

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** NWABSD Board of Education  
Members

**DATE:** April 29, 2025

**FR:** Office of the Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Superintendent's Report

### **ATTENDANCE:**

The district attendance rate as of 3/31/25 is 80.08%.

Categories	Percent Attendance
Regular Attendance	95%-100%
At-Risk Attendance	90%-94.9%
Chronic Absence	80%-89.9%
Severe Chronic Absence	80% and below

#### K-12 Attendance

8/20/24 - 3/31/25

Ambler School	81.64%
Buckland School	85.47%
Deering School	86.54%
Kiana School	76.15%
Kisimgiugtuq School	61.66%
Kobuk School	90.67%
June Nelson Elementary	83.42%
Kotzebue Middle/High School	81.53%
Napaaqtugmiut School	79.06%
Aqqaluk High/Noorvik Elementary	80.73%
Davis-Ramoth School	77.55%
Shungnak School	78.32%
NWABSD Home School	100.00%
District	80.08%

### **Attendance Committee:**

#### District Attendance Committee Data and Initiatives

Attendance Incentive program! 🎉 This program is designed to encourage regular attendance and reward our dedicated students and their families.

The 4th drawing attendance data ready on or before Monday, April 21. A heartfelt thank you to those who have the names and pictures of the student winners.

## **ENROLLMENT:**

As of April 14, 2025, the K-12's current enrollment is 1801, a decrease of 16 students since November's report.

PreK – 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment is 1913, a decrease of 16 students since January's report.

SCHOOL	PK3	PK4	KG	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	7TH	8TH	9TH	10TH	11TH	12TH	TOTAL
ABL	0	7	4	6	6	3	5	4	4	4	9	4	2	2	2	62
BKC	2	11	17	13	19	16	15	17	16	15	19	16	13	13	16	218
DRG	1	6	2	2	5	5	3	8	0	4	4	1	5	2	7	55
IAN	1	6	2	11	8	7	4	5	8	11	5	5	11	3	7	94
KVL	0	2	5	10	7	8	8	19	14	11	12	13	13	13	13	148
OBV	0	2	3	2	3	0	6	3	4	5	3	4	4	0	2	41
KMHS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	45	48	51	27	39	33	289
HSCH	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	4	2	4	2	13	6	2	40
JNES	7	37	48	41	45	47	33	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	298
WTK	0	6	19	11	14	9	5	13	10	7	9	17	13	7	16	156
ORV	1	10	13	9	17	13	25	16	19	18	14	14	15	10	8	202
WLK	1	8	17	12	21	20	18	18	17	23	12	21	16	23	18	245
SHG	1	3	5	6	8	4	5	4	7	6	2	2	3	2	7	65

Homeschool increased by 11 students. A small fluctuation among other sites as well.

## **March/April 2025**

National Superintendents Conference March 4-7 The theme of the Conference on Education was "Future Driven Leadership." This theme emphasized equipping school system leaders to prepare students for their future, focusing on areas such as digital literacy, emerging technologies like AI, and ensuring students graduate with essential real-world skills. Updates to Federal Education policies from DC were given beginning with funding and legislative updates from Congress and then moved on to recent regulations and guidance and federal policy issues under the new administration.

Legislative Fly-in March 28-April 1 Attended the Legislative fly-in with three Administrators (two principals and a director). We held 17 meetings with our legislators, many of whom have never had the opportunity to visit rural Alaska. Our goal was to provide them with a firsthand understanding of our communities and the vital role public schools play as central hubs. In many rural areas, schools are the only building in the community that is large enough to host community events and gatherings.

We emphasized that our schools also serve as critical safety shelters during natural disasters, as well as during power or water outages that affect local homes. Additionally, we highlighted the importance of student activities that help keep our youth engaged and in school, and expressed our concern that, without increased funding, these programs—as well as school meal services—are at serious risk.

We also talked about the current budget, that we are being forced to rely on our fund balance—resources typically reserved for emergencies such as water pipe breaks, freeze-ups, and unexpected maintenance issues throughout the year. This fund is also essential for meeting the required matches on grants and awards we have received to upgrade our heating systems. Using these emergency reserves for basic operations is unsustainable and puts our long-term stability at risk.

Many districts who are facing similar challenges with budget shortfalls were in Juneau to talk with our legislators as well. The Governor was not present during this time. I believe we made an impact on our legislators because the HB69 passed with a \$1000 increase to the BSA and then was vetoed by the Governor. We are hopeful for an override, although it is looking like we will not get enough votes by our legislators. The Governor has put a bill that supports a \$560 increase

with additional designated funds to target certain initiatives. That bill has yet to pass the House and Senate.

Kivalina visit – Met with the local leadership and community.

Office of Indian Education Discretionary Grant April 14-15 OIE Project Directors Meeting, themed “Leveraging Our Sovereignty,” was a two day conference supported by the Native American Youth Grant that supports ANSEP and GYO. This was the first in-person meeting since 2019. I liked how they used a Bingo card to provide an incentive for participants to meet. This activity would go well with groups of people who do not know each other well.

A panel of grantees described programs that their grant supports. Programs mentioned were Native Youth Councils, Grow Your Own, Relevant Cultural Instruction, Native Youth Leadership, Revitalizing Language, College and Career Prep, and Childcare Centers.

The Native American Language Resource Center can provide Technical Assistance. Our contact comes from the University of Oregon, where we are already working in partnership with them to create an Inupiaq Assessment tool.

The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education panel gave brief overviews.

- Innovative Approaches to Literacy improves libraries and buys books
- Office of Impact Aide – as well as the overview, she talked about the Constructions grants competition. We will look into qualification guidelines.
- Migrant Education – Gave an overview of this program. Migrant = mobility so movement must happen.
- Innovation and Early learning programs

The Office of Indian Education Director, Julian Guerrero reflected on the happenings in Washington DC with the President cutting so many offices and programs. He was reassuring that the programs supporting the Native Americans would continue and that Indian Education is not racial, it is a unique legal status of being Indian.

Terri Walker, Superintendent