them next week Monday.

The definition of chronic absenteeism is missing two or more days of school a month (18 days a year)

FY 23 Data

- 2026 students enrolled for one or more days.
- 1451 were absent (both excused/unexcused) for 18 days or more.
- 384 students were absent 50 or more days.
- 47 students were absent 100 or more days.

This year, we will focus on increasing attendance. Here are our goals:

- Our first step is to attend a virtual conference, *Virtual Learning: "Overcoming Data Challenges to Address Chronic Absenteeism,"* to learn.
- Create a committee to increase attendance and decrease chronic absenteeism, focusing on providing parents with information about the importance of all students being in school.
- As the committee decides on other focus areas, we will plan.

ENROLLMENT: Current enrollment

K-12's current enrollment is 1826.

PreK – 12 enrollment is 1879.

In-service

The staff had a great time at in-service connecting with new staff and rekindling old relationships. A few board members attended the first full day of Safe and Civil Schools training with all staff. We appreciate all who attended.

One area of improvement is to be vendor neutral. We will work to provide all new and returning staff with a list of all vendors and stores in Kotzebue, so it is their choice of where they will purchase items.

We also need to look at our in-service schedule. We just had 2.5 weeks of in-service. This was especially hard on the new principals and teachers, let alone our staff here at the district office, who did the planning. We will look at spreading the in-service out next year so new principals and staff have time to digest the information before being given more information.

Terri Walker,
Superintendent