

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: May 21, 2025

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Curriculum & Instruction

Tracy Bell, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reports on the following:

Strategic Goal 2: Instructional Supports

Over the past quarter, the Curriculum Department has focused on improving instructional alignment, strengthening teacher supports, and ensuring clarity in curriculum implementation across the district.

Objective 1: Evaluation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

Recent progress includes:

- Updating our districtwide MTSS Plan to be more structured and clearer for staff.
- Developing a dashboard to better track student interventions and success.
- Improving Positive Behavior Systems with guidance from the *Safe & Civil Schools* consultant.
- Designing professional development schedules to build staff skills in intervention and data use.

Objective 2: Safe & Civil Schools Refresh

- Consultant Susan Isaacs has nearly completed her visits to our communities. She was unable to visit Kiana and Noatak due to weather and scheduling.
- In Kotzebue, she will work with leadership to plan behavior support systems for the 2025–26 school year.
- For the 2025–26 school year, the consultant's focus will shift to helping schools build consistent expectations, staff routines, and positive behavior supports tailored to each site's needs.

Curriculum Program & Project Updates:

1. PK–12 Curriculum Alignment & Planning Tools

- Completed full-year pacing and scope and sequence documents for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies (K–5), fully aligned to the Alaska State Standards.
- Integrated thematic units and culturally responsive content across disciplines, with intentional connections to SEL and Iñupiaq values.
- Developed teacher-facing planning tools that include success criteria, learning targets, and links to progress monitoring, ensuring instruction is both standards-based and student-centered.

2. Literacy Connections (LIT) Grant Progress

- Created a clear plan for continuing our literacy work next year, including supports for students and families.
- Hired new staff who will help with reading programs, family engagement, and making sure our literacy goals stay on track. Onboarding will start July 1.
- Finalized purchase of take-home literacy kits for families. In July the team will organize them for implementation to families and teachers next year.

3. MTSS & Alaska Reads Act Readiness

- Developed ELA Tier I–III guidance and documentation for school-level teams, including intervention program inventories, grouping protocols, and scheduling templates.
- Collaborated closely with the Student Services Department to align Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) responsibilities in preparation for the upcoming transition.

4. Department Systems

- Completed a districtwide instructional materials inventory, organized by subject and grade band, with documentation of format, subscription status, and instructional alignment.
- Prepared central storage and curriculum materials for summer cleaning and fall onboarding, including clear documentation for teachers.
- Provided transition memos and updated shared drives to support sustainability and ease of handoff to incoming leadership.

5. Curriculum Review & Purchase Cycle

<i>Curriculum Area</i>	<i>Curriculum Review</i>	<i>Purchase Textbooks & Materials</i>	<i>Implementation</i>
Inupiaq Physical Science, Biology, and Environmental Science	2020-2025	Spring 2022-25 (Development)	2023-2026
Math	2023-2024	Spring 2024	2024-2025
Social Studies/Health	2025-2026	Spring 2026	2026-2027
Science K-8, HS Physics & Chemistry	2025-2026	Spring 2026	2026-2027
English Language Arts 7-12	2029-2030	Spring 2029	2030-2031
English Language Arts K-6	2029-2030	Spring 2029	2030-2031

***Supplemental resources are reviewed and purchased as needed.

b. Help Ticket System: There are ongoing requests for shipments of books and learning materials across various schools, with many requests awaiting fulfillment.

- a** 08/14/2024: 49 tickets
- b** 08/22/2024: 46 tickets
- c** 09/02/2024: 126 tickets
- d** 09/13/2024: 296 tickets
- e** 02/13/2025: 58 Tickets
- f** 05/22/2025:

6. Projects and Partnerships:

- **Health & Safety:** Cancer Awareness
- **STEM & Energy:** Work with ACEP, UAF, ANSEP
- **Career Exposure:** BWISE
- **Culturally Responsive Education:** National Park Service, UAF
- **Language Revitalization:** Aqqaluk Trust, Iisiqataviut, and Alaska Native Heritage Center

7. End of Year mClass Benchmarking Results:

Kindergarten (124 tested, 132 enrolled)

Band	BOY	EOY	% Change
Well Below	76	47	↓ 38.2%
Below	30	24	↓ 20.0%
At Benchmark	11	33	↑ 200.0%
Above Benchmark	15	20	↑ 33.3%

1st Grade (114 tested, 123 enrolled)

Band	BOY	EOY	% Change
Well Below	77	41	↓ 46.8%
Below	25	16	↓ 36.0%
At Benchmark	14	36	↑ 157.1%
Above Benchmark	8	21	↑ 162.5%

2nd Grade (145 tested, 155 enrolled)

Band	BOY	EOY	% Change
Well Below	97	63	↓ 35.1%
Below	24	22	↓ 8.3%
At Benchmark	19	36	↑ 89.5%
Above Benchmark	12	24	↑ 100.0%

3rd Grade (123 tested, 133 enrolled)

Band	BOY	EOY	% Change
Well Below	85	46	↓ 45.9%
Below	16	17	↑ 6.25%
At Benchmark	12	28	↑ 133.3%
Above Benchmark	15	32	↑ 113.3%

4th Grade (134 tested, 148 enrolled)

Band	BOY	EOY	% Change
Well Below	63	66	↑ 4.8%
Below	28	16	↓ 42.9%
At Benchmark	24	20	↓ 16.7%
Above Benchmark	2	8	↑ 300.0%

This is increase from 2 to 8 students—a notable shift, still a small group.

5th Grade (134 tested, 148 enrolled)

Band	BOY	EOY	% Change
Well Below	91	103	↑ 13.2%
Below	28	10	↓ 64.3%
At Benchmark	17	13	↓ 23.5%
Above Benchmark	9	8	↓ 11.1%