

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** NWABSD Board of Education  
Members

**DATE:** December 5, 2023

**NUMBER:** VII.

**FR:** Office of the Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Superintendent's Report

### ATTENDANCE:

After four weeks of school, our district attendance is currently at 86%. We are looking into an attendance monitoring plug-in that works with power school so we can see and view reasons why students are absent and then come up with strategies to increase attendance.

Attendance plays a critical role in students' success in school. Recent nationwide data from the 2015-2016 school year revealed that nearly 8 million students, roughly 16%, were frequently absent, missing about 15 days of school. Chronic absenteeism significantly affects students in multiple ways, impacting their academic performance in subjects like math and reading, their emotional development, and even increasing the likelihood of grade retention, dropout, and disciplinary issues. Chronic absenteeism is also linked to risky behaviors like substance use and can escalate to school dropout, which in turn brings about long-term problems in adulthood. In response, the Northwest Arctic Borough School District has implemented various initiatives. These include efforts to reduce both excused and unexcused absences, track absenteeism rates using Power School, categorize attendance levels, analyze absence trends, establish support systems for individual students, and educate students, parents, and the community about the importance of regular attendance. Additionally, the district is reviewing and refining its attendance policy to ensure clarity, emphasize the significance of attendance, and address common causes of absenteeism. Clarifying what constitutes excused absences is also part of this comprehensive approach.

### ENROLLMENT:

K-12's current enrollment is 1878 a decrease of 14 students since September count.

PreK – 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment is 2002 a decrease of 4 students.

SCHOOL	PK3	PK4	KG	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	7TH	8TH	9TH	10TH	11TH	12TH	TOTAL
ABL	1	4	6	8	3	5	5	6	4	9	4	5	2	2	2	66
BKC	0	18	12	19	15	16	17	16	15	18	16	14	15	15	16	222
DRG	0	3	4	5	6	2	9	0	5	4	3	5	4	6	0	56
IAN	0	2	9	10	7	6	5	7	11	7	8	12	6	7	5	102
KVL	0	2	10	10	8	7	19	13	13	12	12	14	14	13	11	158
OBU	0	2	4	3	0	6	2	3	3	1	4	1	1	0	1	31
HSCH	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	1	2	5	7	23
JNES	4	39	46	48	45	32	38	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	301
KMHS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	48	55	36	42	45	43	323
WTK	0	18	12	12	10	6	15	9	8	11	17	14	10	16	13	171
ORV	1	12	7	15	11	26	17	20	20	13	14	16	9	13	10	204
WLK	0	14	10	22	12	24	18	17	24	16	24	22	27	18	26	274
SHG	0	4	5	8	4	8	5	7	4	2	7	4	4	5	4	71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>2002</b>

## Enrollment over the years

School	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ambler	76	73	71	61	57	64
Buckland	189	181	187	184	200	211
Deering	41	51	53	54	54	53
Kiana	128	125	123	104	100	104
Kivalina	162	167	162	166	156	159
Kobuk	49	49	48	32	35	32
JNES	392	355	336	257	265	305
Noatak	174	163	154	145	157	172
Noorvik	204	228	204	200	203	211
Shungnak	62	66	76	74	84	72
KMHS	330	338	340	326	329	336
Selawik	264	274	272	224	247	269
Home School	42	27	25	53	30	21
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2113</b>	<b>2097</b>	<b>2051</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1917</b>	<b>2009</b>

## Suspensions by Site (through November 29)

Site	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Ambler	2	4	11	0	5	6	2
Buckland	3	2	0	0	2	14	5
Deering	0	1	0	0	2	1	0
Kiana	41	17	11	0	2	7	2
Kivalina	9	15	11	1	4	2	0
Kobuk	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Kotz- JNES	5	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kotz- KMHS	33	20	21	0	15	37	37
Noatak	5	5	24	1	1	2	15
Noorvik	9	4	4	2	4	17	7
Selawik	16	9	14	2	10	27	3
Shungnak	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>73</b>

## Travel Report

ASA Fall Conference September 27-29 I met with all Alaska Superintendents to discuss items that affect the Education of students in Alaska.

National Indian Education Conference October 18-21:

So many informative sessions that include information on Creating Culture Curriculum for K-12 Classrooms, Ensuring Indigenous Student Graduation, Use Elders Methods in Modern Classrooms, Indigenous Ways of Learning in Education, Waihona.net: Indigenous Online Learning Resources, Increasing Federal Funding, The Power of Advocacy and more...

AASB Fall Conference November 9-11: Attended the conference with board members.

I am requesting the Board to approve the Superintendent's out-of-district travel for 2024 and Personal Leave request (Memo 24-060):

- Principal's meeting Anchorage, January 25
- Response to Intervention RTI Conference Anchorage, January 26-28
- NW Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT) Juneau, January 29-30
- ACSA Superintendent's Legislative Fly-in Juneau, February 3-5
- AASB Legislative Fly-in Juneau, February 10-11
- NWALT DC Lobbying Washington DC, March 27-29
- Personal Leave December 18-29, 2023

Terri Walker,  
Superintendent