

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education Members

DATE:

NUMBER: Worksession #

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: State & Federal
Programs Grant
Overview

Joy Cogburn-Smith, Director of State & Federal Programs, reports on the following:

Grants Overview

Federal Direct Grants

NWABSD Literacy Connections (LIT)

Program: Innovative Approaches to Literacy

Duration: Year 5 of 5 (end 9/30/2026)

Focus: Improving district-wide literacy through book access, professional development, and community engagement.

Key Highlights

- **Goals:**
 1. Increase literacy proficiency for Pre-K–12 students through access to books and literacy events.
 2. Provide sustained, site-based professional development (PD) for teachers in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.
 3. Strengthen home-school literacy partnerships through family events and take-home resources.
- **Activities:**
 - Hire **two Literacy Specialists** to coach educators and coordinate district-wide book distributions.
 - Conduct **two annual literacy nights per school** for family engagement.
 - Phase-in professional development by literacy component each year
- **Impact:**
 - 100% of students to receive new books annually.
 - 2% annual reduction in non-proficient literacy scores on state assessments.
 - Creation of digital libraries for home and classroom access.

The Iñupiatun Iḷisaqta Project (TIIP)

Program: Alaska Native Education

Duration: Year 1 of 3 (ends 07/01/2028)

Focus: Revitalization of the Iñupiaq language and integration of culture into academic instruction.

Key Highlights

- **Goals:**
 - Develop and implement **Iñupiaq Immersion Pre-K and K classrooms** in Kotzebue and Shungnak.
 - Integrate Iñupiaq language and culture into **high school Physical Science and Biology** courses.
 - Expand cultural activities across the district through elders and Knowledge Bearers.
- **Activities:**
 - Establish **pilot Immersion Advisory Committees** for curriculum and language integration.
 - Hire a **TIIP Program Specialist** to coordinate training, curriculum, and data.
 - Provide **professional development for Iñupiaq instructors** and paraprofessionals, with tuition support for language courses.
- **Impact:**
 - Preserve and promote Iñupiaq language
 - Strengthen cultural identity and student engagement.
 - Build a model for district-wide expansion and sustainability of Iñupiaq immersion education.
 -

The project responds to community-driven priorities outlined by the Iñupiaq Language Commission

The Ilisautri Project

Program: Alaska Native Education

Duration: Year 2 of 3 (ends 07/31/2027)

Focus: Increase student achievement through educator retention, cultural responsiveness, and school-community relationships.

Key Highlights

- **Goals:**
 1. Increase **educator retention** through cultural competence training.
 2. Build **culturally responsive classrooms**.
 3. Develop **local educators** via in-district career pipelines.
- **Activities:**
 - Reestablish AK Humanities Forum's **C3 (Creating Cultural Competence)** program for 45 teachers.
 - Reintroduce **Educators Rising Alaska (EdRising)** to engage high school students in education careers.
 - Launch the **ATC Education Program** to train paraprofessionals to become certified teachers.
- **Impact:**
 - Reduce teacher turnover from 35% to 25%.
 - Serve over **1,000 Alaska Native students** through more connected, culturally aware instruction.
 - Grow a sustainable pool of local teachers familiar with regional culture.

The project strengthens educator capacity through culture-based professional development, linking student achievement to teacher continuity and cultural awareness.

Our Youth – Positive Vision for the Future (OYVF)

Program: Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant

Duration: Year 3 of 4 (ends 12/31/2027)

Focus: Expanding access to credentialed school-based mental health professionals.

Key Highlights

- **Goals:**
 - Increase the number of **certified school counselors and social workers**.
 - Strengthen student mental health supports across all 11 NWABSD communities.
- **Activities:**
 - Hire new credentialed counselors.
 - Support **teacher-to-counselor certification** pathways with tuition assistance.
 - Conduct ongoing mental health training for staff and community education for prevention.
- **Impact:**
 - Improve school safety, student resilience, and access to immediate counseling support.
 - Reduce self-harm incidents and disciplinary suspensions district-wide.

OYVF builds systemic capacity for trauma-informed care, mental health access, and retention of local certified service providers.

Native Youth In Action (NYIA) Project

Program: Demonstration Grants for Indian Children and Youth Program –Native Youth Program-Native Youth Community Projects

Duration: Year 4 of 5 (ends September 30, 2027)

Key Highlights

Goals:

- Promote **Iñupiaq youth leadership and identity** through academic, cultural, and community programs such as the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP)

Impact:

- Strengthen student pride, cultural continuity, and leadership readiness.

NYIA centers youth empowerment and cultural sustainability as part of NWABSD's broader commitment to education and community connection.

Preparing Our Youth (POY) Project

Program: Demonstration Grants for Indian Children and Youth Program –Native Youth Program-Native Youth Community Projects

Duration: Year 1 of 5 (ends September 30, 2030)

Focus: Professional Opportunities for Youth — workforce and leadership readiness.

Key Highlights

• **Goals:**

- Build **career readiness pathways** for NWABSD students.
- Provide **internships, apprenticeships, and dual credit** opportunities with local industries.
- Develop **leadership training programs** for high school and postsecondary youth.

• **Impact:**

- Strengthen transition from school to career.
- Increase student engagement through relevant, community-connected learning.
- Support Alaska Native students' success in workforce and higher education contexts.

POY emphasizes employability and leadership grounded in local values and skills development.

NWABSD Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD)

Grant Period: Year 1 of 5 (ends June 30, 2030)

Administered by: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED)

Funding Request: \$350,000 annually

Purpose of the Grant

The CLSD 2024 grant continues NWABSD's district-wide effort to improve reading and writing outcomes for all students, aligning with Alaska's *Reads Act* and the *Science of Reading*.

This project aims to:

- Strengthen early literacy from **birth through grade 12**.
- Increase reading proficiency and close learning gaps.
- Build teacher capacity and leadership through professional development.

This grant will expand the district's literacy systems by training teachers and administrators in effective reading instruction and will help strengthen partnerships with families and communities to ensure every child reads at grade level.

Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) Grant Program

Grant Period: Annually

Funding: Varies, usually about \$100,000

The **Johnson-O'Malley Program** (JOM) is a federal program, first authorized in 1934, that provides **supplemental funding** to support the unique educational and cultural needs of eligible American Indian and Alaska Native students in public schools.

NWABSD applies on behalf of all the Tribes in the region, with the exception of the Noorvik Native Community and the Native Village of Kotzebue

Typical use of funds:

- (1) Remedial instruction, career, academic, and college-readiness, and cultural programs;
- (3) Important needs, such as school supplies and items that enable recipients to participate in curricular and extra-curricular programs;

Indian Education Formula Grant

Grant Period: Annually

Funding: Varies, usually about \$650,000 to \$725,000

The Indian Education Formula Grant supports local educational agencies (LEAs) in providing **supplemental, culturally responsive** academic and enrichment services for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students.

Key Features & Purpose

- Designed to **supplement—not replace**—regular school programs, to meet the *unique cultural, language, and educational needs* of Alaska Native students.
- Supports services such as **tutoring, early childhood education, Native language instruction, parent engagement, dropout prevention, and cultural enrichment**.

Alaska Early Learning Grant

Grant Period: Year 2 of 3 (ends June 30, 2027)

Administered by: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED)

Annual Funding: \$497,971

The Bridging the GAP (BTG) project enhances school readiness and early learning outcomes for four-year-old children across all NWABSD communities. It supports high-quality, affordable, and accessible PreK education aligned with Alaska's Read by Grade 3 goals.

The initiative strengthens PreK programs through teacher development, family engagement, and improved curriculum and assessment practices.

Key Features & Purpose

- Expand and standardize Pre-K programs districtwide using the Science of Reading principles.
- Train and support Pre-K teachers through professional development and coaching.
- Allow the district to build a program that will qualify to receive .5 ADM funding for PreK beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.