

BP 0100 EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY & PURPOSE

Situated on Iñupiaq ancestral lands, the North Slope Borough School District draws upon Iñupiaq ways of knowing (epistemology) and being (ontology) as the foundation for educational attainment.

The foundational principles begin with Manjuqput.

MANJUQPUT

Iñuk una qauriñinaniñ iñugullaġmi ilisimmatiniguuruq ilisausiamiñiñ naipiqtuġniñani!lu aasii taima isumalaalgusivluni sulil isimmaagiksivluni. Tainnamik aasii kisuutilaani pautagivlugu iñuguqhuni iñulluatauvluni. Isumaptiktun ilitchipkairugut sivuniqaqtuta Iñupiaġniptinnik, iñuuniaqatigiimmaġiñniptinnik, iluaġniptinnik sulil iñukkuksaiñniptinnik iñulluatanik, ataramik kisuutilaaqput suaṇṇasiqsimallaan.

Foundational Statement

*The North Slope Borough School District is committed to embedding traditional Iñupiaq approaches to educating NSBSD students through the curriculum and teaching practices. This principle, called **Iñuguqsiniq**, guides the District’s work with the students and communities of the North Slope. The District shares a collective responsibility to support students’ development as **iñulluatat** – good human beings – able to navigate successfully in today’s world.*

The District honors and recognizes the unique process of learning that is deeply tied to the land, culture, language and knowledge of the Iñupiat. The District’s educational approach is rooted in a foundation of Iñupiaq values which promote a strong sense of cultural identity and foster a sense of community and connection. This approach focuses on encouraging NSBSD students to think critically, learn from their observations and experiences, and become good human beings. This process respects how students learn as they become aware of their surroundings and serves to expand their knowledge into adulthood and beyond.

The **Manjuqput** is a foundational principle that underpins an educational philosophy that recognizes the importance of the Iñupiaq language; fosters relationships; wellbeing; supports the raising of good human beings; and nurtures and strengthens the identity of the students it serves.

The **Manjuqput** is inclusive of the Critical Elements that will guide the Board of Education’s philosophy and vision for education within the North Slope Borough School District. It serves as a foundation and guide for decisions related to curriculum,

instruction, student support, and school operations, ensuring alignment with the District's mission for student success.

Education is the specific, mandated responsibility of the North Slope Borough School District Board of Education. This policy will guide the Board of Education in developing a five year Strategic Plan for the District, ensuring accountability and advocating always in the best interests of students and the District. Based on the Strategic Plan, the Board will work with the Superintendent and staff to develop and implement an operational plan that aligns with the Critical Elements and promotes growth and excellence for all students.

The Critical Elements of the Manjuqput are as follows:

- Isumaptiktun - To exercise educational sovereignty.
- Iñupiaḡniq - To institutionalize a climate for academic success that honors peoples' traditional ways of being.
- Iñuuniaqatigiimmaḡiḡniq - To rely on the wisdom of the ancestors, to instill a sense of living in harmony and working together for the greater common good.
- Iluḡniq - To foster spiritual, cultural, physical, emotional and social wellness in students.
- Iñukkuksaiḡniq Iñulluatanik - To recognize that the District's educational mandate includes preparing students with the skills and knowledge needed to be able to function as **good human beings** who are contributing and caring adults in their communities.
- Kisuutilaaqput Suaḡḡasiqsimalaan - To support and strengthen identity development in students in ways that protects and honors who they are and reconnects them with ancestral ways of being and knowing.