

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: June 7, 2023

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Curriculum & Instruction

Dana Orton, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reports on the following:

Strategic Goal 2: Instructional Supports

Objective 1: Evaluation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

a. Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

- a. The district-level team receives training and support through the Alaska MTSS Refresh project. The project hopes to enhance the current district MTSS system and support teachers through renewed professional development efforts involving identifying and intervention efforts for students.
- b. The team met with the state consultant on March 28, April 27, and May 11 to align priorities and develop an MTSS plan to be turned into DEED by September.
- c. The district-level team is creating a workflow for the MTSS process and incorporating state-created tracking paperwork into the Embrace data management system for MTSS.
- d. 2022-2023 MTSS End of Year
 - i. 69 total interventions for 53 students
 - ii. Tier II interventions (small group)
 1. 53 students receiving at least one intervention
 2. Interventions K-3rd – 19
 3. Interventions 4th-12th – 31
 - iii. Tier III interventions (individualized)
 1. 15 students receiving at least one intervention
 2. Interventions K-3rd – 6
 3. Interventions 4th-12th – 10
- e. Students will receive support in the fall based on previous progress/tier and data collected by the current classroom teacher. Parents will be notified if a student enters or exits Tier II or Tier III.

b. Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)

- a. End of Year Benchmarking was completed in May.
- b. K-5 teachers and aides will be trained on mClass (the new DIBELS platform) in late August and early September.
- c. The Beginning of the Year Benchmark will occur mid to late September 19-29, 2023, with Parent/Teacher Conferences to follow on October 9, 2023.

- c. **Staff Development Specialist** –Provide in-person and virtual training on the curriculum and ed-tech integrations.
 - a. **Training**
 - i. Attended the April Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Northwest Conference with selected Ambler staff.
 - ii. Will provide training during New Teacher and Fall Inservice for staff.
 - iii. Site travel will begin again in August.

- d. **Literacy Grant** - Literacy Specialists provide in-person and virtual training and parent/community engagement.
 - a. **Training**
 - i. Attended the Alaska Science of Reading Symposium in April.
 - ii. Received training on Coaching ECRI in April.
 - iii. Will provide training during New Teacher and Fall Inservice for staff.
 - iv. Site travel will begin again in August.

Strategic Goal 2: Instructional Supports

Objective 2: Safe and Civil Schools Refresh

- a. **Safe and Civil Conference** - Approximately 45 staff members will attend the Safe and Civil Conference from July 16 – 20, 2023.
- b. **Safe and Civil Training**
 - a. The Safe and Civil consultant will work with all instructional staff in Kotzebue on August 16-17, 2023.
 - b. Safe & Civil Schools will do additional in-person site support on August 28 – September 1, 2023, October 23-27, 2023, and November 27 – December 1, 2023.

Other Curriculum Information:

a. Inupiaq Science Curriculum Project:

- i. The Project Development Committee was seated and met for the first time on March 29-30, 2023, to review the first third of the course, provide resources and ideas, and give feedback. The committee had a follow-up virtual meeting on April 24, 2023.
- ii. Inupiaq Instructors met with the Staff development specialist on May 1, 2023, to provide additional feedback and language support.
- iii. Additional science safety supplies were ordered and shipped to all sites to support the science curriculum.
- iv. Physical Earth Science will be piloted in Shungnak, Buckland, and Kotzebue High School beginning in the fall.

b. Home School Enrollment:

- i. 43 full-time home school students currently enrolled
 - a. Elementary - 8
 - b. Middle School – 5
 - c. High School – 30
 - d. Villages - WTK, OTZ, BKC, WLK, ORV, OBU, ABL
- ii. 8 graduates in the 2022-2023 school year
- iii. No applications are being processed for enrollment currently.
- iv. Approximately 41 high school students participated in Credit Recovery during Summer School.

c. Pre-Kindergarten Programs

- i. Nine sites had PreK classes offered during 2023. District-wide enrollment is approximately 72 students.
- ii. Registration for 2023-2024 PreK enrollment is open.
- iii. Applied for the DEED competitive PreK grant and will apply for the .5 ADM due in August.

d. Inupiaq Program

- i. **Language and culture** - Inupiaq instructors work on a scope and sequence, grade-level assessments, and story development during their meeting times on Mondays.
- ii. **Professional Development** – Instructors met for their Spring training on April 17-21, 2023. They continued to receive immersion training each Monday through May 8.
- iii. **Inupiaq Science Curriculum** - Inupiaq Instructors met with the Staff development specialist on May 1, 2023, to provide additional feedback and language support.

e. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program

- i. **Courses Offerings** – Courses are being evaluated and added as needed.
 - a. Education – Revising a course offering and exploring expanding the program with additional offerings starting in Fall 2023.
 - b. Positions – CTE teaching positions are posted for Ambler and Kivalina.
 - c. The Assistant Director of Curriculum will coordinate the CTE programs starting Fall of 2023.

f. Curriculum Review & Purchase Cycle

Curriculum Area	Curriculum Review	Purchase Textbooks & Materials	Implementation
Inupiaq Physical Science, Biology, and Environmental Science	2020-2025	Spring 2022-25 (Development)	2023-2026
Math	2023-2024	Spring 2024	2024-2025
Social Studies/Health	2025-2026	Spring 2026	2026-2027
Science K-8, HS Physics & Chemistry	2025-2026	Spring 2026	2026-2027
English Language Arts 7-12	2029-2030	Spring 2029	2030-2031
English Language Arts K-6	2029-2030	Spring 2029	2030-2031

Supplemental resources are reviewed and purchased as needed.

g. Help Ticket System - February 24 – May 12

- i. Materials Request and curriculum platform issues
 - a. 16 Resolved tickets
 - b. 23 moved forward to other departments
 - c. 1 Open or pending

h. Projects and Partnerships:

- i. Cancer Awareness
- ii. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Teaching in Rural Areas using Cultural Knowledge Systems
- iii. ACEP Energy Education
- iv. BWISE – Businesses Working in School Environment
- v. National Park Service
- vi. Alaska Fish and Wildlife
- vii. **ANSEP Acceleration Academy**
- viii. Diesel-Free Heating Project
- ix. The University of Alaska Fairbanks (Chukchi Campus)
- x. Culture Connections Collaboration (UAF Science)