

SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 19569, 1010 Sandy Beach Road Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919

Board Report

May 2021

Brian Krosschell, Grants Manager

***Vision:** Students are equipped to realize their dreams and aspirations.*

***Mission:** Together we will foster student skills to achieve their goals and adapt to an ever-changing world.*

Pre-Elementary Program

We are extremely fortunate to have a pre-elementary program in the district. This program helps our students be better prepared for the social and classroom structure of school. Understanding the classroom structure helps children start learning critical content as quickly as possible when entering Kindergarten. Pre-elementary schools are required to submit an annual "Approval to Operate" application to DEED no later than June 30th. This report will be submitted after the last day of school. More information at: <https://education.alaska.gov/approval-to-operate-report>.

Agriculture Program

As always, I need to give a special thanks to the many volunteers that are helping with the agriculture program across the district. The agriculture program would not survive without these volunteers. SISD was awarded two grants to supply funds for volunteer recognition, incentives, and promotion of the program. It also helps to provide needed supplies like gloves, soil, seeds, etc. We are very thankful for these grants. I listed them below.

SEARHC Grant – Agriculture Volunteer Supplies and Promotion

SEARHC awarded SISD \$1000 to support a community volunteer program, including incentives, recognition, supplies, and promotion of the Southeast Island School District Island Fresh program. Thank you SEARHC! We will send them a final report and thank them again.

RurAL Cap Grant – Agriculture Volunteer Supplies and Promotion

RurAL CAP awarded SISD \$5000 to support a community volunteer program, including incentives, recognition, supplies, and promotion of the Southeast Island School District Island Fresh program. Thank you RurAL CAP! We will send them a final report and thank them again.

AmeriCorps Resilient Alaskan Youth (RAY) program

Resilient Alaskan Youth is the AmeriCorps program we are currently participating in. It is managed by RurAL CAP. The focus of this program is to provide activities and mentorship to youth using the many resources we have in our schools and communities. We were accepted to continue in the program for another year with at least 3 members.

AmeriCorps VISTA Anti-Hunger Summer Program

SISD was approved to fund 3 AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Food Service/Agriculture support staff. This is similar to other AmeriCorps programs. The AmeriCorps members receive a stipend and a bonus if they serve for the entire 10-week summer program. The contact for the program is Juliana Pereira (JPereira@hungerfreeamerica.org).

AmeriCorps VISTA Anti-Hunger Year-Long Program

The year-long VISTA program is perfect for us. The application period will not open until mid-June. It is managed by an organization called Hunger Free America. More information can be found at <https://www.hungerfreeamerica.org/en-us/ameri-corps-vista>. This program is for capacity-building support in food service programs. This position can help us with a variety of things including:

- developing a farmers' market
- improving agriculture/greenhouse systems
- grant writing (for the district's agriculture/food prog)
- support for Susan Greene and the food service systems on POW

AmeriCorps Elder Mentor Program

I just started to learn about another AmeriCorps program that has the potential to provide SISD with more student support in the schools. The goal of the Elder Mentor Program is to provide mentoring opportunities for students from pre-k to high school. The Elder members work directly with students. The members receive an hourly stipend directly from RurAL CAP (it is tax exempt so it does not affect other benefits). The contact for this program is Jacquie Braden (jbraden@ruralcap.org). More information can be found at:

<https://ruralcap.org/client-services/health-well-being/elder-mentor-program/>

Alaska Energy Authority Village Energy Efficiency Program

The AEA Outdoor Lighting grant was extended until September 30th. We received \$125,000 for high efficiency lighting. This grant project is nearing completion and the final reporting is due soon after the project is completed. More information at <http://www.akenergyauthority.org/>

Alaska Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant (CLSD)

The most recent newsletter about our literacy program is included with this report. DEED appreciated the thorough year-end report that the Literacy Coordinator, Arlie Swett, submitted on May 1. Arlie has done an exceptional job coordinating services for 5 different districts. That is not an easy task. As part of this grant, Ilisagvik College has agreed to provide *paraprofessional classroom instructional* courses for our paraprofessionals starting in the fall. Tuition is free for Alaska Native people. All other costs for enrollment in this training are paid by the literacy grant, including tuition for non-Native paraprofessionals. The partnering districts will also have the opportunity to take credit courses in *data analysis* from the i-Ready trainers starting in the fall. The costs for tuition will be covered by the literacy grant. DEED expects that unspent funds will be allowed to be used next year. This will allow us to provide a literacy coach stipend.

<https://education.alaska.gov/information-exchange-blog/deed-spotlight-energizing-literacy>

ESEA Consolidated Title Program Application

To reduce the amount of time required for reporting and management of our Title funds, SISD will be combining some of the Title programs into Title I-A. One way to do this is called REAPing and it will allow us to merge Title II and Title IV funds into the Title I-A fund.

New federal programs manager transition

Deidre Jensen will be taking over the federal programs responsibilities for next school year. She is very talented. We are working together to provide a smooth transition for SISD. I will also continue to be available to help with questions as they come up.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or suggestions.

(bkrossschell@sisd.org).

Literacy Grant



Neisha Bowler's 2nd-3rd Class

Yakutat School District

Neisha Bowler has been learning about iReady during the 2020-2021 school year. Neisha shared these comments for our newsletter, "I love integrating iReady into my classroom instruction. Not only do I have a passion for iReady but so do my students! My students desire to use iReady over any other educational platform. iReady meets have a passion for iReady but so do my students! My students desire to use i-Ready over any other educational platform. iReady meets students where they are and keeps them engaged. I look forward to the success that iReady brings to Yakutat School District." Following are quotes from three of her students:

Jace

"I love how they tell me about what I am going to learn!"

Avery

"I love iReady because they teach me about the Wave Rock in Australia. My Mom and Dad and Granny didn't know so I taught them!"

J.J.

"They teach me new words and not only just new vocabulary but also Spanish!"



iReady Reading Domains

Students will participate in an iReady Reading Diagnostic three times a year starting with the 2021-2022 school year. The diagnostic assessment results provide data on each student based on these reading domains:

Phonological Awareness

Phonics

Word Recognition

Vocabulary

Informational Text

Literature

Classroom teachers can use this information to group students based on similar needs and provide teacher directed instruction. Each student also has a Personal Learning Plan based on their literacy strengths and skills.

Charles Becker began his Alaskan teaching adventure as a middle school interventionist with the North Slope Borough School District in 2002. He has moved in a consistently southward direction since and recently settled in Thorne Bay as the curriculum coordinator and literacy coach for the Southeast Island School District. He supports all teachers and students in grades K-12 across all subject areas. He was told early in his career that, "Reading is the doorway through which students access all other learning," and takes this to heart in his daily practice. He also believes that all individuals can become more self-efficacious through the vicarious experience of reading quality literature. Outside of work he can most often be found amongst tall timber with a dog or two in close proximity.



Neisha Bowler
Yakutat School District



Charles Becker
Southeast Island School District

Data Chat: Your child will be taking the second iReady diagnostic April 26-May 7. Here's some ideas for a conversation with your child's teacher.

Notes for Families

Data Chat


Date:

1. The data indicates my student's academic performance is:

2. Areas I can celebrate and areas my student can improve on are:

3. At home, I can do the following to support my student's learning:

Learn More! Visit [iReadyCentral.com/FamilyCenter](https://www.iReadyCentral.com/FamilyCenter)
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 i-Ready

iReady Data Chat