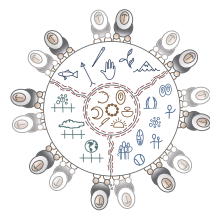




(Above) Eben Hopson Middle School 8th Grade Sea Ice Trip  
(Front page) Atqasuk Students Walter Kippi, Aqutaaq Rex Bodfish Jr. and Dallas Panik-Bordeaux during the weeklong Miṛuaqtuḡvik Nunami (classroom on the nuna) to start the school year.

# Nunaqatiivut Savaqatigigivut: Working with our Communities



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
829 Aivik St. Utqiaḡvik, AK 99723  
[www.nsbds.org/en-US](http://www.nsbds.org/en-US)



## Annual Report

North Slope Borough School District  
School Year 23/24



# Board of Education School Year 23/24



**Robyn Burke**  
*President*



**Frieda Nageak**  
*Clerk*



**Charles Brower**



**Nora Jane Burns**



**Frieda Moore**



**John Hopson Jr.**



**Nancy Rock**



**Magdalena Stringer**  
*Student Representative*

## NSBSD Mission Statement

Students who are empowered, culturally rooted, bilingual, healthy, critical, creative, life-long learners.

## Manjuqput – Our Foundation

Iñuk una qauriñianiñ nukatpianjuñinjanun naagga niviaqsianjuñinjanun ilisimmatiniguuruq ilisausiamiñin naipiqtuñinjanillu aasii tavra isumalaalgusivluni sulii ilsimmaagiksivluni tainnamik aasii kisuutilaani pautagivlugu iñuguqhuni iñulluatauvluni.

*This is a powerful statement in Iñupiaq and a very difficult one to translate into English. An interpretive, rather than a literal, translation might read as follows:*

The North Slope Borough School District is committed to embedding, through our curriculum and teaching practices, traditional Iñupiaq ways of raising and educating children. This principle, called Iñuguqsifiq, guides our work with the children and communities of the North Slope. We share in the responsibility to support our students' development as iñulluatat – good human beings - able to navigate successfully in today's world.

We honor and recognize the unique process of learning that is deeply tied to the land, culture, language, and knowledge of the Iñupiat. This approach, that engages the Iñupiaq worldview, respects how children learn as they become aware of their surroundings and expand their knowledge into adulthood.

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## Message from Board President Robyn Niayuq Burke & Superintendent David Anjik Vadiveloo

Qutchigigikput savakkumiñaqapta nunaniññi lñupiat.  
Qiksiksrautikput qaitkikput utuqqanaaguruanun panami, sivuani, utuqqanaagugumaaqtuanullu.  
Quyanaagivut nunaqatigiit qaunakkutiqaqtinmatigut ilisañnianinjisigun qitunñanisa.

We are honored to work and live on the sovereign lands of the lñupiaq people.  
We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.  
We thank the community for entrusting us as partners in the education and growth of their children.

## Paglagivsi ljavut!

The learning journey of our students takes place in homes, schools, on the tundra and on the ice. In such a culturally rich environment it's crucial that as a school district we are able to respond quickly and in a culturally appropriate manner to the learning needs of all our students. By listening and working together with families, students, and our North Slope partners, we place ourselves in the best possible position to support our students, whether they seek vocational, subsistence, or academic pathways.

Our School Board and our Administration are focused on ensuring that NSBSD staff members, across all sites, hold high expectations for all students, creating a stable educational environment. Since we live

and work on lñupiat lands and waters, we want to empower our students by integrating the culture into our academic program. But make no mistake, we are not teaching culture - we are simply doing what the best educational systems do worldwide - we are anchoring our academic program into the culture in which it lives.

Between April 2022 and June 2023, the Administration spent fifteen months visiting and listening to all our North Slope communities. The focus of this Nunaqatiivut Naalañnigivut initiative, visiting and listening to was to consult, repair, rebuild and begin the process of an academic transformation in K-12 education on the North Slope.

After listening carefully to our communities we spent the period from July 2023 to June 2024 focused on the theme of this year's report—Nunaqatiivut Savaqatigigivut, Working Together with Our Communities.

Over this past year our administration and Board have brought families, community stakeholders and partnering organizations into our planning process and into our schools. This has resulted in important and exciting changes to the way we operate and deliver education. Some highlights are below and you can read more details of these exciting developments in the body of this report:

- **Increased Student Attendance:** Thanks to a renewed focus on student attendance and commitment from our families and communities there was a 2% increase in attendance—from 74% to 76% districtwide in School Year 23/24.
- **Supporting Community Expectations:** Families, students, teachers, SAC members and school administrators Slope-wide worked collaboratively to deliver Community School Expectation Agreements (CSEA's) containing behavioral and academic expectations for every school on the North Slope.
- **Uqautiluna lñupiatun, Speak to Me in lñupiaq:** Supported by the expert guidance of Elders, lñupiat educators, language experts, parents and committed staff members, the first year K3/4 class of our new lñupiaq Immersion Program successfully launched at Ipalook Elementary School. The program is available to all villages based on availability of language speakers.
- **Literacy Intervention Pilot:** To address the learning loss caused by COVID, the District piloted reading interventionists at a number of village sites to find the areas where students have academic gaps and get them caught up to grade level. After one year, the resulting academic growth for students, presented to the Board in December 2023, was so strong that the Board have made the intervention pilot a districtwide program for School Year 24/25.

- **Student Wellbeing:** Recognizing the need to support the whole student, our District worked closely with the North Slope Borough and with Nunaaqiurat Tumitchianjit to find more support for students. This includes a new working group on Student Wellbeing, an MOA with the NSB for health workers in schools and a joint resolution with Iñisañvik College to focus on student well-being.
- **First District-Wide Student Council and AASG Conference:** The first district-wide representative voice for students was launched in School Year 23/24 when student delegates from across the Slope joined over 200 delegates from other Alaskan schools to attend the Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG) Conference, hosted in Utqiañvik for the first time in over 20 years.
- **Budget Hearings Involving II School Advisory Councils (SAC's):** For the second year running the Administration invited SAC Presidents to participate in the budget hearing process along with site Principals to ensure the SAC advisory voice is included in budget planning.
- **Qatqiññañvik Learning Center:** In its first year of full operation, the new Qatqiññañvik Learning Center (QLC) in Utqiañvik saw the participation of over 300 students from across the district, offering trainings not available in individual village schools. The QLC program is focused on career exploration and on bringing more Vocational Education opportunities to the villages.
- **Tumitchiat Sivunmun, New Pathways to the Future:** Tumitchiat Sivunmun plans will be created through parent/guardian and student collaboration and tailored to support student learning growth and career goals. By the end of School Year 25/26 every student, from Kindergarten through 12th grade, will have the beginnings of a TS Plan that will travel with them throughout their schooling.





*“We want to empower our students by integrating the culture into our academic program. But make no mistake, we are not teaching culture—we are simply doing what the best educational systems do worldwide—we are anchoring our academic program into the culture in which it lives.”*

- **Ilisaurriḡuqta! Let’s be Teachers!:** The Ilisaurriḡuqta initiative is NSBSD’s targeted program to encourage more local teachers in our schools. Through this initiative, a number of paraprofessionals have joined certificated teacher pathways through our partnerships with Iḷisaḡvik College, UAF, Arctic Slope Community Foundation and UAA.

**Charting Our Future:** At the December 2023 Board of Education retreat in Anchorage, School Board members finalized a new NSBSD Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. Anchored by the District’s new Maḡḡuqput foundation statement—on the front page of this report—the Board framed a clear and accountable five-year plan for the Administration.

**The four critical focus areas of the Strategic Plan adopted by the Board in August 2024 are:**

1. Literacy and mathematics interventions.
2. Iḷupiaq Immersion classrooms in all schools and Iḷupiaq language instruction pre-K through 12.
3. Enhanced vocational education and CTE pathways.
4. Increased supports for the social emotional wellbeing of students.

To our community, our families and our stakeholder organizational partners we thank you for your support as we continue to repair, rebuild and revitalize. With the clear direction provided by the Board of Education and a renewed engagement with our communities, families and students, it’s an exciting time to be part of the North Slope Borough School District.

With our community coming back into our schools we will continue to focus on growth and high expectations for all, both students and staff. We are honored to live and work on these lands and waters and be trusted to strengthen and support the educational journey of our students.

Quyanaqqak,

Robyn Niayuq Burke

David Anjik Vadiveloo

## Our Strategic Plan

Between December 2023 and August 2024, the Board of Education and Administration undertook an extensive review, development and drafting of the new NSBSD Strategic Plan, 2025-2029.

This process continued our comprehensive overhaul of District operations and strategic direction as the Board and Administration remain focused on repairing, rebuilding and revitalizing our District.

The new plan is built on our Maḡḡuqput, our foundation and purpose, and framed in the Iḷupiaq values which guide our behavior. It includes District goals with strategic priorities embedded in each goal. It also includes annual initiatives and ongoing measurement to ensure accountability. It includes a Pedagogy plan to guide the way in which we teach. And, most importantly, it was designed, first and foremost, for our students.

The new plan will:

- Promote community ownership by being explicit and transparent,
- Be fully integrated into our educational program.
- Guide decisions within a clear framework.
- Be embedded into District policy to maintain progress regardless of leadership changes
- Provide accountability through measurement metrics and tracking.

Emerging from the plan is a series of milestones and outcomes, the priorities that will guide us year to year.

### Core Strategic Priorities for School Year 24/25:

- Continue to rebuild Harold Kaveolook School in Kaktovik
- Raise attendance districtwide.
- Institute reading and math interventions to improve academic success districtwide.
- Iḷupiaq Immersion education with a focus on culturally responsive instruction
- Career and Technical Education leading to vocational pathways.
- Improve student social and emotional wellbeing.
- Introduce Tumitchiat Sivunmun Plans—individualized K-12 pathways—for every student
- Improve staff recruitment and retention
- Strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders
- Maintain transparency and accountability in all departments.



Marcus Gallagher returns to school—not as a student but as a worker. Gallagher, who graduated from Kaveolook School in 2023, started his first job, working on building Kaktovik’s new school.



Piqpakkutiḡaḡniḡ sulī  
qiksiksrautiḡaḡniḡ  
utuqqananun allanullu

Love and respect for our elders  
and one another

*“One of the things I’ve always valued is to make sure that parents are involved with their children’s education. It was instilled in me from early in life that if you want to be involved, you need to be bringing solutions rather than being a hindrance.”*



# Student Achievements

Throughout the school year, students participated in a variety of activities that enabled student-driven advocacy and leadership, academically challenging opportunities, and the promotion of physical activity. These activities include: Elders and Youth Conference and Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, Youth Advocacy Institute, Youth Leadership Institute, Alaska Association of Student Government

Conference, First Lego League Robotics, Battle of the Books, Band, Choir, Native Youth Olympics, Cross Country Running, Volleyball, Football, Basketball, and Wrestling.

## REWARDING STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Attendance is one of our top priorities for good reason. In order for a student to learn they need to be at school. When attendance is low, learning is low. When

a student misses a lot of school over time, the gaps in the student's learning become harder and harder to fill, which in turn makes it harder and harder for the student to learn.

*"In order for students to learn, they need to be at school. When attendance is low, learning is low. When a student misses a lot of school over time, the gaps in the student's learning become harder and harder to fill."*



Paammaagiigñiq  
Cooperation

Barrow High School student council planning for the 2024 Spring AASG Conference

## DISTRICT-WIDE STUDENT COUNCIL (DWSC)

The North Slope Borough School District continues to be extremely proud of the formation of the first-ever Districtwide Student Council (DWSC) which was appointed in School Year 23/24. The student council established a list of district-wide goals and represented our schools locally and at statewide events. Representatives and members of the DWSC attended the following:

- A regional Board meeting
- A 3-day workshop in Utqiaġvik
- The Legislative Fly-in and Youth Leadership Institute in Juneau
- The Alaska Association of Student Government Conference in Utqiaġvik.
- The Arctic Education Foundation's Future Leaders Program in Utqiaġvik

We are proud to announce that Austin Bennett, Nuiqsut Trapper School, Frances Itta, Meade River School, Margie Dirks, Tikiġaq School, and Magdalena Stringer, Barrow High School graduated and will be continuing their lifelong journeys outside of NSBSD. We cannot thank them enough for their courage and the pride they shared as DWSC representatives.

## ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT (AASG)

In January 2024, an unprecedented number of student delegates from across the state made their way to the Utqiaġvik, spending four days immersed in leadership spaces, debating and discussing their current and future roles in our State and region. 30 NSBSD students from seven of our schools participated in the Conference which was intentionally

focused on amplifying rural voices with the theme Tapurriñiq Allangjuutauruq, Inclusion Ignites Change.

Students attended from Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, Bering Strait, Bethel, Alaska Gateway and many other districts. This conference was a powerful platform for sharing their voices and demonstrating the leadership strength of the region.

Feedback from Districts and schools was overwhelmingly positive with many commenting about the rich cultural experience and the warmth of the reception they received. Our region won the most spirited region award and Jayden Lampe, a junior from Utqiaġvik was chosen to be the AASG Executive Board Parliamentarian for the 2024-25 school year.

Utqiaġvik freshman Qiġaavsuk Vadivelloo wrote the best Resolution of the Conference and was named Region 1 Delegate of the Conference. Austin Bennett, a senior and District-wide Student Council president from Nuiqsut was recognized for best placard.

NSBSD thanks the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat for recognizing the importance of holding this event on the North Slope. The AASG conference would not have been possible without the generous support from the NSB, ICAS, ASRC, BUECI, Iġsaġvik College, City of Utqiaġvik, City of UIC, Rotary, ConocoPhillips and BP.

## LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN

Each year the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) facilitates a February Legislative Fly-in in Juneau for school districts across the State of Alaska to inform school board members, superintendents, and students about the legislative process, key educational legislative issues and bills. The event includes drafting of priorities for legislators. Our District representatives at the 2023 Fly-in were: Board President Robyn Burke and Superintendent David Vadivelloo.

AASB also hosts a Legislative Youth Advocacy Institute Fly-In for students. This year, the District traveled with five students to this event: Student Representative to the Board Magdalena Stringer,

Barrow High School student Mark Ortilla, Meade River student Frances Itta, Nunamiut School student Jamal Hart, and Tikiġaq School student Margie Dirks.

This group met with State Representatives, Senators, and legislative committees including finance, education and early development, health and social services, tribal affairs, arctic policy, economic development, and community and regional affairs.

## NSBSD presented the Alaska Legislature with 6 funding priorities:

**Priority 1:** \$20M to support Phase II of the rebuild of Harold Kaveolook School

**Priority 2:** BSA (Base Student Allocation) to be increased to reflect inflation

**Priority 3:** Funding for culture-based curriculum, including language immersion

**Priority 4:** State-based initiatives to increase teacher retention

**Priority 5:** Funding support for student mental and emotional health

**Priority 6:** Improved broadband infrastructure for all North Slope villages

North Slope future leaders on the steps of the Capital in Juneau: Standing: Maggie Dirks, Tikiġaq, Frances Itta, Atqasuk, and Magdalena Stringer, Utqiaġvik. Seated: Jamal Hart, Atqasuk and Mark Ortilla, Utqiaġvik. With chaperones Ryann Schedel (left) and Charlie Gifford (right).





## ROBOTICS

From September through December, students in Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Utqiagvik and Wainwright participated in Robotics training, learning basic programming and gathering in Utqiagvik for two events.

**Region Champions:** Robo Wolves, Eben Hopson Middle School

**Core Values Award:** Cyber Huskies, Aġak School

**Robot Game250 Award:** Robo Wolves, Eben Hopson Middle School

**Robot Design Award:** Trapper Bots, Nuiqsut Trapper School

**Coach Award:** Rebecca Wilkerson

**Volunteer of the Year Award:** Kathleen Fisher

The Eben Hopson Middle School team, 'Robo Wolves' went on to compete at the statewide tournament.



North Slope Regional Qualifying Tournament with teams from Aġak School, Harold Kaveolook School, Trapper School, Meade River School, Eben Hopson School, Tikiġaq School, and Nunamiut School

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

All North Slope schools, grades 1-12, participated in the District Battle of the Books to promote reading, the cornerstone of academic education. Below are the schools that represented our District in the Statewide Battle of the Books.

- Aġak School's 3rd-4th Grade team earned 6th place out of 32 schools.

- Fred Ipalook Elementary School's 5th-6th Grade team earned 21st place out of 33 schools.
- Eben Hopson Middle School's team earned 5th place out of 23 schools
- Barrow High School's team earned 11th place out of 19 schools

Quyanaqpak to ASTAC for donating \$15,000 to the Battle of the Books!

## NATIVE YOUTH OLYMPICS

In April 2024, all our high schools participated in the Native Youth Olympics held at the Alaska Airlines Center on the UAA Campus in Anchorage. Students participated in the High Kick, Arm Pull, Eskimo Stick Pull, Indian Stick Pull, One-Hand Reach, One-Foot High Kick, Scissor Broad Jump, Kneel Jump, Seal Hop, Toe Kick, Two-Foot High Kick, and the Wrist Carry.

- The High Five Academic Excellence Award went to Harold Kaveolook School, with a 3.61 cumulative GPA.
- In Eskimo Stick Pull - Girls: 4th Place went to Zadah Unutoa of Barrow.



## Paaġaktautaiññiq

Avoidance of Conflict

Coach Brad Weyiouanna teaches future NYO champions Jerry Bordeaux and Alexis Driggs-Kakinya of Wainwright.



Students from Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Point Lay, Nuiqsut, Wainwright and Barrow High School meet in Utqiagvik for the Whaler Invitational Cross Country Meet.

## CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

The number of cross-country events doubled for participating schools in School Year 23/24. Barrow High School, Aġak School, Meade River School, Kali School, Tikiġaq School, Nuiqsut Trapper School, and Nunamiut School had one meet on-slope and one meet off-slope. Barrow High School also fundraised an additional trip to Anchorage for an early season meet.

1A Regionals were held in Utqiagvik with the top 7 advancing to the State Championships in Palmer:

### Females

- 1st Place:** Jennifer Nash, Tikiġaq School
- 2nd Place:** Tatyana Nashookpuk, Tikiġaq School
- 3rd Place:** Haley Oktollik-Nashookpuk, Tikiġaq School

- 4th Place:** Zereah Henry, Kali School
  - 5th Place:** Amber Neakok, Kali School
  - 6th Place:** Stacey Oktollik, Tikiġaq School
  - 7th Place:** Kasey Rock, Tikiġaq School
- Males**
- 1st Place:** Alexander Galloso, Nunamiut School
  - 2nd Place:** Preston Oktollik, Tikiġaq School
  - 3rd Place:** Justus Mulcahy, Nunamiut School
  - 4th Place:** Harris Henry, Kali School
  - 5th Place:** Spencer Itta, Kali School
  - 6th Place:** Trevor Frankson, Tikiġaq School
  - 7th Place:** Jamal Hart, Nunamiut School

3A Regionals were held in Bethel with the top 8 advancing to the State Championships in Palmer. Barrow high students Kiara Burnell, 12th Grade, placed 6th and Forrest Olemaun, 10th Grade, placed 7th.

## FOOTBALL

Barrow High School Whalers finished the season with a 5-2 record. BHS beat Houston 22-18 to play in the Championship game in Anchorage versus Kenai. Kenai prevailed with a 20-8 win. Barrow finished 2nd in Division III.



Kaktovik's Junior Native Youth Olympics Team



The following players were selected for 1st Team All-State:

**Outside Backers:** Dwight Unutoa

**Tackle:** Norman Lillomaiaava

**Guards:** Uatahouse Tui’fua

**Defensive Backs:** Ethan Goodwin

**Center:** Brewster Fields

**Defensive Lineman:** Uatahouse Tui’fua

**Defensive Lineman:** Norman Lillomaiaava



Barrow Football Star, Uatahouse Tui’fua: Defensive Player and Lineman of the Year. The 2024 National High School Coaches Association awarded Tui’fua the Academic All-American Award for his overall excellence in sport and academics. Uatahouse is the first North Slope Student to receive this award.

The following players were selected for 2nd Team All-State:

**Tight End:** Ethan Goodwin

**Half Backs:** Kennedy Elavgak

**Tackle:** Siieli Tui’fua

**Inside Backer:** Gabriel Ortilla

**Defensive Backs:** Eric Librado

**Full Back:** Gabriel Ortilla

**Defensive Lineman:** Alex Fruean

**Kicker:** Lennox Dias

**Long Snapper:** Lennox Dias

The following players were selected for All-State Honorable Mention:

**Outside Backer:** Kennedy Elavgak

**Half Backs:** Lennox Dias

The following players received Players of the Year:

**Defensive Player:** Uatahouse Tui’fua

**Lineman of the Year:** Uatahouse Tui’fua

Chris Battle received **Coach of the Year**.

## VOLLEYBALL

Tikiq̄aq School moved from 2A to 1A mixed-six. Meade River School hosted the regional tournament with Nunamiut School advancing to the ASAA State Tournament, receiving 4th place of 12th teams. The Barrow High School volleyball team held two on-slope events and participated in four off-slope events. The Regional Tournament, hosted in Nome, winning the Western Conference Regional Championship and received 6th place at the State Championship.



Tikiq̄aq Harpooners place second at the regional volleyball tournament at Meade River School in Atq̄asuk. Front row: Tatyana Nashookpuk, Jennifer Nash, Jerri Kowunna, Harriet Frankson. Back row: Micah Kinneeveauk, Trevor Frankson, Henry Nashookpuk.

## WRESTLING

Barrow High School hosted the annual Bob Harcharek Wrestling Tournament and participated in the regionals held in Nome.

**Girls Individual Results**

**1st Place, 185:** Nataliyah Vasquez-Arey

**1st Place, 235:** Manusiu Muti

**2nd Place, 120:** Leila Sundai

**2nd Place, 126:** Matrona Evans

**2nd Place:** Honey Rexford

**Boys Individual Results**

**1st Place, 215:** Siieli Tuifua

**1st Place, 285:** Uatahouse Tui’fua

**2nd Place, 103:** Manuluk Olemaun

**2nd Place, 140:** Kennedy Elavgak

**2nd Place, 171:** Gabriel Ortilla

**2nd Place:** Norman Lilomaiaava

**4th Place, 152:** Jeiden Caoile

**4th Place:** River Brower

**6th Place, 130:** John Adams

**6th Place:** Harold Curtis

At the State Tournament, senior Manusiu Muti won her second State Championship in a row and had an undefeated season. Senior Uatahouse Tui’fua also went undefeated this season and won his third straight State Championship!

Coach Herman took a team of five students to participate at Nationals in Virginia. Manusia is a High School All-American making the podium.

## BASKETBALL

### 1A

In line with our commitment to equity of opportunity wherever possible for our students, 1A teams had a significant increase in basketball games this year including a number of our 1A teams playing double the games compared to 2023. In addition, at the request of 1A teams, we funded an early season District wide 1A tournament in Utq̄iaḡvik in January. The 1A Ayuktaqta “Let’s Play Ball” Tournament was hosted at HMS and BHS in January 2024. We hope to make this an annual event with Tikiq̄aq JV joining in January 2025.

Kali hosted the 1A regional tournament and prom in late February with the Nunamiut boys and girls team advancing to represent NSBSD at State.

Nunamiut senior Arianna Hart was selected to 2nd team all-state for 1A girls.



Nunamiut School Amaguqs receive the North Slope Conference Basketball Championship award: Rashawn Stone, Kevin Gordon, Xavier Sheldon, Alex Gallaso, Justus Mulchahy, Ethan Stone, Tyler Hugo, William Hugo and George Bifelt.





2A

Tikiġaq School hosted the annual Rex Rock Tournament in late January. Regionals were held in Anchorage and the girls team won the Great Alaska Conference Regional championship, advancing to represent NSBSD at State where they were rewarded with a 2nd place finish.



Tikiġaq girls finished second place in the annual Rex Rock Tournament. Pictured here: Top row: Ella Kowunna, Jennifer Nash, Tatyana Nashookpuk, Hailey Oktollik, Audrina Nashookpuk, Kasey Oviok, Stacy Oktollik. Bottom Row: Jerri Kowunna, Dakota Hunnicutt, Briana Muktoyuk.



Barrow High School hosted and renamed the annual Whaler Invite to the Karl Derek Ahgeak Invitational in honor of long-time coach, the late Karl Derek Ahgeak. Teams from North Pole, Mt. Edgecumbe, and Eielson competed. The Whalers, pictured above, took first place.

- Student Jennifer Nash received 2A Girls Player of the Year and received First Team All-State.
- Student Tayyana Nashookpuk received Second Team All-State.
- Student Kasey Rock was selected for Third Team All-State.

- Student Kimberly Wolgemuth received Second Team All-State.
- Student Alex Fruean received First Team All-State.
- Student Sasita Unutoa received Third Team All-State.

3A

Barrow High School also hosted the regional tournament for the first time since 2007.

At the State Championships, the girls team took 2nd place and the boys team took 4th place.

- Coach Nicole Smith received 3A Girls Coach of the Year.
- Student Kiara Burnell received First Team All-State.

CHEERLEADING

Barrow High School hosted the Regional Cheerleading Competition where the Barrow Whalers were runners-up and they then placed 3rd overall participating at the State Cheerleading Competition in Anchorage.

Staff Achievements

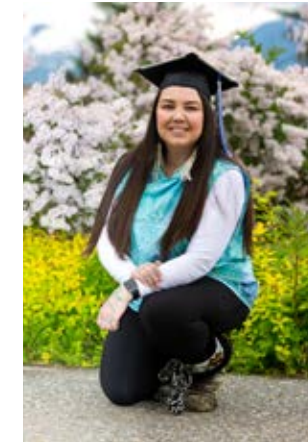
STAFF LEARNING IŃUPIAQ

To realize the Board's goal of graduating students who are fluent in both IŃupiaq and English, our staff must model language learning. To this end, all district employees are encouraged to take courses in the IŃupiat language.

Staff members who completed IŃisaġvik College IŃupiaq language courses in SY23-24 include:

- Superintendent David Anġik Vadiveloo
- Harlee Aumaqpaq Harvey, Tikiġaq
- Jen Brower, Kiita
- Shannon Riley, Kiita

Class of 2024 Meade River School Graduation with Board Member Frieda Nageak and Superintendent David Vadiveloo



Director of IŃupiaq Education, Tenna Qaġġuna Judkins Pili completed her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Alaska Southeast. She graduates with a Type B Professional License. Qaġġuna was born and raised in Utġiaġvik, graduating from Barrow High School in 2007. She follows in the footsteps of her aaka, Annie Brower, one of NSBSD's first board members. She is passionate about supporting the development of local teachers.

Class of 2024 Kiita Learning Community Graduation





# School Year 23/24 Initiatives & Partnerships

## Nunaqatiivut Savaqatigigivut: Working with our Communities

With a District wide focus on Nunaqatiivut Savaqatigigivut (Working with our Communities), our Administration and Board traveled to all North Slope communities, to strengthen partnerships with School Advisory Councils, local governments and Tribes, and hear the concerns and desires of each community.

During these visits, communities continued their requests for a focus on Instruction and Student Services, Language Immersion, Career Pathways, Facility Improvements, Food Services improvement, Staff Retention, Community/School Activities and the Harold Kaveolook School Rebuild.

In response to the past two years of consultation and visits with community, the following initiatives have been developed or are continuing.

## UQAUTILUŃA IŃUPIATUN SPEAK TO ME IN IŃUPIAQ

UqautiluŃa IŃupiatun, *Speak to Me in IŃupiaq*, is the NSBSD's IŃupiaq Language Immersion Program. With the NSBSD Board of Education's newly adopted mission and the NSBSD Pedagogy, we now have accountability measures in place to graduate students who are bilingual in both IŃupiatun and Taniktun. We plan to re-institute the IŃupiaq Immersion program districtwide to support this initiative. Not only is this a district mission, it is also the desire of our elders, communities, and parents, and we want to ensure that we are working towards this as a collective goal.

In School Year 23/24 we completed the first year of the K3/K4 classroom at Ipalook Elementary School with great success and engagement from students and families. In School Year 24/25, we will maintain the K3/K4 classroom and open a second Kindergarten

ten classroom at Ipalook with the intention of identifying one village site ready for immersion education by December 2024.

The UqautiluŃa IŃupiatun program's approach to learning and language acquisition in the immersion classroom is based on play-based learning strategies, hands-on project-based learning, and immersive language settings with repetition, routines and activities. Our primary focus is to have instruction solely in IŃupiaq. In order to ensure student success, the language must also be used and practiced at home so we will continue working with families and parents to support their language learning in support of our students. As we move through this goal, it is imperative that we make good use of our culture and language experts across the Slope. It is our elders who will continue to guide us through this process, and our families and communities who will help foster the success of their children in a language immersive classroom setting.



## AŃuniallaniq Hunting Traditions

UqautiluŃa IŃupiatun K3-K4 immersion Teacher Nasugluk, Jae Jae Nineok works with students Quġlaq and Ayalhuq

## IŃISAURRIĢUQTA LET'S BECOME TEACHERS

The IŃisaurriġuqta program is the NSBSD's grow-your-own teacher program. The program was officially rolled out in School Year 23/24.

Since the incorporation of the NSBSD, beginning with the earliest speeches given by Eben Hopson, there has been a strong desire and urgent need to increase the number of local educators working within the District. IŃisaurriġuqta is designed to help local people become certified teachers and join our District. Recognizing that most local people interested in becoming teachers often have existing jobs and family commitments preventing them from attending school full-time, the district has created the IŃisaurriġuqta program to accommodate the needs of local people. This past year, we had 10 local people enroll into the program. We continue to actively recruit and support participants in reaching their goals of becoming teachers or highly qualified paraprofessionals.



Student leaders practice teaching at the Leadership Summit hosted by Arctic Education Foundation.

## HIGHLY QUALIFIED PARAPROFESSIONALS

During School Year 23/24, the North Slope Borough School District established multiple pathways or methods to allow our paraprofessionals to become highly qualified as a pathway towards becoming a teacher. For Title I schools, becoming highly qualified is a requirement.



Congratulations to Monique Butera and Jana Esmailka for completing their Master Training and passing the required assessment to become highly qualified!

We currently have 26 paraprofessionals enrolled in the Master Teacher program from Tikiġaq School, Ipalook Elementary School, Nunamiut School, Kali, and Meade River School

## QATQIŃŃIAĢVIK PROGRAM

The QatqiŃŃiaġvik Program is designed to help high school students, especially from our villages, begin the process of becoming adults by helping them gain the skills they will need to pursue careers. The QatqiŃŃiaġvik Program offers intensive classes in villages and weeklong classes at the QatqiŃŃiaġvik Learning Center in Utqiagvik.

School Year 23/24 was the first full year of operation for the QatqiŃŃiaġvik Learning Center (QLC). It was a dynamic year of development and growth for the program, delivering Career and Technical Education



## IŃupiuraallaniq Knowledge of our language

We are very proud of our IŃupiaq teachers and especially grateful to those, like Jamie Patkotak, who are teaching in our immersion program, UqautiluŃa IŃupiatun. We look forward to finding more IŃupiaq teachers in the villages willing to help us make UqautiluŃa IŃupiatun a districtwide program.





Culinary arts students prepare a catered dinner for guests at the Qatqiñiagvik Learning Center.

(CTE) programs including welding, an Introduction to Construction Skills (NCCER), carpentry lab, teen & sports nutrition, culinary, hydroponics, a college & career fair, artists in residence programs, robotics, as well as dual credit classes.

Between July 21st and May 20th, Qatqiñiagvik hosted 438 NSBSD students with chaperones.



Nunamiut students learn welding.

## DUAL CREDIT WITH IĪISAĠVIK

Our partnership with IĪisaġvik gives our students the opportunity to take college classes while still in high school. During School Year 23/24, there were a total of 89 students who enrolled in 125 courses, earning a total of 27.16 high school credits, in addition to college credits. A further 21 students earned NCCER certification through the Introduction to Construc-

tion Skills class. This certification makes them eligible for entry level construction jobs.

Students from Aġak School, Barrow High School, Kali School, Harold Kaveolook School, Kiita Learning Community, Meade River School, Nunamiut School, and Nuiqsut Trapper School participated in the dual credit program with IĪisaġvik. Courses taken included:

Medical Terminology	Beginning Algebra
College Algebra	Introduction to Health Information Management
Exploration in the Early Childhood Classroom	Keyboarding Skills
Elementary Probability Statistics	Integrated Reading and Writing
Topics in Iñupiaq Studies	Introduction to Health Profession
Applied Math	Iñupiaq Land, Use, Values and Resources
Fundamentals of Oral Communication	Behind the Wheel Driving
Introduction to Online Learning	US History to 1865
Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Business
Introduction to MS Office	Introduction to Pharmacology
Library Information and Research	Introduction to Nutrition
Behind the Wheel Proctoring	Natural History of Alaska
Internet Use and Security	Introduction to Logic
Computer Presentation PowerPoint	Introduction to Microbiology
Driver's Education	

Charlie Stalker, 10th Grade Kali student



## NSB Partnership

This past year, we strengthened our partnership with the NSB CIPM department and other entities within the Borough such as Public Works, Borough Environmental Department, and Housing. Through these partnerships we grew alliances that will be invaluable in the future with collaboration on housing, environmental issues, CIPM, OJT, maintenance needs and sharing of resources.

A critical part of that strengthened partnership is in behavioral health supports for student social and emotional wellbeing. In School Year 23/24 the District and NSB established an MOA to support the NSB Health Department with housing and in return, the NSB Health Department is providing more staff support within the school system to students, ranging from behavioral health to nursing.



Nuiqsut Trapper ECE students singing happy birthday to Eben Hopson Sr. on his birthday

## NUNAAQQUIURAT TUMITCHIANJIT: A QUADRILATERAL PARTNERSHIP

In School Year 23/24 the District continued its involvement with Nunaaqqiurat Tumitchianjit. This quadrilateral board is composed of the leadership of the North Slope Borough (NSB), the North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD), IĪisaġvik College, and the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS). The purpose of Nunaaqqiurat Tumitchianjit is to improve education and increase training opportunities for students and residents of the North Slope communities, ranging from K-12 to higher education and vocational training. Nunaaqqiurat Tumitchianjit was named, designed, and implemented in January of 2022 and in January of 2023 all governing bodies and administrations signed a joint resolution committing to uphold the guiding principles of this work:

1. Committing to work together as one—Autauchimukta—to break down the silos that separate the four organizations, collaborating with community stakeholders and aligning resources for maximum impact and accountability.
2. Committing to use strength-based language and to assume positive intent in all communications.
3. Improving educational success and equity for residents of all ages across the North Slope, using the Iñupiaq language, culture, and values to define what success means to the people of the North Slope.



Quvianguniq  
Humor



Working together is the Iñupiaq way, and it makes work fun. Vernon Edwardsen, NSB, and John Hopson Jr. NSBSD, enjoy a humorous moment at a Nunaaqqiurat Tumitchianjit meeting.



# Department Reports

## IÑUPIAQ EDUCATION

The Iñupiaq Education Department (IED) uses Iñupiaq values, culture, history, language and worldview as a foundation upon which to provide instructional support aligned with the NSBSD's Strategic Plan. We support Iñupiat-centered instruction district-wide and aim to empower and inspire our students, parents and teachers to succeed.

The Iñupiaq Education Department has six departmental staff members. In School Year 23/24 we grew our language teaching capacity to support 23 ilisaurrit (Iñupiaq Language teachers) districtwide. During the year we piloted a unified 6th period Conversational Iñupiaq language course for high school students and throughout the year we had as many as 30 students participating in this course. Our intention with the increased capacity is to give

students options, allowing them to take language courses in-person or via distance delivery.

The NSBSD Iñupiaq Language Program is a pull-out program in all schools and offers students Iñupiaq language instruction with a dedicated Iñupiaq Language Teacher. Instruction is based on Dr. Steven Greymorning's Accelerated Second Language



Acquisition methodology and supported with a customized computer-based language-learning tool called IVALU—Iñupiaq Vocabulary Acquisition and Assessment Learning Units.

IED also continue to co-create, with teachers, culture-based materials focused on expected student outcomes and student interests.

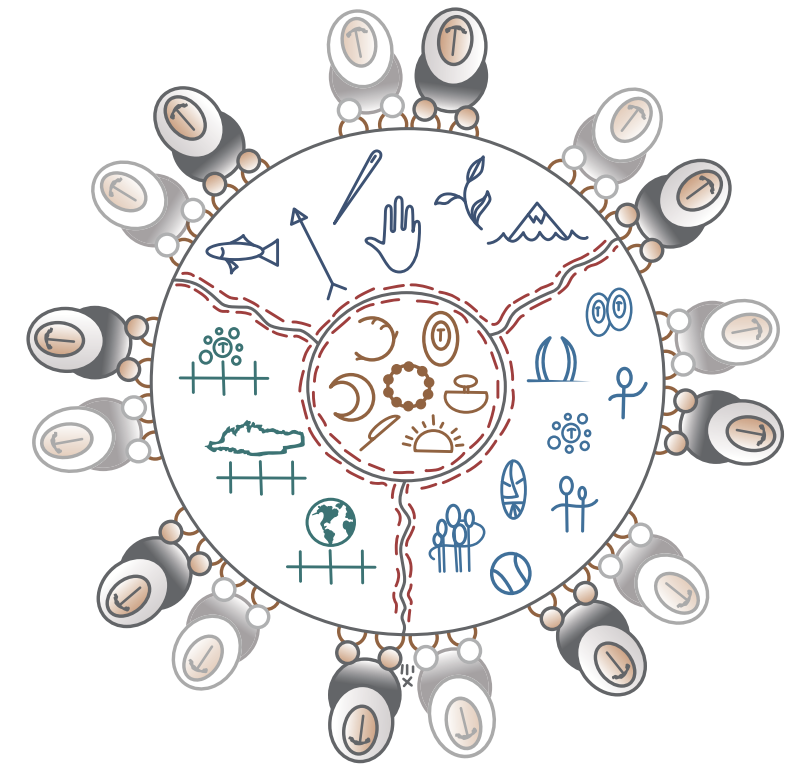
## MAPKUQPUP IÑUUNIAGNIGMI THE BLANKET OF LIFE

Aligning our curriculum to the culture it lives in.

Mapkuqput Iñuuniagnigmi, The Blanket of Life, represents the Iñupiaq Learning Framework (ILF). In 2008, the Apqusiuqtit Iñiniagnikun, Trailbreakers for Success, was formed by community members and elders from each of our 8 villages. The ILF continues to be the foundation from which Iñupiaq-based academic curricula and assessment processes are produced.

In School Year 23/24, IED began work on an ILF textbook that will detail the history and creation of the ILF, the Mapkuqput Iñuuniagnigmi, and the performance expectations (or standards) for all four realms and corresponding core themes. The instructional programs and practices that align with the ILF meet Alaska State Academic Standards, Alaska State Cultural Standards, and National Content Area Standards.

This textbook will be published in 2025 and will become a primary resource in the planning and implementation of district-wide professional development, training, and academic programming.



*“The instructional programs and practices that align with the Iñupiaq Learning Framework meet Alaska State Academic Standards, Alaska State Cultural Standards, and National Content Area Standards.”*



Robin Mongoyak of Utqiaġvik tells the story of the ten-legged polar bear to students in Jeff Prothero's fourth grade class at Ipalook Elementary.



### Qiñuiññiq

Humility

Ipalook Immersion Students  
Pausanna & Ayalhuq are  
camera shy.



### Piqpakutiqaġniq Qiksiksrautiqaġniq Utuqqanaanun Allunullu

Love & Respect for Elders  
& One Another

Board members with Nuiqsut elder and artist Vernon Long murals he painted for the Trapper school gym.



## Curriculum & Instruction

The Curriculum and Instruction Department (C&I) supports staff in implementing the NSBSD's adopted Pedagogy. The department supports staff with instruction techniques, data analysis, adopted curriculum, and school improvement plans designed to engage the whole child. We also provide library services, assessment and accountability services that include state and federal reporting, and the maintenance of student records.

### ELEMENTARY READING MATERIALS

In School Year 23/24 the district was funded to purchase new reading materials in Kindergarten through Grade 5 called Amplify CKLA. Teachers participated in Science of Reading training and received additional training to support the implementation of these programs. Grounded in the science of reading, CKLA offers evidence-based practices to help students become strong readers, writers, and thinkers. In School Year 24/25 CKLA will be delivered to ECE, which will give our youngest students a chance to build their foundational reading skills in a developmentally appropriate way.

### ALASKA READS ACT

Implementing and supporting the Alaska Reads Act was a large part of our work this year. The Alaska Reads Act is a State-mandated initiative designed to provide young learners with strong reading skills, setting them on a path towards success in school and life.

Alaska Reads provides early screening and support, as well as tools for quality reading instruction. It also provides professional development for teachers and tracking information to help schools, teachers and families understand what's working in reading instruction and where there's room for improvement. For more information, please visit <https://education.alaska.gov/akreads>.

### NSBSD'S DIGITAL CURRICULUM GUIDE AND INCREASED SUPPORT FOR STAFF

As the District focuses on improved growth for all students, the C&I Department added three support positions during School Year 23/24. The addition of Elementary, Secondary, and Intervention staff doubled the amount of assistance we were able to provide on-site for our students. The Curriculum and Instruction Department (C&I) also continued to utilize and refine the digital Curriculum Guide for all staff so they can quickly and easily learn how to access curricular materials.

In School Year 24/25 will expand the district coaching model to ensure all teachers receive coherent and high-quality support from members of our instructional team. The expanded support will also allow us to create one or more "model" classrooms. These spaces will be created in existing classrooms. Our model classroom at Ipalook Elementary is capable of recording demo lessons, conducting lessons or observations over zoom, and providing an example of not only the physical space we expect throughout the district, but also providing models of the quality of instruction we expect.



## Qiksirsrautiqaḡniq Iñuuniagvigmun

Respect for Nature

Kaktovik students learn from the land and sea.

### NSBSD PEDAGOGY IMPLEMENTATION

Instructional team members continue to work with our District Leadership on the refinement of the NSBSD Pedagogy document which outlines the methods of teaching we use. This crucial work solidifies the District's beliefs and commitment to the education of all students, making our approach available to the public, as well, and ensuring the highest quality of instruction for every child. In the coming year, the document will grow to include supporting research as well as tips for what parents should expect to see when walking into our buildings and classrooms.

### INQUIRY BASED LEARNING

Drawing inspiration from traditional Iñupiaq ways of learning, inquiry-based education embraces the wisdom of cultures that have long understood the value of learning through observation, experience, reflection, and community involvement. Just as our communities have always passed down knowledge through storytelling and hands-on engagement, inquiry-based learning encourages the child to actively participate in the learning journey. Inquiry-based learning is a way of teaching that sparks the child's curiosity and nurtures a natural drive to explore ideas and discover new things. At its heart, inquiry-based learning is all about asking questions, investigating, and diving deep into topics that spark the child's interest.

*"Drawing inspiration from traditional Iñupiaq ways of learning, inquiry-based education embraces the wisdom of cultures that have long understood the value of learning through observation, experience, reflection, and community involvement."*



## Aviktuaqatigñiq

Sharing

Wainwright students share a book.





## CLIMATE AND CONNECTEDNESS SURVEY

The district utilizes a School Climate and Connectedness Survey to gain a yearly perspective on how students, parents, and staff feel about the schools in the district. District level data was presented to the Board at a public meeting and showed a dramatic increase in participation amongst students.

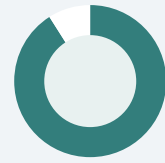
In grades 6-12, students are asked questions about family and community connectedness, social and emotional learning, cultural connectedness, drug and alcohol use, delinquent behavior, community support, high expectations, caring adults, school safety, student involvement, respectful climate and peer climate.

NSBSD's greatest growth for School Year 23/24 was in the area of Family and Community Connectedness. This was a focus area for our district so these results are positive. The biggest change was to a question asking, "How often do you connect activities that you

do at home to what your child is learning in school?" Seventy-nine percent responded favorably to this question, an eleven percent increase over 2023.

### INCREASE IN SCHOOL CLIMATE AND CONNECTEDNESS SURVEY PARTICIPATION: 2023 SURVEY VS. 2024 SURVEY

Grade 3-5 Survey Participation



91% increase

2024: 332 Students  
2023: 174 Students

Grade 6-12 Survey Participation



52% increase

2024: 658 Students  
2023: 432 Students

## 2024 CLIMATE AND CONNECTEDNESS SURVEY ANSWERS

- > How often do you connect activities that you do at home to what your child is learning in school? **79%** responded favorably ▲ **11** from 2023 survey
- > This school is a welcoming place for families like mine. **79%** responded favorably ▲ **1** from 2023 survey
- > This school values and welcomes elders. **85%** responded favorably ▲ **7** from 2023 survey
- > This school involves parents/families in most school events or activities. **76%** responded favorably ▲ **10** from 2023 survey



Aviktuaqatigiigñiq  
Sharing

When community members share their knowledge, it always enriches our curriculum. Pictured here: the late Craig George and Geoff Caroll bring a unique guest to Hopson Middle School—Craig's friend Jack Hubley, a falconer from Pennsylvania, with his falcon.

## STUDENT DATA

The State of Alaska releases a Report Card to the Public annually. This information is provided to all parents and guardians by their school, and a link is posted on the district website. The District Report Card and the Report Cards for each school can be accessed at <https://education.alaska.gov/compass/report-card>.

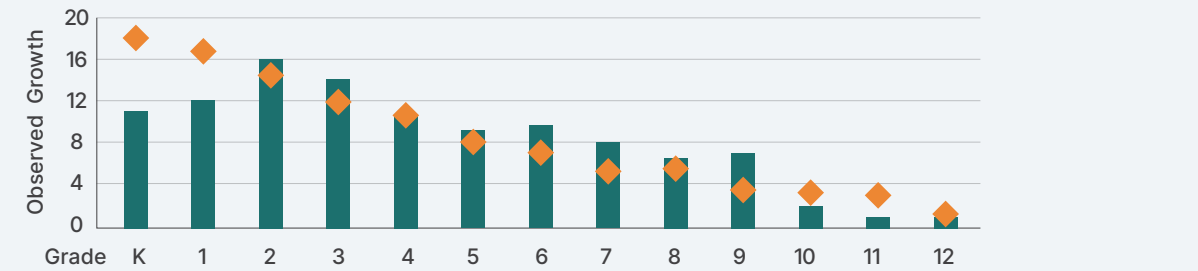
The Alaska State Summative Assessment (AK-STAR) and Alaska Science Assessment results are made public each fall. These are shared at the building level, sent home with individual students, and shared at School Board meetings. Students in grades 3 through 9 take a math and reading test, and students in grades 5, 8, and 10 take the science assessment. District information can be accessed at <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/results/results2024>

The Alaska State Summative Assessment (AK-STAR) results will be made public in the Fall. In reviewing our student growth data from the NWEA Map Growth assessment, the district met or exceeded projected student growth for Mathematics in grades requiring assessment (grade 3 – 9) as well as grades 2, 11, and 12.

The following chart shows NSBSD student growth on the Math Assessment (green bars) during the School Year 23/24. Each grade level is compared with the state's norm (orange diamonds). When the diamond appears above the top of the bar, NSBSD students are still growing to meet the State norm. When the top of the bar appears above the diamond, NSBSD students performed better than the State norm.

For the Reading section, grades 3-9 met or exceeded projected growth targets, as did grade 12. The following chart shows this information.

### MATH K-12



### LANGUAGE ARTS: READING





## STUDENT GROWTH AND INTERVENTION SERVICES DATA

As part of a District funded pilot in School Year 23/24, Intervention services were a priority at Kali School and this resulted in improved growth compared to similar schools. As a result, in December of 2023, the Board supported a move to district-wide intervention services in School Year 24/25 for kindergarten through eighth grade.

The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) growth data in School Year 23/24 saw 33% of students meeting or exceeding their growth targets in reading, and 36% of students meeting or exceeding their growth targets in math. At our intervention

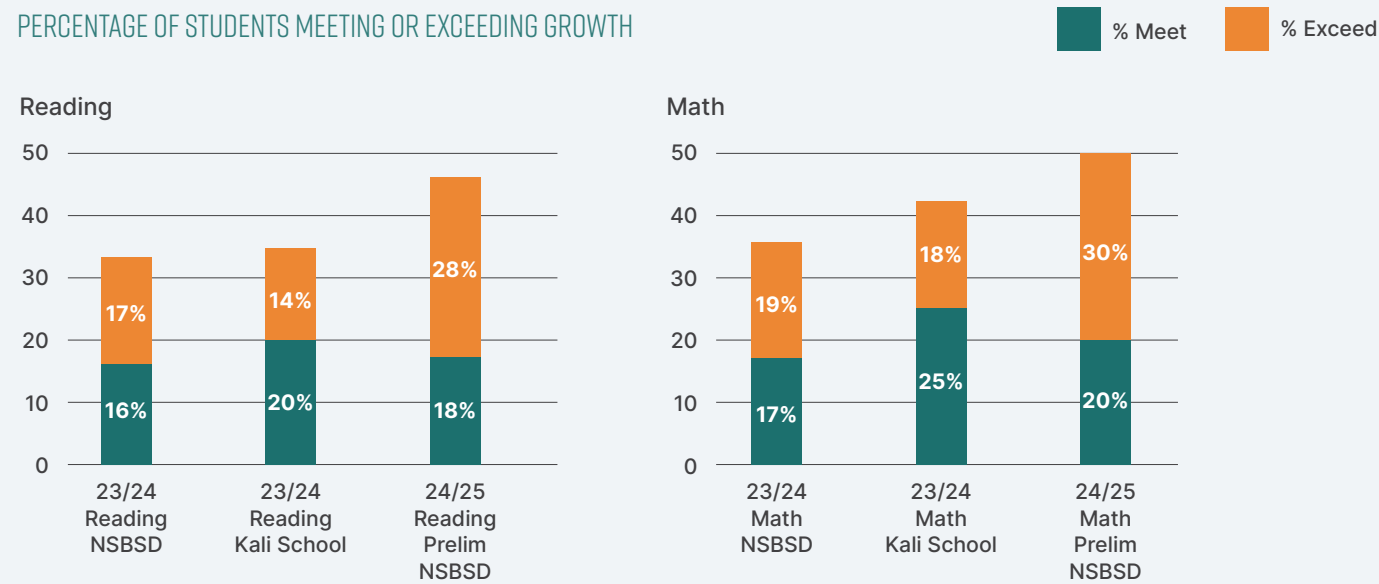
pilot site, we saw 34% meeting or exceeding in reading, and 43% meeting or exceeding in math.

Implementing intervention services districtwide promises increased progress. We are on track in School Year 24/25 to see 46% of students district-wide meeting or exceeding their projected growth targets in reading, with 50% meeting or exceeding their growth targets in math.

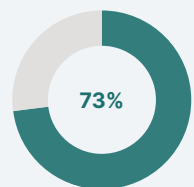
Assuming continued levels of service, the District is on track to see 75% of our students meeting or exceeding their growth targets within 3 years.

Assuming there are continued levels of service, the District is on track to see 75% of our students meeting or exceeding their growth targets in 3 years time.

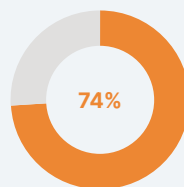
### PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS MEETING OR EXCEEDING GROWTH



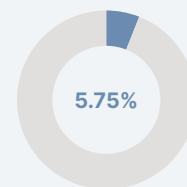
### ATTENDANCE, GRADUATION AND DROPOUT RATES \*All students for 2023 due to lag in state's delivery of applicable data.



Attendance Rate



Graduation Rate



Dropout Rate



## ONLINE ENROLLMENT

Online enrollment for returning students was instituted last year and will continue to be an option in the coming years. This minimizes the need for paper enrollment forms, creates an easy way for parents and guardians to quickly re-enroll their students, and ensures that the district maintains compliance. Paper enrollment will continue to be an option, with packets available at every school.

## CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Due to a nationwide shortage in qualified Career Technical Education (CTE) teachers, classes were taught at schools across the district by core instructional teachers. In addition, the Qatqiñiagvik program provided a CTE instructor in Nuiqsut for three quarters of the school year. CTE courses taught across the year included:

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Intro to Construction Trades | Home Economics                 |
| Intro to Craft Trades        | Culinary Arts                  |
| Wood Tech                    | Yearbook                       |
| Technical Drawing            | Media Production               |
| Intro to CAD and FAB         | Music Performance & Production |
| Intro to Process Tech        | Auto Mechanics                 |
| Metals Tech.                 | Small Engines                  |
| Welding                      | ATV/Snowmachine Pract.         |
| Forensics                    | Leadership Development         |
| Personal Finance             | Teacher Aide                   |
| Food & Nutrition             | Education & Training           |

## ALASKA EXCEL

To offer our students access to courses that are unavailable on-Slope, we partnered again with Alaska EXCEL. We had 36 students from Wainwright, Point Lay, Atqasuk, Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut participate in 50 sessions, earning a total of 14 credits, and participating in the following courses:

- Aviation Maintenance
- Career Development & Life Skills
- Drivers Education
- EXCEL Consumer Life/PLCP
- EXCEL Personal Life Skills & Job Skill
- Intro to Career Path & Employability Skills
- Intro to Careers

Students from Harold Kaveolook School, Aĵak School, Kali School and Nuiqsut Trapper School also attended a Summer EXCEL session.

Quyanaqpak to the North Slope Borough, ASRC Federal, and ConocoPhillips for helping make these opportunities possible for our students.



Wainwright students Andrea Kippi and Nicolle Nayakik participate in a sled building workshop taught by Jerry Ahmaogak with materials provided by MYAC.





## Student Services

The Student Services Office is responsible for special services that students need to be successful in school. These services include: special education and related services, family support, social-emotional support, Section 504 Plans, support for our district-wide Student Council and Gifted and Talented program, Student Plans, the coordination of services, and the School Counselor Program. The support provided by Student Services runs on a continuum ranging from individual to school-wide support, including:

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Student Services' primary role is to provide special education services to students with a diagnosed disability as defined by state and federal laws. Special education is a legally mandated service and requires specific teacher certification and skills. During the current nationwide teacher shortage, Special Education teachers have become increasingly difficult to recruit. To continue providing services during this challenging time, NSBSD has piloted the use of remote special education teachers. This option allows local educators to work directly with a special education teacher to deliver services.

### RELATED SERVICES

Parents of students who qualify for a related service such as speech, physical therapy or occupational therapy services may have seen a difference in the

way these services have been delivered over the last few years. In the past we had therapists fly to the schools three times per year to train special education teachers or paraprofessionals in the delivery of services. Now with teletherapy, our therapists can provide direct services to eligible students. Because getting to know the students and their families continues to be important, our current providers still fly to the villages, but they can implement the ongoing services from anywhere in the country over the computer. Since using teletherapy, we have seen an increase in the delivery of services because external barriers such as distance, flight cancellations and weather delays have been eliminated.

### SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide is an issue which touches every family on the North Slope. This is not an issue that any one organization, government or agency can solve alone. We are beginning to address this through the Nunaaqiurat Tumitchianjit quad board including leadership from NSB, NSBSD, ICAS and Iļisaǵvik. We need to work with those people who have lived experience with suicide, allowing them to help us by sharing stories, brainstorming strategies, and seeking solutions. The future of suicide prevention depends on our ability, as a Slope-wide community, to listen, and act with compassion.

The Student Services Office provides suicide awareness activities to students and community members and our partnership with ASNA provides school sites the opportunity to receive school-wide suicide awareness training.

## SUICIDE RESOURCES

### Statewide/National Care Lines

1-877-266-4357 **Alaska Careline**

1-800-SUICIDE **National Hopeline Network**

1-800-273-8255 **National Suicide Prevention Line**

1-800-799-4TTY **National Suicide Prevention Line TTY**

988 (Call or text) **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**

IAMALIVE.org **Suicide Crisis Chat**

CrisisChat.org **Online Emotional Support**

907-852-0366 **NSB Health Department**

907 852-0261 **Arctic Woman in Crisis**

### CHILD FIND

Under the law, it is the responsibility of the school district to locate students with special needs within district boundaries and determine their needs. Child Find is the responsibility of everyone in a child's life. If there is a concern, referrals can be made by teachers, parents, local clinics, hospitals, infant learning programs, etc.

Only parents can sign a Release of Information for the school district to access important records from other agencies. Parents are invaluable members of our team and their input is critical to determine the correct educational path for their child.

### SCHOOL COUNSELOR SUPPORT

School Counselors fill many roles in our schools. They advocate for students, collaborate with educational staff, and partner with families and local agencies to support all aspects of a student's life. School counselors are there to help parents and students identify the student's strengths and needs as they progress through their educational career.

School counselors work in close collaboration with local agencies such as ASNA, Integrated Behavioral Health, AWIC, Iļisaǵvik, and others to bring in Healthy Relationship Training, Wellness Fairs, Bullying Prevention Programs, anti-vaping programs as well

as drug and alcohol programs. They also help with college applications, monitor graduation plans, and support students' research as they learn about trade schools and colleges. Professional school counselors strive to provide a comprehensive counseling program for all students. This program addresses a student's social-emotional, academic, and career interests to prepare them for success. The program may include classroom guidance lessons, small group work for issues such as grief and anger management. Counselors also work individually with students to help them with the development of social-emotional skills.

In some cases, a student's concerns may need long-term specialized support. In these cases, the school counselor will help families and students access outside agencies to meet their individual needs. If a student needs mental health support, the school counselor will meet the student and parent to discuss options. If a student needs hospitalization, the school counselor is there to help and provide support.

### STAFF WELLNESS

It's globally recognized that the social emotional needs of all have suffered post-COVID. In School Year 23/24 NSBSD offered staff sessions for wellbeing and was also awarded grant funding to send 24 staff to a conference focusing on the implementation of positive school climate and wellness strategies.



**Nagliktuutiqaǵnik**  
Compassion



**Iļagiigñiqñiq**  
Family & Kinship

*Susan Hope decorates Central Office with help from her grandson, David.*



**Ukpiqqutqaǵniq**  
Spirituality

*Harold Kaveolook School's Winter Program*



# Maintenance & Operations

The NSBSD Department of Maintenance and Operations (M&O) provides and maintains the most effective learning environment possible for our students. The learning environment includes school grounds, the school building envelope and structure, grounds maintenance, operations, site and building cleanliness. M&O also provide teacher housing and equipment, nutritional food services, and transportation services.

The Department identifies immediate and future educational plant and equipment needs, through Capital Improvement Projects or purchases (CIP). These recommended needs are prioritized by the affected community and its stakeholders, and School Advisory Council (SAC). Finally, these District needs are prioritized, based on community input, by a committee of the Board for presentation to the NSB Assembly, which establishes funding according to its determination which projects are of greatest need.



Kaktovik School Rebuild (Exterior)

## HAROLD KAVEOLOOK SCHOOL

This past year, the NSBSD project of greatest need was Phase 0 of the Harold Kaveolook School fire rebuild, which was granted \$12 million in School Year 23/24. An additional \$20 million was granted by the Project Review Committee (PRC) in April 2024 for School Year 24/25. Civil work has begun, and all permits have been secured from the State of Alaska to manage and dispose of the site's contaminated soil. Phase 0 has been completed with all pilings in place and secured and debris removed.

## NUIQSUT BOILERS

In another example of critical partnerships the district is building, the Native Village of Nuiqsut generously funded the purchase of new boilers at Nuiqsut trapper School. M&O is coordinating with NSB to install these in School Year 24/25.

## NEW VEHICLES FOR VILLAGES

From previous years' funding, new pickup trucks were purchased for all village schools. Nuiqsut received a new Ford Expedition and other villages will receive new Expeditions or transit vans next year for the long-overdue replacement of old vehicles.

## VAPE DETECTORS AND NEW SECURITY FOR ALL SITES

A large security project for all schools was developed in School Year 23/24. This plan will see Detex alarms installed at each entry point in schools and a "funnel" installed at the front doors. The funnel will provide a video and push button secured entry to the school during school hours only. Tikiġaq SAC supported the pilot of this project which will be completed in their school in September 2024 before roll out in other schools.

In School Year 23/24 a district wide program installing vape detectors was commenced in all school locations. The district is on track for all schools to be fitted with vape detectors by late 2024.



Clockwise from top left: Tikiġaq site entrance cameras, office video/audio door release, vape detectors

## RSA ASSESSMENTS

In May 2024, RSA Engineering began assessing each site to update an assessment performed in 2017. This assessment will provide the structure for a 10-year plan of capital improvements throughout the district focusing on infrastructure needs such as boiler replacements, HVAC, plumbing and fixtures, security, lighting, ventilation, and other infrastructure items. RSA completed their assessment and provided their findings in late July.

## M&O NSBSD AND NON-NSBSD FACILITY USAGE

Our facilities are essential community hubs for sporting events, feasts and traditional games, dances and funerals. We are proud of the fact that our facilities serve the needs of many organizations for a variety of meetings and activities.

The local organizations that used NSBSD facilities in School Year 23/24 included: Iļisaġvik, AEW, ASNA, ASRC, ASTAC, BUECI, the Native Villages of Anaktuvuk Pass, Utqiaġvik, and Point Hope, NSB, the cities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut and Point Hope, Kuukpik Corp, Nunamiut Corp, Olgoonik Corp, UIC, Rotary Club, Stuaqpak, S.U.T.T. Church, Uqaaqi Consulting, the Voice of the Arctic Iļupiaq and the Wainwright Cooperative.

Non-local organizations using our facilities included; Alaska Community on Toxins, Arctic Encounter, Audubon Alaska, BLM, Conoco-Phillips, LLC Channel 5, Maniilaq, Oil Search Alaska LLC, and UAF. In addition, our facilities were used for 47 private events in the last year such as birthday parties and dinners.

The NSBSD also has itinerant housing at most locations to provide the administration and itinerant workers a place to stay while working in the villages. This is also available to non-NSBSD entities in need of housing. Last year, itinerant housing was used 499 days, across communities, by non-NSBSD organizations including AFS, Anchorage Pacific Power Group, ASNA, Boynton, Census.gov, CIPM, City of Wainwright, EarthScape Alaska, GCI, UAF, Iļisaġvik, Job Fair Vendor BHS, M/E Engineers, NEA Foundation, NSB Health Dept, Tuzzy Student Services, UAF, UICCS, University of Alaska, and the US Census Bureau.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management has been working towards ensuring that all schools have individualized emergency plans, training, and updated flipcharts for each room and classroom with an emergency go-bag of supplies, a radio, and emergency blankets for colder weather. Emergency Management will also provide first aid and CPR classes for NSBSD staff members.

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation manages the fleet of vehicles district wide providing assignment, preventative maintenance, licensing, and all other regulatory requirements.

In School Year 23/24, the NSBSD Transportation department's buses drove 35,094 miles delivering students to and from school 11,365 times and maintained an accident free bus record.





# Human Resources

## RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

There is a significant teacher shortage, nationwide, with no end in sight. The goal of the HR Department for School Year 23/24 was to fill all vacancies, using as few long-term substitutes as possible.

NSBSD started School Year 23/24 with 82 newly hired teachers out of a total of 205 positions. Of these new teachers, 24 were recruited from the Philippines. To keep NSBSD competitive with other Districts we now offer relocation assistance along with airfares as incentives to bring the best available teachers to the North Slope.

By way of retention, for all returning staff, certified, contracted and hourly, the District offered a one-time longevity bonus recognizing their commitment to our students and communities. In School Year 23/24 classified staff were also provided an additional 2% increase consistent with the previous year.

As part of our strategy for finding potential applicants, we're rebuilding previous partnerships with teacher colleges and building new ones designed to bring student teachers to the North Slope for their required practicums and student teaching experiences. We're working with Gustavus Adolphus College, University of Alaska Southeast, University of Montana and St. Olaf College for placement of their student-teachers.



Elder Edith Nageak and Board member Frieda Nageak with students at the in-service aġġi.



Drummers Joe Sage, Isabelle Elavgak, Tommy Akpik, Vernon Tukak Elavgak, Raymond Moberg-Thompson, John Akpik and dancers Michelle Suvlu, Harmony Kaleak-Moore, and Rosalia Silas at the in-service aġġi

*"Consistent with our commitment to transparency, collaboration and respect, the District has worked hard with all staff members to resolve concerns at the lowest level possible. As a result, there were no formal grievances filed in School Year 23/24."*

# Business Office

The Business office is responsible for ensuring the vision and mission of the Board is supported within the financial means of the District. In serving the District, the Finance Department has a responsibility to meet the highest levels of transparency and accountability for stakeholders as it works to be both collaborative and responsive to the needs of departments and sites.

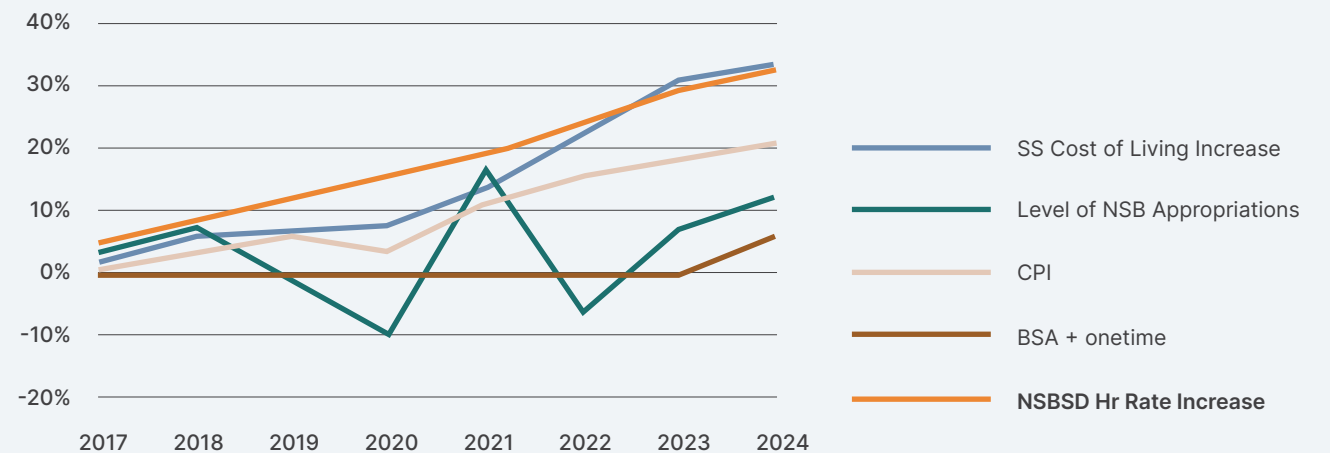
In School Year 23/24 the Business Office continued the administration's focus on transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. While inflation has caused operational costs to increase, the District has been able to cover those increased costs with funds from unfilled positions and the strong support of the NSB and the Assembly Borough.

### Some highlights of the year include:

- School Year 24/25 budget hearings were conducted with all sites with the participation and input of School Advisory Council members for the second time.
- School Year 24/25 budget was delivered and passed within ordinance timeframes.

- NSB supplemental funding MOA's were amended to meet community needs and submitted and approved within budget timelines.
- Monthly financial reports submitted in a timely manner to the Board of Education and the North Slope Borough.
- Clean audit report for School Year 23/24 following a successful audit process.
- Efficient utilization of available grant monies resulting in the District expending a greater percentage of School Year 23/24 grant monies that were made available.
- Spending plans for all grants developed before the FY25 year began, to facilitate full and efficient use of grant funding.
- Ongoing review and standardization of all processes as the District brings all expenditures and operations into compliance with policy, handbooks and employment agreements.

### COMPARISON: CUMULATIVE COST OF LIVING INCREASES VS. STATE OF ALASKA BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION (BSA) AND NSB APPROPRIATIONS





BUSINESS OFFICE DAILY MEMBERSHIP

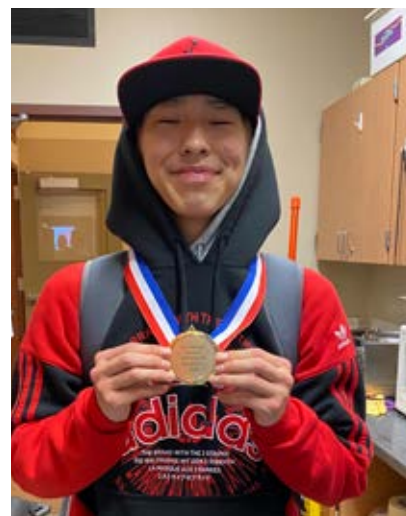
	2018 Audit	2019 Audit	2020 Audit	2021 Audit	2022 Audit	2023 Audit	2024 Audit
<b>Average Daily Membership</b>	1,852	1,932	1,953*	1,942*	1,863	1,860	1,796
010 City/Borough Appropriation	36,535,626	35,375,626	31,838,063	38,766,371	36,828,052	36,828,052	38,766,371
012 City/Borough In-Kind	2,227,841	2,559,980	2,664,060	3,526,447	3,638,990	4,692,436^	4,861,389^
<b>Total: NSB</b>	<b>38,763,467</b>	<b>37,935,606</b>	<b>34,502,123</b>	<b>42,292,818</b>	<b>40,467,042</b>	<b>41,520,488</b>	<b>43,627,760</b>

\*Accuracy of numbers affected by COVID policy change for count

^Increased in-kind contribution reflects heating fuel and insurance cost increases



(Far Left) Kiita Learning Community visiting Iñsaḡvik College campus



(Left) Taylor Anniskett, All Tourny Star, Kali School



(Far Left) Students and Principal Zina Robinson at Nuiqsut Trapper school with Board member Frieda Nageak and Superintendent Vadiveloo



(Left) Nuiqsut Trapper students Tatianna Kittick, Vestal Napageak and Samaira Sielak

## Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Department provides the district with essential technological and infrastructure services. The department prides itself on delivering uninterrupted technology-assisted instruction for students and staff, clear and timely communication across the district, and collaboration among all district stakeholders.

### BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT IN NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Year 24/25 saw significant advancements in the district's internet connectivity. Historically, the District has faced challenges with internet speeds which were ranked among the slowest in the state. This year, transformative steps have been taken to address this issue, significantly enhancing our digital infrastructure.

With the implementation of Starlink LEO satellites and the enactment of the State of Alaska Broadband Assistance Grant 100 (BAG100), our schools are now positioned to access internet speeds of 100Mbps.

This development marks a fourfold bandwidth increase for most of our schools, ensuring a robust and efficient digital learning environment. NSBSD thanks the Alaska Office of Broadband and the various federal initiatives that have made this progress possible.

### LIVE STREAMING OF REGIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

In School Year 24/25, the IT department enabled the successful live streaming of the 1A and 3A Regional Basketball tournaments held at Point Lay Kali School and Barrow High School. With over 500 viewers on our YouTube livestream, we extended the excitement of the games to community members unable to attend in person. This initiative promoted school spirit and fostered a sense of community involvement.

### FIBER REPAIR PROJECT

The fire at the North Slope Borough (NSB) shipping and receiving building significantly disrupted network connectivity for several NSBSD schools and buildings and severed the fiber connection to the main NSBSD data center.

With the support of the North Slope Borough (NSB) Infocomm leadership team and contractors from Tikiḡaq Conam the rapid completion of the fiber repair resulted in minimal disruption compared to many other organizations.

### 2023 USDA RUS DLT GRANT AWARD

In School Year 24/25, NSBSD was awarded \$1 Million, the largest grant award in the State, for the second time in a row. Through the Repair, Rebuild, and Revitalize (RRR) Initiative, the School District will purchase and implement video conferencing equipment and various audio/video upgrades to allow multiple classrooms to participate in distance learning initiatives connecting teachers to students at remote locations. In addition, this initiative will allow the NSBSD to develop language and culture preservation instructional programming that will enhance learning for all students.



Leah Gallagher & Vincent Gordon Kaveolook Superstars

