

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY & PURPOSE

BP 0100 (a)

Situated on Iñupiaq ancestral lands, the North Slope Borough School District draws upon Iñupiaq ways of knowing (epistemology) and being (ontology) as the foundation for educational attainment.

The foundational principles begin with Maᅇᅇuqput.

MANJUQPOT

Iñuk una qauriñjaniñ iñugullaᅇmi ilisimmatiniguuruq ilisausiamiñiñ naipiqtuᅇniñaniᅇᅇ aasii taima isumalaalgusivᅇuni suli ilisimmaagiksivᅇuni. Tainnamik aasii kisuutilaani pautagivlugu iñuguᅇᅇuni iñulluatauvᅇuni. Isumaptiktun ilitchipkairugut sivuniqaᅇᅇta Iñupiagñiptinnik, iñuuniaqatigiimmaᅇiññiptinnik, iluagñiptinnik suli iñukkuksaiñiptinnik iñulluatannik, ataramik kisuutilaaqput suaᅇᅇasiqsimallaan.

Foundational Statement

*The North Slope Borough School District is committed to embedding traditional Iñupiaq approaches to educating NSBSD students through the curriculum and teaching practices. This principle, called **Iñuguᅇsiñiq**, guides the District's work with the students and communities of the North Slope. The District shares a collective responsibility to support students' development as **iñulluatat** – good human beings – able to navigate successfully in today's world.*

The District honors and recognizes the unique process of learning that is deeply tied to the land, culture, language and knowledge of the Iñupiat. The District's educational approach is rooted in a foundation of Iñupiaq values which promote a strong sense of cultural identity and foster a sense of community and connection. This approach focuses on encouraging NSBSD students to think critically, learn from their observations and experiences, and become good human beings. This process respects how students learn as they become aware of their surroundings and serves to expand their knowledge into adulthood and beyond.

The **Maᅇᅇuqput** is a foundational principle that underpins an educational philosophy that recognizes the importance of the Iñupiaq language; fosters relationships; wellbeing; supports the raising of good human beings; and nurtures and strengthens the identity of the students it serves.

The **Maᅇᅇuqput** is inclusive of the Pauktuutit (Critical Elements) that will guide the Board of Education's philosophy and vision for education within the North Slope Borough School District. It serves as a foundation and guide for decisions related to curriculum, instruction, student support, and school operations, ensuring alignment with the District's mission for student success.

Education is the specific, mandated responsibility of the North Slope Borough School District Board of Education. This policy will guide the Board of Education in developing a five-year Strategic Plan for the District, ensuring accountability and advocating always in the best interests of students and the District. Based on the Strategic Plan, the Board will work with the Superintendent and staff to develop and implement an operational plan that aligns with the Pauktuutit (Critical Elements) and promotes growth and excellence for all students.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY & PURPOSE

BP 0100 (b)

Pauktuutit (Critical Elements) - The Pauktuutit of the Manḡuqput are as follows:

- Isumaptiktun - To exercise educational sovereignty.
- Iḡupaḡniq - To institutionalize a climate for academic success that honors peoples' traditional ways of being.
- Iḡuuniaqatigiimmaḡiḡḡniq - To rely on the wisdom of the ancestors, to instill a sense of living in harmony and working together for the greater common good.
- Iluḡniq - To foster spiritual, cultural, physical, emotional and social wellness in students.
- Iḡukkuksaiḡniq Iḡulluatanik - To recognize that the District's educational mandate includes preparing students with the skills and knowledge needed to be able to function as **good human beings** who are contributing and caring adults in their communities.
- Kisuutilaaqput Suanḡasiqsimallaan - To support and strengthen identity development in students in ways that protects and honors who they are and reconnects them with ancestral ways of being and knowing.