

## Letter of Support for a NSBSD Charter School

January 13, 2020

Dear Members of the NSBSD Board,

As a member of the Academic Policy Committee Founding Team for the Qargi Academy, a proposed 9-12th grades charter school, I strongly encourage you to support the establishment of the proposed charter school.

The establishment of this charter school will provide education options for our village communities and students across the North Slope. This charter school is designed to meet the needs of students who reside outside of Utqiagvik. It will establish alternative schooling for our village students. Currently the only alternative school, Kiita, is in Utqiagvik and for Utqiagvik based students. I am firmly of the belief that the Iñupiaq language is a treasure left to us by our ancestors. I further believe that students who achieve a level of fluency in the Iñupiaq language are likely to excel in other aspects of their education to become future leaders of their communities. We all know that something must be done immediately to achieve these goals.

The current state of education across the North Slope demonstrates that the academic needs of most North Slope students are not being met, especially the needs of Iñupiaq village students.

It is time to bring equitable educational opportunities for students across the North Slope.

This letter is my support for the establishment of the charter school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edna A. MacLean". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline.

Edna A. MacLean, Ph.D.