

## **Special Education Department Board Report**

February 2025

We are pleased to present this month's report highlighting the significant strides and accomplishments of the Special Education Department. Your ongoing support continues to make a profound impact on our students, staff, and programs.

### **Professional Development & Recognition**

The Special Education team recently attended the 2025 Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC) in Anchorage. This conference provided invaluable opportunities for our educators to enhance their knowledge, refine best practices, and collaborate with professionals from across the state. The insights gained from ASSEC will directly contribute to improving the services and support we provide to our students.

We are also proud to share that both the Hollis SPED team and the Naukati SPED team were nominated for the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education Award. Their nominations were reconsidered for their outstanding efforts in implementing inclusive practices within our district. This recognition reflects the dedication and commitment of our educators to fostering an environment where all students can thrive.

### **Gifted & Talented (GT) Program Expansion**

Our district's Gifted and Talented (GT) Program continues to grow. This month, we have received two additional referrals for GT identification. We encourage teachers, community members, and parents to continue referring students who demonstrate superior academic performance and/or advanced critical thinking skills. Expanding our GT program ensures that all high-achieving students receive the enrichment opportunities they need to excel.

### **Speech & Language Services**

Additionally, we have received two new speech referrals that are currently being processed. These referrals highlight the ongoing need for speech and language support within our district. Our team is committed to working closely with families and specialists to ensure timely assessments and interventions.

### **Grants & Program Development**

The Special Education Department, in collaboration with Astrid, is actively pursuing grant opportunities to enhance our afterschool programs and implement Community-Based Instruction (CBI) for our SPED learners. These initiatives will help provide hands-on learning experiences and real-world skill development for students with special needs.

Furthermore, the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) will be piloting PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) at Hollis and Coffman Cove schools. DEED representatives will be on-site to strategize logistics, ensuring a smooth

implementation. This initiative has been fully funded through DEED's Special Education Grants, providing much-needed support to our district's behavior intervention strategies.

### **Compliance & Assessments**

We are pleased to report that, with the tremendous assistance of Theresa Randall, we successfully submitted our OASIS report to DEED. This submission ensures that our district's student data aligns with state compliance requirements.

On the assessment front, we have successfully completed Testing Window 2/3. With the invaluable support of Matt Gore, we have begun preparing for our final testing cycle, which includes state assessments. To ensure smooth administration, both Matt and I attended assessment training sessions, equipping us with the necessary tools to navigate and execute this crucial phase effectively.

We also want to give a special shoutout to all of our teachers working diligently on Individual Reading Intervention Plans (IRIPs) to support students' literacy growth. A very special recognition goes to Sharlet Collins, who has completed all of her IRIPs, ensuring that her students will receive the interventions and supports they need. She has done an outstanding job using data-driven instruction to inform her teaching and help her students succeed.

### **School Board Appreciation**

Finally, as we observe School Board Appreciation Month, the Special Education Department would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the board for your unwavering support. Your dedication is felt in everything you do—

- Approving related service provider contracts
- Supporting our special education teachers
- Being accessible and responsive to the needs of our department

Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we sincerely appreciate all you do to ensure our students receive the best possible education and services.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment.

With the students of Southeast Island School District in mind,

Robbin Ann Perkins Askew  
Special Programs Coordinator

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# 2025 Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference



2025 Inductee  
**Derek Shell**  
Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Alaska's students with disabilities.  
The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education  
On this fourth day of February, 2025  
Kendra M. Stone, M.Ed.  
Champion, GCISE  
Executive Director

2025 Inductee  
**Matthew Benjamin**  
Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Alaska's students with disabilities.  
The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education  
On this fourth day of February, 2025  
Kendra M. Stone, M.Ed.  
Champion, GCISE  
Executive Director

2025 Inductee  
**Pamela Martensen**  
Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Alaska's students with disabilities.  
The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education  
On this fourth day of February, 2025  
Kendra M. Stone, M.Ed.  
Champion, GCISE  
Executive Director

2025 Inductee  
**Amanda Baker**  
Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Alaska's students with disabilities.  
The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education  
On this fourth day of February, 2025  
Kendra M. Stone, M.Ed.  
Champion, GCISE  
Executive Director

2025 Inductee  
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