
CCSD Superintendent Report

August 2025

CCSD Appreciations

- Thank you to CCSD's Maintenance Crew for their hard work and dedication in maintaining and improving our school facilities over the summer break, and for their valuable contributions to the CEMS Rehabilitation Project.
- Thank you to CCSD's Business Manager, Ms. Melinda Bass, for her outstanding work in addressing the Impact Aid Compliance Review Findings, the PERS & TRS Retirement and Benefits Audit, in the midst of preparing for CCSD's Annual Audit with Altman and Rodgers.
- Thank you to CCSD's K-12 Counselor, Ms. Melissa Peavey, for her willingness to be available and on call to provide support and grief counseling resources to students, especially during this difficult time following the recent tragedy on our island.

CCSD Finances/Budget

- As a reminder, the remaining federal funds for fiscal year 2026 were finally released to the states at the end of July 2025. Federal education allocations for CCSD's entitlement grants have now been loaded into the Grant Management System (GMS). Combined funding for Title IA and IVA totals approximately \$46,500, representing a decrease of about 16% compared to roughly \$55,500 received in FY25. Similarly, Title IC funding stands at approximately \$60,000, down nearly 20% from \$75,000 last year. On a positive note, Title IIA funding increased slightly to around \$13,300, up about 3% from \$12,900 in FY25.
- Overall, the district received approximately 14% less federal funding compared to the previous fiscal year. While this reduction presents challenges, we remain grateful that these funds were released to the states.
- CCSD will need to continue and monitor potential risks to key federal funding streams for the upcoming fiscal year. Title IC (Migrant Education) and Title IIA (Professional Development) are among programs currently under scrutiny at the federal level. While nothing has been decided yet, there are proposals and delays that could mean cuts or interruptions to these programs. Given this uncertainty, CCSD should be ready to adjust as needed when budgeting for FY27. As always, I'll keep the Board updated as we learn more.
- The City of Craig's first quarter sales tax payment of \$70,428.94, approved by the CCSD Board on May 27, 2025 for deposit into the Capital Projects account, has been received.
- On Saturday, August 2, 2025, Alaska's Legislature voted 45-14 to override Governor Dunleavy's education veto, preserving the \$700 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for FY 2026. While the increase is just \$20 more than last year's increase (\$680), it remains an important win for students, families, and schools across the state as the increase is inside the BSA, not one-time funding. For CCSD specifically, the increase means roughly **\$190,000** more based on last year's projected counts of 190 brick-and-mortar and 440-PACE Correspondence students.
- Thank you once again to everyone who advocated for public education - our unified voices made a real difference!

Human Resources/Staff Updates

- Due to some staff reassignments as well as new hires, please see the following list of teaching assignments for the upcoming school year to highlight the dedicated educators serving our students this coming year.

CCSD Craig Elementary School Teachers

- **Kindergarten/1st Grade** – Grace Beckman
- **1st/2nd Grade** – Vanessa James
- **3rd Grade** – Dior Vaughan
- **4th Grade** – Bernie Grieve
- **5th Grade** – Mike Nelson
- **Title I** – Tricia Stock

CCSD Craig Middle School Teachers

- **English/Science** – Bill Seibel
- **Mathematics/Science** – Marsha Browder
- **Social Studies/Science** – James Anderson

CCSD Craig High School Teachers

- **English** – Chrissy Kensinger
- **Mathematics** – Nicole Nelson
- **Social Studies/Spanish** – Shelby Beck
- **Science** – Stephen DeHart
- **Welding** – Earl Jeffrey

CCSD Shared Teachers

- **K–12 Health/PE** – John Morgan
- **K–12 Music** – Rachael Balcom
- **K–12 Native Arts** – Ronnie Fairbanks

CCSD Special Programs Teachers

- **CES/CMS Special Education** – Kathy Freeman
- **CMS/CHS Special Education** – Margaret Gore
- **K–12 Counselor** – Melissa Peavey

CCSD PACE Statewide Homeschool Correspondence Teachers

- **PACE Contact Teacher @ Craig** – Robert Jeffrey
- **PACE Contact Teacher @ Wasilla** – Cassie Kinsland
- **PACE Contact Teachers @ Anchorage** – Kimberly McMillian & Mikal Sparkman
- **PACE Contact Special Education Teacher** – Bobbie Duerksen

School Administration

Principal, Christy House - **Craig Elementary School & Craig Middle School**

Principal, Josh Andrews - **Craig High School & PACE Statewide Homeschool Correspondence School**

- We are grateful for our returning staff and are extremely excited to welcome new members to the CCSD Panther Family. Together with our families, we aim to create a positive, engaging, and successful school year for each and every one of our students.
- As an update, Ms. Veronica Dandurand, CCSD's Accounts Payable & Financial Coordinator, has agreed to continue working remotely from off-island after her relocation from POW, providing support until a replacement for her position is hired and trained. On behalf of CCSD, we sincerely thank Ms. Dandurand for her dedication and commitment during this transition period.
- CCSD currently has the following positions posted: CCSD Accounts Payable/PACE Financial Coordinator, CEMS Special Education Paraprofessional, MS Athletic Director. CCSD will also be posting for vacant extra duty positions in the very near future.

CCSD Curriculum/Instruction & Professional Development/PLC Committee Updates

- CCSD In-service Days are planned for Tuesday, August 26th and Wednesday, August 27th, 2025, followed by two (2) Teacher Workdays on Thursday, August 28th and Friday, August 29th.
- Due to the CEMS Rehabilitation Project timeline and the need to transition back into CES and CMS Modularity for the upcoming school year, the second day of In-service (8/27) will be held at individual school sites to give staff extra time to prepare their learning environments. We'll do our absolute best to make the construction zones feel a little less chaotic for our kids! Thank you in advance for your continued support as we gear-up for what's sure to be a challenging year, logistically speaking, in the CEMS.
- As for the August 26th In-service Day, we will focus on welcoming new staff and reconnecting returning team members. Along with the usual annual trainings and important updates from CCSD and each school, the following sessions are scheduled:
 - Educators' Obligations / Code of Ethics & Professional Boundaries
 - CCSD's Standard Response Protocol & Emergency Procedures

- James Nottingham's Learning Pit Challenge (for all certified and classified instructional staff)
- I'm excited to announce that CCSD will be hosting its first foundational and live webinar (one of three) introducing James Nottingham's Learning Pit Challenge concept. James Nottingham is an educational consultant and author based in the United Kingdom. His approach is designed to help educators and students actively engage with the Learning Pit concept by embracing challenges, reflecting on the struggle involved in learning, and developing resilience. The "challenge" aspect encourages practical application and deeper understanding of the model in real classroom settings. Below are the key points of what CCSD has arranged directly with James Nottingham for his first live webinar with staff. We are able to record the webinars and share them with our PACE Staff as well, which is fantastic!
 - **Introduce the Learning Pit:** Present the model and its purpose in guiding students to welcome challenges and build resilience throughout their learning journey. The Learning Pit Challenge frames struggle as a natural and important part of learning, fostering perseverance, problem-solving abilities, and a growth mindset. By encouraging students to work through difficulties and recover from setbacks, it directly supports the development of resilience.
 - **Show examples across grades and subjects:** Demonstrate how the Learning Pit Challenge can be used in various classrooms.
 - **Provide practical strategies:** Share easy-to-use techniques teachers can apply immediately.
 - **Interactive Q&A:** Include time for questions and discussion.

CCSD Special Programs

- As an update, I have been working in PowerSchool Special Programs to assign Special Education Case Managers for the 2025–2026 school year. Once Margaret Gore (CMS & CHS Special Education Teacher) and Kathy Freeman (CES & CMS Special Education Teacher) are settled into their roles at CCSD, I plan to meet with both of them to review caseloads and case manager responsibilities.

Current Caseload Overview

- As of today, CES, CMS, and CHS collectively serve forty-four (44) students in grades K-12 who receive special education services, including six (6) students in intensive programs. Of these 44 students, twelve (12) students are solely Speech & Language. These students will be case managed by CCSD's Virtual Speech & Language Pathologist (SLP), Adrienne Chambers. This leaves thirty-two (32) students to be case managed by our CEMS & CMHS Special Education Teachers. Margaret Gore (Middle/High School Special Education Teacher) will case manage high school students and Kathy Freeman (Elementary/Middle School Special Education Teacher) will case manage elementary students. Middle school case management will be discussed collaboratively to ensure equitable caseloads.
- Based on current numbers, Ms. Gore & Ms. Freeman will each begin the year with approximately 15–17 students on their caseloads. I have always prioritized collaboration with CCSD's Special Education Team when dividing caseloads, and I look forward to working with both teachers to finalize assignments.
- Our PACE Statewide Correspondence Homeschool Special Education Teacher, Bobbie Duerksen, is projected to have a caseload of 40–50 students. Enrollment for PACE continues through August and September, and we will have a clearer picture of case management responsibilities by the end of September. With that said, I will be sure to provide a follow-up report to the Board once final caseload assignments are made.

CCSD Projects

CHS New Shop/Biomass Project

- Unfortunately, CCSD is still awaiting payment from the Southeast Conference (SEC) for two (2) confirmed reimbursements. One reimbursement is for \$303,106.50 (CBC Pay Application 4) and the other is for \$138,368.42 (CBC Pay Application 5). CCSD continues to be in constant communication with SEC, who continues to say they are committed to the funding previously promised to CCSD and CCSD's Board for the CHS Shop Project. Again, all required documentation has been submitted, and SEC has confirmed approval, yet payment is currently pending.
- CCSD does have good news regarding funding updates for the Biomass Project. We have received reimbursement from Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) totaling \$27,300 for the CHS Biomass Force Account Labor supply order.

CEMS Rehabilitation Project

- **Craig Elementary School Renovation Updates:** Craig Elementary is receiving significant upgrades, including improvements to the office, commons, restrooms, HVAC, and fire alarm systems. The project is on schedule to be completed by August 27, 2025, allowing staff a few precious days to prepare before school starts on September 2nd!
- **Craig Middle School Renovation Updates:** Craig Middle School is undergoing a full renovation - modernizing the building (except the gym) and ensuring full ADA compliance. During the 2025-2026 school year, students will attend classes in modular buildings while construction continues. Completion originally projected for February 17, 2026, will likely be delayed due to rot discovered in structural beams. A structural engineer has created plans to resolve these issues, and Architects Alaska and I are currently reviewing a Change Order Proposal (COP) from McG Constructors that outlines the costs for the CMS Galley Roof structural repairs. McG's COP requires further work, as it was not submitted in a formal proposal format and contains discrepancies that must be resolved before it can be presented to the School Board for consideration. **With that said, please note a Special Board Meeting will need to be scheduled before September 1, 2025 to review the COP.**
- As a reminder, CEMS campus and CMS parking lots remain closed until further notice. Updates on the CEMS Rehabilitation Project and construction will be provided through email and CCSD's Facebook Page sometime around mid-August.
- CCSD truly appreciates everyone's understanding and continued support!

Current/Upcoming District Events

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| • August 8th: | CCSD Facilities Committee Meeting |
| • August 12th: | CCSD FY26 Principals & Classified 10-Month Employees Start Date |
| • August 26-27th: | CCSD In-service / CCSD FY26 Teacher & Paraprofessional Start Date |
| • August 28th-29th: | CCSD Staff Workdays |
| • September 2nd: | CES, CMS, CHS School Opens! |

*Please be sure to check CCSD's Website for specific dates of events and activities at CES, CMS, and CHS.