



THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Adele Villa
CITCI, NYO Coordinator
3600 San Jeronimo Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Hello Adele,

This past winter, we had a conversation on the concept of moving the NYO State Games in Anchorage later into the Spring, and out of the State testing window. The idea is based on the assumption that:

- Giving students a few extra weeks to prepare academically for the State exams would benefit kids across the State, and, in particular, in Bush Alaska.
- Also, by moving this wonderful event a few weeks later, it gives student's the motivation to show up to school and stay in good academic standing. The end of the year is a tough time and any carrot we can offer to keep kids in school and paying attention is worth it.

When we last spoke, we decided that it would be best to see what the consensus around the State was and that I would work on surveying other school districts. I reached out to the Alaska Superintendent's Association and they organized a survey that went out to each school district in Alaska. The results are the following:

- 44 out of 52 districts responded
- 24 districts participate in NYO while 9 others stated that it was a tribal or club activity (11 chose "other")
- Out of these 33 districts, only 6 stated preference for the current dates. 23 stated that it would be beneficial to have the competition later in the school year
- 13 districts preferred the last week of April and 19 districts preferred the first week of May

I have attached the survey results for your review as there are some good comments regarding the value of NYO to our children, and also a relevant comment from communities that participate in whaling in May.

Overall, I believe this idea has merit and I would like to ask that you consider the possibility of moving the event later into the Spring (2022) and out of the State testing window. I am available at your convenience if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Respectfully,

Ty Mase, Superintendent