
CCSD Superintendent Report

April 2026

CCSD Appreciations

- Administrative Assistant Appreciation Day was celebrated on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. On behalf of CCSD, I want to thank our outstanding administrative assistants - Ms. Kellie Ebbighausen, Ms. Sandra Marker, Ms. Liz Thomsen, Ms. Marilyn Ensign, and Ms. Sonia Traver - for all they do to support our school community. We truly appreciate their hard work, care, and the important role they play in our schools.

CCSD Finances/Budget

- CCSD's April, May, & June Foundation payment was reduced to \$382,149 (down from \$481,569), a decrease of **\$99,420**, due to the State's "True Up," which adjusts funding based on actual Average Daily Membership (ADM). CCSD's FY26 ADM is 573.09 compared to the FY25 ADM of 620.98, resulting in a decrease of 47.89 ADM. The decline occurred primarily in the PACE Statewide Homeschool Program, while enrollment at CES, CMS, and CHS increased by approximately eight (8) students from FY25 to FY26. However, CHS will graduate 16-seniors this year and currently has only seven (7) kindergarteners projected for CES, reinforcing concerns outlined in Memorandum 10b regarding the FY 2027 Draft Projected General Operating Budget.
- As noted in the Correspondence section of this month's Board Packet, CCSD has received the FY26 Quality Schools Grant (**\$15,066**) as well as the FY26 Dividend Raffle (**\$1,876**).
- Please refer to Memorandum 10b under the New Business section of the April Board Agenda for updated information on CCSD's FY 2027 Draft Projected General Operating Budget.

Human Resources/Staff Updates

- Please join me in welcoming the following staff to CCSD: Mr. Spenser Nelson (CHS & PACE Principal).
- CCSD currently has the following positions posted: CHS Science & CCSD Accounts Payable, Admin Assistant, & PACE Financial Coordinator.
- As an update, Ms. Sonia Traver requested consideration to increase her current 29-hour Administrative Assistant position to a full-time 40-hour position. This request has been approved as a reclassification based on program needs and to support continuity of services within PACE. The effective date of this change is Friday, May 1, 2026, pending completion of HR processing and payroll implementation.

CCSD Curriculum/Instruction & Professional Development/PLC Committee Updates

- CCSD's last In-service day of the school year was held on Monday, April 20, 2026, and featured professional development with James Nottingham via Zoom focused on the Learning Pit Challenge. The training supported staff in collaborative problem-solving and instructional growth, with an emphasis on strategies to help students navigate challenges, persist through confusion, and develop deeper understanding. Staff feedback was very positive. CCSD is also exploring the use of Title II-A grant funds, which support professional development, to potentially bring James Nottingham to Craig for future in-person professional development and continued support.

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- I attended portions of the free, virtual State of Alaska Suicide Prevention Conference on April 23 and April 24, 2026, joining sessions as my schedule allowed. My attendance was intermittent due to concurrent required responsibilities, including work related to the CEMS Rehabilitation Project substantiation completion. The conference itself was a fully scheduled 2-day event, via Zoom, that focused on statewide suicide prevention efforts, including youth mental health, school-based prevention programs, culturally responsive practices, community resilience, family engagement, and workforce development.

CCSD Special Programs

- Special Program Assurances 5, 6, and 8 have been reviewed, updated as required, and submitted to the Department of Education and Early Development in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These assurances are a required component of federal special education compliance and affirm that CCSD will implement all IDEA obligations related to the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), procedural safeguards for students and families, and equitable identification and placement practices for students with disabilities. Submission of these assurances confirms CCSD's continued commitment to meeting federal and state requirements and ensuring appropriate special education and related services are available to all eligible students.
- CCSD will soon be advertising a Child Find notice in compliance with federal and Alaska state requirements. Under 20 U.S.C. § 1412(a)(3) of IDEA and 4 AAC 52.120, school districts are required to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who may be in need of special education and related services, regardless of the severity of their disability. This notice ensures families are informed of available services and supports the identification and access to appropriate evaluations and supports for all eligible children.

CCSD Projects

CHS New Shop/Biomass Project

- CBC installed a snow guard the week of April 20th on the CHS New Shop at no charge. Great appreciation is extended to Mr. Chris Balovich and Mr. Zach Schidecker for their support and coordination in completing this work. Their assistance, along with the efforts of CCSD's Maintenance Team in correctly installing the guy lines, should help strengthen the CHS New Shop stack and hopefully alleviate any weather-related damage the future.

CEMS Rehabilitation Project

- The CEMS Rehabilitation Project has reached a major milestone, with Architects Alaska and RESPEC completing substantial completion walkthroughs on April 23–24, 2026. These walkthroughs confirmed that the project is nearing completion, with only final closeout requirements remaining prior to turnover to CCSD.
- A Punch List was generated from the Substantial Completion walkthroughs and will be provided to McG Constructors the week of April 27th. The Punch List identifies any remaining items that must be corrected or completed before the project can be officially turned over to the CCSD and final payment is issued.
- At this time, the CEMS Rehabilitation Project is **not yet fully ready for turnover** to CCSD. Several key closeout requirements remain outstanding, including:
 - Completion of all Punch List items identified during substantial completion walkthroughs.
 - Full system commissioning and verification, including testing, adjusting, and balancing (TAB), fire alarm final testing, and controls integration confirmation.

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- Resolution of all life-safety and code-required items, including installation and approval of the required guardrail at the upper hallway to lower level (fall protection for approximately a 4-foot drop).
 - Final approvals required by Architects Alaska and RESPEC.
 - Completion of all closeout documentation, including O&M manuals, warranties, and required training/verification for CCSD Maintenance Staff.

In sum, once commissioning is fully complete, all punch list items are resolved, required inspections are approved, and closeout documentation is received and accepted, the building will be eligible for final acceptance and turnover to CCSD.

Current/Upcoming District Events

- April 28-29th: Federal Programs - Carl Perkins Monitoring / Site Visit
- April 29th: CCSD School Board Meeting (April)
- May 1st: AK Star Testing Window Closes
- May 4-8th: CCSD Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
- May 8th: Indian Education Grant Application Due
- May 15th: CCSD End of Year Staff Recognition & Celebration
- May 19th: CCSD Indigenous Education Committee Meeting
- May 25th: Memorial Day / No School
- May 27th: CCSD Regular School Board Meeting (May)
- May 28th: CHS Graduation
- June 4rd: CCSD Last Day of School
- June 5th: CCSD Teacher Work Day

*Please be sure to check CCSD's Website for specific dates of events and activities at CES, CMS, and CHS.