

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** NWABSD Board of Education  
Members

**DATE:** November 25 2025

**NUMBER:**

**FR:** Office of the Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Superintendent's Report

### **K-12 Attendance**

	<b><u>8/18/25- 9/19/25</u></b>	<b><u>8/18/25-10/31/25</u></b>
Ambler School	80.92%	82.50%
Buckland School	91.62%	89.76%
Deering School	92.99%	94.01%
Kiana School	80.57%	81.47%
Kisimigiutug School	78.15%	79.19%
Kobuk School	83.17%	88.72%
June Nelson Elementary	88.12%	87.31%
Kotzebue Middle/High School	81.04%	84.24%
Napaaqtugmiut School	83.57%	81.34%
Aqqaluk High/Noorvik Elementary	88.03%	87.14%
Davis-Ramoth School	87.17%	81.40%
Shungnak School	93.90%	86.60%
NWABSD Home School	100.00%	99.94%
District	83.53%	85.39%

A shout-out to Ambler, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, and KMHS for increasing their attendance rate. Let's keep up the good work!

Jessica Heisler, KMHS principal and Superintendent Intern has been working on this incentive plan and here is what she has gathered:

- Many schools use incentives such as candy, bicycles, and public shoutouts to boost attendance.
- JNES rewards students with money for meeting attendance goals.
- Last year's district-wide fuel rewards didn't have the success we hoped for at all sites, so we will consider other options.

See the attached document as a starting point. We will continue to build on these ideas together as a committee. Your input is invaluable and appreciated, as everyone's efforts are focused on making attendance a priority for our students, staff, and community.

## **Enrollment**

Pre-K -12 grade enrollment is 1884 and K-12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment is 1762, a decrease of 24 students since the September report.

## **Childcare Working Group Update**

Discussion with the Child Care Working Group continues. Dena Strait, Capital Projects, and Charlie Nelson, Maniilaq, are working on the design to determine the updates needed to the facility. We are also working on the language in the lease agreement with Iḷiḷgaat Munaqsriyat for the use of the building to operate the childcare center and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Maniilaq and NWABSD for the remodel of the space.

## **NWALT**

NWALT will meet on December 18 to review the NWALT strategic plan with input from all four organizations.

## **Coalition for Education Equity (CEE)**

The Coalition for Education Equity Board of Directors Meeting on November 15, 2025 covered several key topics. See attached minutes.

## **Safe and Civil – Susan Isaacs**

Susan visited the upriver communities last week. She focused on school-wide expectations for students and staff to ensure consistent procedures in the hallways, cafeteria, and classrooms. This was her second visit to these sites this year, and she has seen progress in their structures.

## **National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Conference**

I focused on sessions on Language Immersion and Curriculum Development. The Immersion sessions focused on strengthening our program through simple, effective teaching strategies. Here is a recommended list.

- New reading and math program taught in the local language.
- Integrating seasonal-change books translated for students.
- Incorporating role-play and acting to support comprehension.
- Visual and kinesthetic supports—like mapping the six seasons, using sign language and gestures for key concepts, and creating “Who We Are” posters—help reinforce vocabulary and identity.
- Additional tools, such as a children’s app with songs, pictures, and words, further support language learning in engaging ways.

Even without fluency, teachers can effectively support language learning by teaching what they know and using practical tools, such as a five-senses app. Daily routines—like counting and using consistent transition phrases (e.g., “stand up,” “line up,” “push in your chairs”)—help reinforce language through repetition and everyday practice.

## **Challenges, Successes, Behaviors of the Crow**

- Challenges
  - We call it the language politics. Always someone who says, “You’re saying it wrong.”
  - Elders speak English, not crow to the children.
- Successes,
  - Can’t just talk about it.
  - Need the right people to be involved.

- They take the time to create materials.
- Students who have gone through their program are on honor roll and well-behaved.
- Behaviors
  - Students in immersion classrooms didn't get in trouble as much.
  - In specials, they even said the students in the immersion class are well-behaved.
  - They do better on test scores.
  - Had a challenging class and played a song in the language to calm them down.

Since the Government was shut down at the time, many policy-related sessions were canceled.

Attached is my travel request.

Quyaanna,

Terri Walker, Superintendent

## **NWABSD Attendance Incentive Plan**

### **Board Meeting Handout – 2025–2026 School Year**

#### **Why Attendance Matters**

- Consistent attendance improves academic success, graduation rates, and long-term workforce readiness.
- Strong attendance builds routines, strengthens relationships, and reinforces responsibility.
- In NWABSD's rural context, improving attendance requires family partnership, community support, and positive, inclusive practices.

#### **1. Weekly Classroom & Grade-Level Shout-Outs**

- Public recognition for classrooms achieving 90%+ weekly attendance.
- Builds positive culture and shared effort.

#### **2. Village Attendance Stars (Monthly)**

- 1 elementary, 1 middle, and 1 high school student recognized per village.
- Certificates, announcements, newsletter features, small rewards.

#### **3. Quarterly “Good Standing” Student Activities**

- Cultural activities, open gym, movie hour, or elder sessions for students with 90% attendance or documented improvement.

#### **4. “Strive for 5” Improvement Award**

- Recognizes students who improve attendance by 5% each quarter.
- Includes postcards home, small incentives, and recognition.

#### **5. Attendance Competitions**

- Classrooms earn points for days with 90%+ attendance.
- Rewards: pizza party, culture class, extra gym time.

#### **6. Family Attendance Champions**

- Monthly recognition of families supporting strong attendance.
- Featured in newsletters and announcements.

#### **7. Districtwide “Perfect Month Challenge”**

- Students with zero unexcused absences enter monthly drawing for NWABSD gear, artwork, books, or supplies.

## **8. Seasonal Attendance Drives**

- Themed campaigns: Warm Up to Winter (Nov), Iñua Challenge (Feb), Spring Forward (Apr).

## **9. Elder-Led Attendance Recognition**

- Elders participate in recognition ceremonies and sign certificates.

## **10. Staff Recognition: Attendance Heroes**

- Quarterly recognition for staff who support attendance improvements.

## **Implementation Timeline**

Q1 (Aug–Oct): Launch incentives, shout-outs, Strive for 5.

Q2 (Nov–Dec): Winter drive, first quarterly event, family awards.

Q3 (Jan–Mar): Iñua Challenge, second event, elder recognition.

Q4 (Apr–May): Spring Forward, final awards.

## **Expected Outcomes**

- Increased daily attendance.
- Stronger family-school partnerships.
- Improved academic engagement.
- Climate grounded in Inupiaq values.



COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA

**Coalition for Education Equity  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 15, 2025

Attendance:

Caroline Storm - Executive Director

Superintendents: Jamie Burgess (Nome) – Chair; Patrick Mayer (Alaska Gateway) – Vice Chair; Hannibal Anderson (LKSD) – Treasurer; Terri Walker (NWA) – Secretary; Scott Ballard (Yupit) – Member at large; Madeline Aguillard (Kuspuk); Frank Hauser (Juneau); Robin Taylor (Petersburg)  
School Board Members: Petersburg and Northwest Arctic.

1. Meeting called to order at 12:07 pm
2. Director's Report: No questions on written report.
  - a. Lawsuit updates: CEE's legal counsel has all the data that they requested as of this week and plans to have a draft complaint done by the end of next week. At that time the plaintiffs and counsel will have a meeting to review the draft and discuss any inaccuracies or revisions. Once the complaint is close to final, a strictly confidential copy will be sent to members for their review.
    - i Filing date is still unclear, yet it has been recommended by a communications consultant to wait until after the new year. Our lobbyist suggested waiting for the first day of session to make a big media and legislative splash.
    - ii A request from a member for sanctioned talking points to use and provide to school board members. C.Storm to obtain from counsel.
  - b. Village energy costs: C.Storm addressed a perception issue from a few school board members that either school districts or school sites are "subsidizing" village power. C.Storm talked with Dr. Brian Hirsch a knowledgeable consultant for remote energy systems and clarified that schools do pay an enormous electricity bill due to their load and demand charges imposed by the utility, and because PCE does not get applied to schools, yet the rates are set and regulated by the RCA. It is true that a school likely does pay the majority share of the operations of a remote off-railbelt system due to the load, yet the school or district is not being unfairly charged. Among all the issues to consider in school funding, districts being directly reimbursed by the state for power and water may be worth recommending
  - c. Spike Jorgensen 2026 Scholarship Application was not included in the board packet and will be transmitted with the minutes. No applications were received this year.
  - d. C.Storm proposed that after all the Education Task Force "information gathering" meetings are over, that CEE puts forth our own official list of recommendations to the task force.
3. Legislative update and 2026 priorities

- a. Oil price projections had the State with a surplus in August of '25. Oil prices have dropped to \$65 a barrel that will leave the State with a deficit for FY26.
  - b. Reggie Joule relays the importance of the 2026 elections and the need to protect the bi-partisan coalitions. Voter turnout in remote Alaska is very low and we need to do our part to encourage participation.
  - c. Motion to approve CEE's legislative priorities as listed in the packet made and seconded. No discussion. No objection.
4. Member Comment Period:
  - a. Need to increase membership. A presentation to new Chugach board members went well and they were very appreciative of our work. C.Storm to reach out to other districts and request to make a presentation to their boards. LYSD and Southwest Island were mentioned as good targets.
  - b. Regulation reduction: the blanket mandate from the governor's office has not come with any direction from DEED and Superintendents and commissions are being asked for suggestions. Superintendents do not have the time. CEE to reach out to ACSA and AASB to see who is working on some regulations to recommendations. The process by which projects are submitted for Major Maintenance funding should be considered if possible. C.Storm to reach out to Sen. Tobin's office and ask that the SEN EDU Committee have a meeting on any proposals that DEED may be looking at.
5. Motion to retain Board Officer slate as it stands made and seconded. Passed unopposed.
6. FY 25 financial Report: membership and fees have dropped however CEE has a lean budget and did ok in FY25 with a small draw from savings.
  - a. CEE will be approaching the Resource Equity Funding Coalition for communications funding in 2026.
7. C.Storm reminds members that CEE now has a donation button on the website that members are free to share in their communities.
8. 2026 Spring meeting date: Proposal made to coincide with 2026 AASB Juneau fly-in in early February so that outreach can be made to School Boards: TBD Timing may be good because of lawsuit.
9. Adjourned at 1:01pm

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** NWABSD Board of Education

**DATE:** September 30, 2025

**NUMBER:** 26-053

**FR:** Office of the Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Supt. Travel

**ABSTRACT:**

Superintendent's out-of-district travel requires Board approval.

**ISSUE:**

At issue is to approve the Superintendent's request for out-of-district travel as presented.

**BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

Request for Out-of-District Travel by the Superintendent Upcoming Travel Dates:

- January 23-25, 2026 MTSS Conference, Anchorage Alaska
- February 7-10, 2026 AASB Legislative Fly-in, Juneau, Alaska
- March 28-April 1, 2026 ACSA Superintendent Legislative Fly -in, Juneau, Alaska

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

General Funds: budgeted for FY26

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the Superintendent's request for out-of-district travel as presented.
2. Do not approve the Superintendent's request for out-of-district travel as presented.
3. Take no final action.

**ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the Superintendent's request for out-of-district travel as presented.