

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education Members

Date: February 11, 2026

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Alaska Technical Center
& STAR of the NW

Joe Groves, Director of ATC/STAR, reports on the following:

ATC Course Update

The ATC is fully underway with second-semester classes and short-course training. In FY26, 262 students enrolled in classes, of whom 158 were registered in AKJobs. Training spans multiple fields, including 12-Volt Battery Systems, Heavy Equipment Operation, CDL, Driver's Education Permit Testing, Boiler Repair, Solar Array, Wilderness First Aid, and CPR. Each student is counted only once in AKJobs registration. Below are the high school course offerings for FY26.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Academic Success | 1 |
| Business Software I | 10 |
| Business Software II | 7 |
| Certified Nursing Assistant | 6 |
| Culinary 1 | 8 |
| Culinary 2 | 5 |
| Design & Fabrication 1 | 25 |
| Health | 13 |
| Introduction to Culinary Arts | 5 |
| Introduction to Health Careers | 8 |
| Medical Terminology | 2 |
| Professionalism in Health Care | 5 |
| | 95 |

Upcoming Short Course Schedule

2025-2026 ATC Short Course Schedule

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| CDL Training | Mar 9 - 13 Kotzebue |
| CDL Practicum, Testing, Certification | Mar 16 – Apr 3 Palmer |
| Heat Pump/Solar Training (NANA) | April 6 – 11 Kotzebue |
| Basic 12-Volt Electrical Systems | April 6 – 10 Kotzebue |
| Heavy Equipment Operator | April 20 – May 1 |
| Heavy Equipment Practicum, Testing, Certification | May 4 – 22 Palmer |
| Introductory 12 Volt Battery System Course | July 2026 TBD |

Career Pathway Specialist

The Career Pathway Specialist traveled to Noorvik and plans to visit Kiana and Noatak in February. In March, they will travel to Selawik and Upriver sites. ATC will partner with NANA and other vendors to participate in Career Fairs across the region. Staff continues to recruit for ATC and STAR and to assist Readistar with recruitment and activities.

ATC Spotlight

Congratulations to Yvonne Kingeak for being an Alaska Technical Center Student Spotlight! Yvonne worked diligently with the Registrar and Career Pathways Specialist to complete her CDL application and secure scholarship funding. Through her dedication and hard work, she earned her Class A Commercial Driver's License with her tuition fully funded by scholarships.

Yvonne continues to demonstrate her commitment to personal and professional growth by regularly attending GED study groups at the ATC. We are proud of her accomplishments and look forward to her continued success.



Alaska Job Center

The Kotzebue satellite office of the Alaska Job Center is open during the last week of each month. The next scheduled dates are February 23rd through the 27th.



Drivers Education

ATC currently has one instructor certified to administer the DMV written exam. The instructor is in the process of obtaining certification to administer the road exam as well. ATC is coordinating with the Anchorage DMV to perform shadow driving exams in Anchorage and complete the necessary requirements to become fully certified to administer road tests in Kotzebue.

Hewlett Foundation Grant

The Northwest Arctic Borough School District has been awarded a two-year, \$400,000 grant to support workforce development in renewable energy. The ATC is collaborating with NANA and the Northwest Arctic Borough to secure training equipment that will replicate the renewable energy systems being developed throughout the region, ensuring students gain hands-on experience aligned with local industry needs.

ATC Events

The ATC recently hosted the Alaska Humanities C3 program earlier this month. Several additional trainings and events are scheduled in the coming months, including support for Arctic Edge, Early Childhood Workforce Training, the Maniilaq Water Operator Class, and technical courses in Solar Array installation and Heat Pump installation. These efforts continue to expand workforce development opportunities across the region.



The Star Report

"Where no magnet school has gone before"

February 2026

2nd Semester Slipping and Sliding

We're already well into the second semester! Classes are running smoothly, and students are working hard both in and out of the classroom. We recently enjoyed a sledding trip where students from Star and Readistar had a great time together. Even though the snowfall wasn't as deep as we had hoped, we made the most of what we had and still had a wonderful day.



Activities

Activities

- Open Gym – Skating/Basketball
- Slushie Mondays
- Sledding
- Husky Basketball games

Upcoming Activities

- Ice Fishing
- More Sledding
- Bingo
- Spring Break Trip
- Anchorage CTE activity
- Volunteering
- NYO





Dorm Life

ReadiStar Schedule

February 3 – February 12th – Noorvik, Kiana, Noatak

February 17 – February 26th – Buckland

March 3 – March 12th – Kivalina

March 24 – April 2nd – Selawik

April 7 – April 16th – Deering

April 21 – April 30th – Upriver

May 4 – May 8th - Kotzebue



Highlights from ReadiSTAR

- 81 Students have participated in FY26
- Job Exploration at the Fire Hall, Bering Air, National Park Service, and Maniilaq
- Residential Maintenance Skills in weatherization, electrical, plumbing
- Creating personalized items using vinyl, clothing, and pen blanks
- Exploration in ATC's Culinary Arts and Medical Training Lab
- Receiving a Food Handler's Safety Certification
- Career Exploration in 100's of trade industries using Interplay program

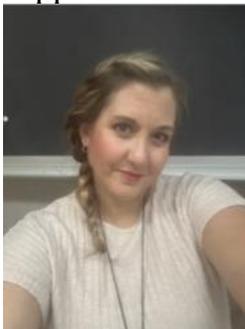


Naomi Edwards Introduction

My name is Naomi Edwards, and I am honored to join the Northwest Arctic Borough School District as the new Career Path Specialist. I am truly excited to join a community that values education, opportunity, and preparing students for meaningful futures.

In my new role, I look forward to working closely with students, families, educators, and community partners to strengthen career awareness, expand pathway options, and help students develop plans aligned with their goals, strengths, and interests. I strongly believe in creating opportunities that are meaningful, practical, and accessible to all learners.

Thank you for the warm welcome. I am eager to collaborate, learn from the community, and support students as they prepare for bright futures.



EDUCATION PROGRAM

Ilisautri Grant
February Update

HIGHLIGHTS

Participants in Education Preparation Programs

- **54 current participants**
 - 4 community members
 - 13 NWABSD staff
 - 37 students this year (EdRising/Dual Credit)
 - 9 communities

Tuition Reimbursement/Stipend

- **13 current recipients**
- 2 graduated and employed by NWABSD

Apprenticeships

- **4 current apprentices** - Arctic Resource Community Foundation.

Class offerings

- Dual Credit through UAF
 - ED-F111
 - 6 remote students
 - 2 in-person (Kotzebue)
 - WRTG-F111
 - 10 remote students
 - 5 in-person (Kotzebue)
 - WRTG-F213
 - 3 in-person (Selawik)

Educators Rising

- **18 enrolled students** (virtual and in-person in Kotzebue and Selawik)
- 3 middle school students from Selawik will be competing at the beginning of March in the State EdRising competition.



GED Program at ATC

School Year 2025-26

Enrollment

- 41 students enrolled and studied for their GEDs.
- Students spent over 360 hours studying for GED.
- Students are located in Kotzebue, Selawik, Noatak, Kivalina and Buckland.

Partnerships

- TANF Office has connected 4 students with GED courses.
- NANA Offices are open for students to study and attend zoom classes in each village.



Cathryn Lane-Gallahorn achieved her diploma on February 2nd!



Yvonne Kingeak, Annmarie Kingeak and Kyra Henry toast to their GED math test over apple cider.

GED Graduates of 2025-26

Stacy Foster of Buckland
Ava Morris of Kotzebue/Kiana
Minnie Downey of Kotzebue
Cathryn Lane-Gallahorn of Kotzebue
Annmarie Kingeak of Kotzebue



Classes and Tutoring

Due to high demand for tutoring we have shifted to a class schedule!

Science Class

Monday thru Friday 10am-12pm

Math Class

Monday thru Friday 2pm-4pm

Reading for GED

Wednesday thru Friday 1:30pm-3:30pm

Tutoring is available by appointment.