



Southeast Island School District Superintendent's Report April 11, 2025

District Goals

Collaboration: Strengthen and maintain collaborative relationships with the Board of Education and the district team to support student success.

Public Trust: Build public trust and confidence through open, honest communication and by fostering positive connections across our communities.

Recent Engagements

- March 28: POW Superintendents Meeting
 - March 28: Joint ART Consortium in Craig
 - April 1: Grant meeting with Brightways, focusing on afterschool programs incorporating literacy
 - April 3: Indian Education Advisory Meeting
 - April 3: Celebration for Kerrie Carl in Coffman Cove
 - April 10: SISD Health Fair in Thorne Bay — special thanks to our team for organizing a successful event
 - April 10: DC Close-Up Meeting with parents and students — due to budget constraints, six students will attend this year. Students are actively participating in community service projects as part of their preparation.
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Upcoming Events

- April 18–20: ATA Spring Nationals — Student Recruitment, Whale Pass
 - April 18 (and ongoing through June): Garden Fresh Plant Sales in Thorne Bay & Coffman Cove
 - April 22–30: National Archery Tournament
 - April 23–25: PBIS Training, Portland
 - April 29–May 1: FBI Safety Presentations in Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay, and Hollis
 - May 15: Hollis Graduation
 - May 16: Thorne Bay/AK Trails Graduation
 - May 22: Naukati Graduation
 - May 30: Coffman Cove Graduation
 - May 31–June 7: National Close-Up Trip to Washington, D.C.
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Legislative Update

- HJR 5: Urges Congress and the White House to reinstate the Secure Rural Schools Program.
- SB 20: Requires DEED to adopt CPR curricula and determine grade levels for instruction.
- HB 69: Proposes a \$1,000 increase to the BSA, sets maximum class sizes, mandates state assessments or portfolio submission for correspondence students.
- HB 76: Omnibus education bill — includes transportation funding increases, teacher bonuses, charter school provisions, open enrollment, cell phone policies, and extends the school bond debt moratorium to 2030.
- HB 78: Introduces a Defined Benefit Option for retirement systems.
- HB 90: Mandates a financial literacy program for grades 9–12, requiring completion for graduation.

- SB 151: Requires head lice prevention information and a district policy allowing students with live lice to remain in class until the end of the school day; includes partial reimbursement for school nurse costs.

Title VI Compliance Certification Update:

- ED will not initiate enforcement action, investigation, or otherwise take action based on any State or LEA certification, lack of certification, or communication with ED regarding the certification, until after the April 24, 2025 deadline has passed. Up to and including that date, States and LEAs may submit or re-submit the requested certifications and/or other responses to OCR, and ED will not act upon such submissions or rely on them as material representations until after April 24, 2025.
- Certifications by States and LEAs are not effective until after April 24, 2025, and may not be used for any purpose, including but not limited for the basis of any enforcement action, investigation, claim under the False Claims Act, contract claim, or any other basis for liability by any public or private party.
- ED will not initiate any enforcement action, investigation, or otherwise take action based on the Dear Colleague Letter issued on February 14, 2025 and subsequent actions implementing the letter until after April 24, 2025. This would not preclude enforcement actions, investigations, or other actions based on Title VI in general or the Students for Fair Admissions case.”

A pause on the DEI certification requirement is in place until after April 24, following an ACLU/NEA lawsuit. A preliminary injunction hearing is scheduled for April 17. Guidance is evolving, and ASA is monitoring state positions closely.

- States not expected to sign: NY, MN, WA, CA, IL, MA, PA
- States that may sign on behalf of LEAs: AL, MO, DE, VT (maybe), MD
- States that will sign and request LEAs to sign: OH, ID, AZ, IN, NH, VA

More information: [ACLU Press Release](#)

Shout-Outs & Celebrations

- Health Fair Team: Amanda Blankenship, Tony Lovell, Jennifer and Taylor Andis, Teagan Tayler, Amanda Hotch, and Derek Kuda — thank you for your hard work!
- Greenhouse & Plant Sales: Brandy Prefontaine, for community engagement and early basket presales. Your commitment to student success is appreciated!
- CTE Highlights: *Instructors*: Kennedy Stumpf (Welding & Toyo Repair), Dan Spillane

- ***Special recognition:*** Scott Randall — for outstanding initiative in supporting the Toyo Repair class, sourcing heaters, and providing exceptional support.
Dan Spillane praised Scott's efforts and highlighted the remarkable work ethic and respectful demeanor of our students, stating:
 - *"Scott contacted me a few months before class so he could get an understanding of what the class was, what would be needed/ expected and all. I filled him in on what my struggle of the moment was- find enough heaters to have the class.*
 - *Scott found heaters all over the place! He even went and picked up the heaters in Ketchikan that Schmolck donated for the class! Scott kept me informed, assisted the class and represented your district extremely well to a guy that does this class in districts around the entire state!*
 - *Now your students... You guys are doing something right!"*
- "Out of the three districts I work in, your kids are always my favorites. They have manners, a great work ethic, respectful tones of voice, and everything."*
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Conclusion

Southeast Island School District remains steadfast in our commitment to collaboration, community engagement, and student-centered initiatives. With your continued support, we are building a brighter future for our students and communities. Thank you for your partnership and dedication to our mission.