

## **Superintendent Report March 2026**

It is a busy time of year as we prepare to close out one school year while also planning ahead for the next. Spring is arriving and we've transitioned from our winter sports into our spring seasons. As always, the Petersburg community came out in full force to support and celebrate our PHS students during Homecoming against Wrangell.

Even through the lingering snow, students can already be seen carrying their track and baseball gear, hopeful that the snow will soon melt. Middle school volleyball players are preparing for their upcoming games, and both our middle and high school Native Youth Olympics teams have been practicing hard. At the elementary level, students continue making strong progress in reading fluency and comprehension thanks to the dedication and commitment of our staff.

### **Roof Project**

By the time of the school board meeting, CBC should be fully demobilized and the roof project completed. The final vents have arrived and have been installed, and crews are currently finishing site cleanup.

### **Petersburg Campus Security Upgrades**

Representatives from Sampson Electric were onsite March 10–11 and met with Aaron, Jon, and me to review the scope of work and walk through the facilities. We expect to receive a follow-up site visit report along with their proposed project schedule.

### **Staffing**

We are currently in the process of hiring for several certificated positions. Principals have been reviewing applications and forming interview committees. At this time, we are advertising for three positions at the elementary level and three positions at the middle/high school level.

### **Wellness**

Our second annual staff Cornhole Tournament will be held Friday, March 13. This was a well-received event last year, and we are looking forward to another afternoon of friendly competition and staff camaraderie.

### **Legislative Advocacy**

There are a number of education-related bills under discussion during this legislative session. Education funding continues to be a major topic of conversation, and we are closely monitoring several bills that may impact our district.

Principal Conn and I will represent Petersburg in Juneau later this month during the Alaska Council of School Administrators Legislative Fly-In. We will meet with our Southeast representatives as well as legislators from across the state to advocate for the educational needs of our students and district.

I would also like to extend appreciation to Alice Cumps, Tim Shumway, and Tyler Thain for representing Petersburg at the NEA Legislative Fly-In last month and for their advocacy efforts on behalf of our schools.

[HB 12](#), Free Breakfast and Lunch in Public Schools - Sponsors Dibert, Burke, Edgmon, Galvin, Himschoot

- Require the state to fund free breakfast and lunch for any public-school student who requests a meal.

[HB 78](#) Retirement Systems - Sponsor House Finance

- Would create a pension for teachers hired after 2006 and for all new employees.

[HB 152](#) Education Tax- Sponsors Galvin, Mina, Himschoot, Gray, Fields

- Establish a \$150 head tax for all individuals who earn a wage or has self-employed net earnings in Alaska to fund public education.
- Add a 4% income tax on individuals with an income exceeding \$150,000 as an individual or \$300,000 as a couple filing jointly.

[HB 187](#) School Nutrition/Meal: Prohibit Food Dyes - Sponsor Wielechowski

[HB 231](#), Teacher Retention, Retirement - Sponsors Burke, Hall

- Add information on teacher and paraprofessional working conditions to DEED's annual report to the legislature based on exit interviews
- Increase state funding for the federal E-Rate program to one gigabit per second
- Require DEED to provide financial planning, and retirement training for teachers and paras and to support principal and superintendent mentoring programs
- Create an educator housing subsidy grant program
- Add international accrediting associations to be accepted by the department for teacher certificates
- Allow public employees to remain in PERS after becoming certified teachers
- Add recruitment and retention bonuses for teachers and paras between \$5,000 and \$15,000

[HB 237](#) Mathematics Instruction - Sponsor Underwood

[HB 240](#) Schools: Digital Harassment and Nonconsensual Digital - Sponsor Nelson

[HB 248](#) Correspondence Study Program Assessment- Sponsor Galvin

[HB 261](#) ADM Average- Sponsor Story

[HB 288](#) Local Contributions by School Districts - Sponsor Fields

[HB 333](#) Technical Readiness and Career Training – Sponsor Bynum

[HB 339](#) Personal Finance Program in Schools – Sponsor Costello

[HB 358](#) Career and Technical Education Grants - Sponsor Elam

- Establish a statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) Mobility Grant Program
- Provide grants to host districts for student participation costs, performance-based incentives, and facility/equipment modernization
- Require collaboration between the Department of Education and Labor to expand pre-apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities for secondary students

[HB 365](#) Scholarship Granting Organizations – Sponsor Bynum

[HB 374](#) Base Student Allocation - Sponsor House Education

- Proposes to raise the BSA by \$630, from \$6,660 to \$7,290

[HJR 28](#), Support Kids Online Safety Act

- Urge the U.S. Congress and the President to pass the Kids Online Safety Act to strengthen protections for minors on social media and other online platforms.

[HJR 39](#) Waive Visa Fees for Teachers - Sponsor Galvin

- Urge the federal government to waive the new \$100,000 annual H-1B visa fee for educators hired in Alaska
- Seeks to help Alaska school districts address ongoing teacher shortages, particularly in rural areas
- Aims to prevent districts from facing the choice of paying millions in visa fees or losing approximately 500 international teachers currently working in Alaska schools

[SB 20](#) CPR Curriculum - Sponsors Gray-Jackson, Claman, Tobin, Kawasaki

[SB 23](#)- Civics Education - Senators Stevens, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Kaufman, Tilton, Claman, Stedman, Rauscher, Giessel, Cronk, Kawasaki, Wielechowski, Yundt

- Require the state to develop a comparative government and civics curriculum and assessment, including a 100-question test based on the U.S. naturalization exam
- Mandate students complete a civics course and pass a civics assessment or project-based assessment to graduate high school
- Create a seal of civic readiness for students who demonstrate high civic proficiency
- [SB 93](#) Early Education Programs - Sponsor Tobin
- Count students in approved district-wide early education programs as a **full ADM student instead of .5 ADM for funding purposes**
- Repeal Pre-K Program sunset clause
- Repeal limit on state funding for approved Pre-K programs
- [SB 198](#) PRS/TRS Retirement & Medical Eligibility – Sponsor Kaufman
- [SB 204](#) Sub Teaching; School Board Eligibility - Sponsor Cronk
- [SB 206](#) School Suicide Polices; Firearm Storage - Sponsor Tobin
- [SB 209](#) Grad Requirements & Proficiency Tools - Sponsor Bjorkman.
- Require social studies to be include in high school graduation requirements to include civics, the history of the United States, and state history
- Require DEED to adopt performance standards and tool in grades 8-12 for the subjects of economics, language arts, math, science and social studies.
- Require amend high school graduation requirements to 4 units of language arts, 4 units of social studies ( to include US history, State History, civics and economics)
- Applies to students graduating on or after January 1, 2030
- [SB 210](#) Indigenous Cultural Heritage Education - Sponsor Tobin
- [SB 228](#) Public Schools; Opioid Awareness Program - Sponsor Rauscher
- [SB 238](#), Library Materials Policies; Censorship - Sponsor Kawasaki
- Establish statewide policies protecting access to library materials in public and school libraries, prohibit censorship based on viewpoint, origin, race, gender sexuality, religion, or politics
- Create formal procedures for challenging library materials while requiring that materials remain available during review and limiting removal to narrow obscenity standards
- Provides affirmative legal defenses and a private right of action for librarians, students, parents authors, and publishers when government entities censor materials or discipline employees for refusing to censor
- [SB 247](#) - Generated Obscene Child Sex Abuse Material –Sponsor Kiehl
- [SB 267](#) – Public School Finance; Data Internet Website – Sponsor Bjorkman