Iñupiaq Education Department

Director Qaġġuna Tenna Pili



- Uqautiluŋa Iñupiatun Immersion Program Year 2 & Plans for Year 3
 - Operating K3/K4 and Kindergarten classrooms at Ipalook Elementary School
 - Mapping Iñupiaq literacy plan & building plans for Grade 1 classroom opening
 - Waitlist large enough to open another classroom (barrier: hiring of more fluent teachers for another classroom)
 - Standards based curriculum development
 - Partner with State on development of Iñupiaq Language Literacy Screeners and Alaska Native Language Standards





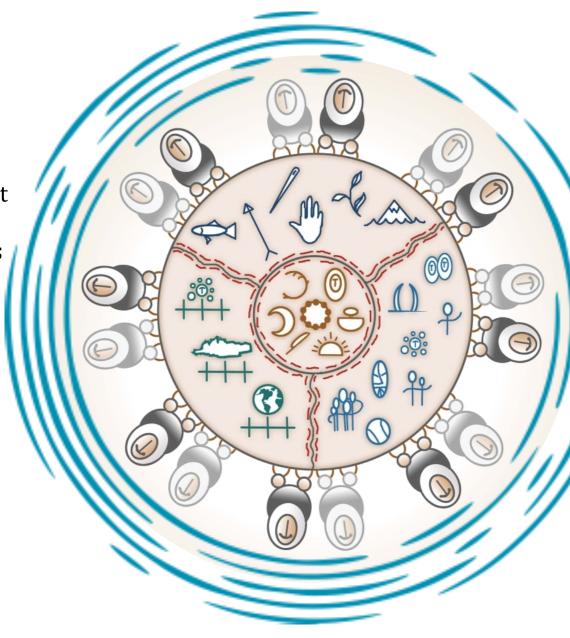


• Iñupiaq Language Program

- Scope & Sequence with Aligned Curriculum, Materials and Resources
- IVALU (Iñupiaq Vocabulary Acquisition and Assessment Language Units)
- Iñupiaq Language Textbook & Card Games publications
- Compulsory Iñupiaq Language requirements in secondary education

Iñupiaq Learning Framework Book completion

- Formation of ILF started in 2006
- Adopted by Board of Education in 2008
- Based on work done by the Apqusiuqtit Iliniagnikun
- Local set of standards from the Iñupiaq worldview
- Philosophy and Framework as the foundation in which we conduct operations at the NSBSD







- Local Science, Social Studies, & Iñupiaq Language courses
 - Repair, Rebuild, Revitalize Grant Initiatives to expand and grow North Slope Science, North Slope History & Culture, North Slope Government courses in three modalities
 - Build new courses Iñupiaq Grammar and Conversational Iñupiaq
- Elementary Governance Unit Development
 - Focus to ensure students are receiving local history, governance, and social studies starting in K3/K4
- Early Reader Series
 - Iñupiaq & English story books and informational texts for students K-Grade 3
 - Next steps after publication: audio/digital books







- Ilisaurriguqta Program
 - Recruitment push for spring 2025 enrollment
 - NSBSD offered stipend for spring 2025 enrollees
- Iñupiaq Fine Arts Program
 - All sites have had an intensive implemented, and will do another round in the spring
 - Evenings have focused on community programming
 - Plans for continuation in SY25-26
- Creation of Digital Iñupiaq "Bookshelf"
 - All sites have had an intensive implemented, and will do another round in the spring







- Iñupiaq Mentor-Apprentice Program
 - Partnership with IHLC, funded through NPR-A Grant
 - Full time manager hired to oversee and facilitate the implementation of the program
 - Focus: opportunities for highly motivated teachers, staff, parents, and adult learners to increase fluency to ensure we can continue progressing in language teaching acquisition
 - Support NSBSD Mission & Strategic Plan





CHALLENGES

Staffing

- filling all of our language teacher vacancies
- increasing staffing and capacity within the department to support district-wide initiatives
- Coverage to sites/immersion program

• Language Proficiency of Program Staff

- Mentor-Apprentice Program focus to support language progression of staff
- More support/time of language teaching staff to focus on personal language progression (note: Challenge/need to support goal to graduate bilingual students – dual language model, K3-12 mandatory language pullout, growth of immersion program, etc.)







PRIORITIES OF FOCUS

- Increasing language proficiency of our program staff Iñupialgusisa! (Let us become really good Iñupiaq speakers!) – Iñupiaq Mentor-Apprentice Program
 - We need to increase the proficiency of our teaching staff to continue supporting student learning and language progression which leads to bilingual status
- Filling Vacancies for K3—12 Language Teaching Positions
 - In addition to increasing language proficiency of staff, we need to fill all vacancies to support K3-12 language programming at all sites







PRIORITIES OF FOCUS

- Uqautiluŋa Iñupiatun Immersion Classrooms in Villages
 - 2-3 Staff per Classroom
 - Additional program staff support
 - Community/Parent/Fluent Speaker support
- Family & Community Partnerships
 - Enhancing community-led cultural inservices and implementation of Classrooms on the Nuna at 1-2 additional sites in SY25-26





PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

Time Release of NSB Staff

 NSB is a major employer in which employees can support Iñupiaq language initiatives through time release

• Time Release from Private Sector Staff

- Collectively, all North Slope organizations are working towards the same goals.
- Working collaboratively towards achieving these goals is what we need to explore.





