

Department Reports

Iñupiaq Education – Director Qagğuna Tenna Pili

Introduction

In April 2026, the Iñupiaq Education Department (IED) continued to strengthen instructional systems, expand culturally responsive resources, and support staff development across the district. Key efforts focused on advancing language curriculum materials, improving operational systems, supporting teacher development, and strengthening partnerships that build pathways into the education workforce. These efforts remain aligned with NSBSD’s strategic goals and commitment to graduating bilingual students grounded in Iñupiaq language and culture.

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships

- Enhancements to the Iļisauriğtuqa Program including continued collaboration with Iļisağvik College, UAF, and UAS to strengthen alignment across Elementary Education programs and expand pathways into the teaching profession, including discussions on secondary education pathways.
- Ongoing partnership with ASCF and the Aullaagvik Program ensured continued support for teacher candidates through mentorship structures and program alignment.
- The Uqautiluņa Iñupiatun parent immersion program provided 9 hours of language instruction in March, focusing on seasonal and functional language domains such as weather, space, and kitchen vocabulary.
- A spring family immersion potluck was held, where parents and students practiced building Iñupiaq sentences through storytelling activities, reinforcing home-school language connections.
- Materials and resources continued to be prepared and distributed for parent classes, cultural programming, and sewing intensives across schools and communities.

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

- Continued support for instructional materials and access ensured that Culture-Based Units (CBUs) were implemented effectively across grade levels, including verification of digital resources and instructional media through Safari Montage and Chalk systems.

Goal 3: All students are prepared for their pathway of choice post-high school

- Collaboration with postsecondary partners continued to strengthen alignment between district programming and educator preparation pathways, supporting long-term workforce development goals.
- Collaboration with Florence Scott at EdRising to articulate out an education pathway for MS/HS students and to support the Tumitchiat Sivunmun Plans for students.

Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

- The department advanced curriculum development by editing and preparing Ulğuniğmiutun dialect recordings for use in classroom Keynotes, Google Slides, and assessment tools.
- Updated and expanded Iñupiaq month posters, including the development of a Nunamiut dialect version and ongoing collaboration to create a Tikigaq dialect version.
- Continued development of the Iñupiaq Mentor-Apprentice Program (IMAP) Toolkit, including finalization of Units 1–5 and preparation of audio transcripts for recording through the Language Revitalization grant partnership with IHLC.
- Ongoing work with curriculum developers supported the creation of a Learning Management System (LMS) to house Iñupialğusisa! IMAP materials.

- Provided targeted language instruction support through intervention groups and immersion instruction at the primary level to strengthen foundational language acquisition.

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal 5: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

- The department provided 1:1 support and coaching for ILTs focused on classroom management strategies that promote culturally safe and inclusive learning environments.
 - Instructional approaches emphasized student engagement, identity development, and culturally grounded practices to support both academic and emotional growth.

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

- Continued targeted training and support for ILTs, with a focus on new teachers and individualized professional development needs.
- Delivered 1:1 professional development sessions aligned to instructional goals, including classroom practices and student learning strategies.
- Staff participated in advanced training, including Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS), strengthening instructional approaches to language acquisition.
- Ongoing collaboration supported the development of Summer 2026 Intensive programming, including curriculum planning and instructional scheduling.
- Department staff were trained on systems and processes, including reporting tools and stipend management systems, to build operational capacity of the Ilisaurriqta Program.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

- Inventory process:
 - Completed the development of a digital inventory management system for Iñupiaq language classroom materials to improve tracking, organization, and accessibility.
 - Coordinated district-wide logistics for Culture-Based Units, including:
 - Verification of teacher assignments and student enrollment
 - Tracking of unit locations and checkout systems
 - Ensuring accessibility of digital instructional materials
- Finalized and corrected Native Teaching Aids card order proofs to ensure accuracy of instructional materials.
- Continued development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to improve consistency across departmental operations.
- Supported procurement processes, vendor coordination, and internal organization of materials, storage, and documentation systems.

Conclusion

April demonstrated continued progress in strengthening curriculum resources, supporting staff development, and improving operational systems within the Iñupiaq Education Department. Through sustained collaboration with educational partners and a focus on culturally grounded instruction, the department remains committed to advancing bilingual education and student success across NSBSD.

Below are the Ilitchikpaktuat reports showcasing student & staff language progression data over the weeks from the last board meeting to today:



Iḷitchiqpaktuat!

Week 25
2025-26 School Year



Kindergarten - Fifth Grade Students

School	Grade	Student	ivalu Gains
Aḷak	5	Illisiuraq Ningeok-Swan	404
Ipalook	4	Te'Vana Selesele	930
Kali	3	Sabastian Innisaaq Henry	34
Kaveolook	4	Leah Nippik Gallagher	53
Meade River	2	Desmond Sikiagruk Aveoganna	23
Nunamiut	5	Michael Taagruk Spear	344
Tikiḡaq	4	Christian Quvluḡrauq Oviok	108
Trapper	2	Andrew Ikusik Kasak	179

February 22 - 28, 2026

Week 25
Sixth - Twelfth Grade Students

School	Grade	Student	Value Gains
Aḷak	7	Samuel Kusiḡ Panik	840
BHS	9	Jeremie Voughn Ukalliq Elquiero	327
HMS	6	Michael Falleaf	606
Kali	8	Deanna Tigigluk Johnnie	102
Kaveolook	9	Jyllina Ayaqi Kaleak	145
Kiita	11	Aimee Kapuyuk Neakok	443
Meade River	6	Adrian Amisimaaq Kippi Kagak	68
Nunamiut	8	Darci Asaaluk Anderson	594
Tikigaaq	9	Ciaran Ukpik Lane	215
Trapper	9	Zachary Quḡusiq Stalker	265
Staff	Aḷak	Madeline Apikrak Hickman	385

February 22 - 28, 2026


Week 25


Grade	School	Student	 ivalue Gains
Kindergarten	Aļak	Lawrence Uyaġak Panik-Tooyak	266
First	Ipalook	Brielle Quupak Adams	309
Second	Aļak	Zoey Iqilan Itta	357
Third	Ipalook	Aaron Sulukutaq Adams	380
Fourth	Ipalook	Te'Vana Selesele	930
Fifth	Ipalook	Adrie Broome	451
Sixth	Aļak	Lizzie Saanjaq Okpeaha	624
Seventh	Aļak	Samuel Kusiġ Panik	840
Eighth	Nunamiut	Darci Asaaluk Anderson	594
Ninth	BHS	Jeremie Voughn Ukalliq Elquero	327
Tenth	BHS	Saav Saavgak Mongoyak	280
Eleventh	Nunamiut	David Katairoak Mekiana	528
Twelfth	Kiita	Reylena Annaqauraq Fishel	385


February 22 - 28, 2026




Iḷitchiqpaktuat!

Week 26
2025-26 School Year



Kindergarten - Fifth Grade Students

School	Grade	Student	ivalu Gains
Aḷak	1	Ivory Siksrikaaq Kippi	696
Ipalook	4	Kayson Hines	1030
Kali	5	Douglas Siaksruk Henry	84
Kaveolook	3	Vincent Pamiuq Gordon	179
Meade River	3	Amaya Nukik Bodfish	41
Nunamiut	4	Amos Tauttuk Hugo-Ahgook	718
Tikiḡaq	4	Gracen Aluniq Frankson	204
Trapper	5	Qannik Woods	247

March 1 - 7, 2026

Week 26
Sixth - Twelfth Grade Students

School	Grade	Student	ivalu Gains
Aḷak	7	Carmen Aḡnaatchiaq Ungudruk	1108
BHS	9	Justin Ipik Caoile	579
HMS	6	Danielle Aklacheak Brower	607
Kali	11	Lenora Kaumauq Anniskett	556
Kaveolook	8	Adrianna Itigruk Gordon	202
Kiita	12	Amy Qignagaaluk Okpeaha	343
Meade River	6	Rob Lorence Punla	130
Nunamiut	11	David Katairoak Mekiana	696
Tikiḡaq	6	Delmar Uyagaaluk Ipalook	761
Trapper	9	Jayvian Saiḷaq Sielak	733
Staff	Ipalook	Timothy Anausuk Ferreira	1267



March 1 - 7, 2026



Week 26



Grade	School	Student	 Gains
Kindergarten	Ipalook	Harmony Kisautaq Kaleak-Moore	201
First	Aļak	Ivory Siksrikaaq Kippi	696
Second	Trapper	Mason Niġliq Kallenbach	403
Third	Ipalook	Doreen Naataq Akpik	365
Fourth	Ipalook	Kayson Hines	1030
Fifth	Ipalook	Atqaan Nasuayaaq Pikok	657
Sixth	Tikiġaq	Delmar Uyaġaaluk Ipalook	761
Seventh	Aļak	Carmen Aġnaatchiaq Ungudruk	1108
Eighth	HMS	Cecilia Asiaġatak Richards	582
Ninth	Trapper	Jayvian Saiļaq Sielak	733
Tenth	Trapper	Susie Ahluk Ahmakak Pausanna	690
Eleventh	Nunamiut	David Katairoak Mekiana	696
Twelfth	Kiita	Amy Qiġnagaaluk Okpeaha	343


March 1 - 7, 2026




Iłitchiqpaktuat!



Week 28
2025-26 School Year



Kindergarten - Fifth Grade Students

School	Grade	Student	 Gains
Ałak	2	Zoey Iqilan Itta	443
Ipalook	K	Scarlett Iłgutchiaq Danner	123
Kali	5	Hunter Atagnaq Tukrook	149
Meade River	5	Jeffrey Qalak Aveoganna	70
Nunamiut	4	Calleigh Mayuin Gordon	28


March 15 - 21, 2026

Week 28
Sixth - Twelfth Grade Students

School	Grade	Student	 Gains
Aḷak	10	Kunuk Kunaan Peetook	367
Kali	11	Luke Mayuk Tukrook-Oyagak	278
Meade River	6	Adrian Amisimaaq Kippi Kagak	32
Nunamiut	10	Calleigh Mayuin Gordon	164
Trapper	10	Susie Ahluk Ahmakak Pausanna	124
Staff	Aḷak	Madeline Apikrak Hickman	544

March 15 - 21, 2026


Week 28


Grade	School	Student	 Gains
Kindergarten	Ipalook	Scarlett Ilgutchiaq Danner	123
First	Ałak	Aanayuk Aanayuk Nashoalook	368
Second	Ałak	Zoey Iqilan Itta	443
Third	Ałak	James Nashookpuk Ipalook	217
Fourth	Ałak	Oliver Kataktaq Aveoganna	198
Fifth	Ałak	Illisiuraq Ningeok-Swan	234
Sixth	Ałak	Lizzie Saanjaq Okpeaha	254
Seventh	Ałak	Jasmine Suiluk Segevan	331
Eighth	Ałak	Larry Kayalook Nayakik	273
Ninth	Kali	Willie Ahnavak Tukrook	223
Tenth	Ałak	Kunuk Kunaan Peetook	367
Eleventh	Kali	Luke Mayuk Tukrook-Oyagak	278
Twelfth	Kali	Charles Tingook Anniskett	152


March 15 - 21, 2026


Curriculum & Instruction - Michele Brown

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

The District continues to prioritize authentic community engagement through our *Tumitchiat Sivunmun* (“Roads to the Future”) Community Projects, in which students actively contribute to and invest in their local communities.

Examples:

- Organizing snow removal efforts to support elders and community members in need
- Raising funds to purchase sleds for community use at the post office, increasing access and mobility for residents
- Facilitating cross-age reading partnerships, strengthening both literacy development and peer relationships

These experiences build student responsibility and civic identity while reinforcing meaningful, lasting connections between school and community.

Community partnership highlight:

The District is proud to partner with UIC Science on the BARC Science & Culture Fair in Utqiaġvik, a community event that brings together Arctic research, STEM education, and cultural celebration. The fair features student STEM presentations, hands-on activities, and community engagement opportunities including Arctic-focused research such as permafrost studies and local environmental exploration. By participating in this event, our students gain real-world scientific experience rooted in the place they call home, while strengthening the relationship between our schools and the community.

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

The District continues to strengthen its Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), with a focused approach to intervention centered on closing achievement gaps while meeting students where they are academically. Of note, we are in the beginning stages of developing a cohesive middle school intervention framework to ensure consistency in support across grade levels.

Upcoming assessments requiring strong attendance:

- EOY mCLASS Spring Benchmark
- ACT — Juniors and Seniors may take the exam at no cost
- AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment — attendance is critical

Goal 3: All students are prepared for their pathway of choice post-high school

A collaborative committee of teachers and administrators has been established to evaluate and strengthen the *Tumitchiat Sivunmun* period. The committee’s work is focused on three areas:

- Reviewing current structures to better align TSP experiences with student interests and community needs
- Exploring connections between TSP and career exploration and real-world skill development
- Identifying structural adjustments to ensure students are building meaningful, transferable readiness skills

This ongoing work ensures student experiences remain relevant, purposeful, and aligned to their individual future pathways.

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

The District is investing in staff capacity through targeted, high-impact professional learning. Secondary staff recently attended their third Attuned Education Partners session on March 25, which focused on integrating language and literacy into content area instruction.

This session deepened teachers' understanding of Sentence Expansion — a strategy in which students are given a kernel sentence and asked to expand it in multiple ways using conjunctions, connectors, and specific syntactic tools. This builds both content knowledge and students' ability to write more complex, precise sentences. Teachers also revisited the But, Because, So strategy from earlier in the year and planned upcoming lessons incorporating these techniques.

Additionally, a cohort of teachers will be attending the Science of Reading Conference in Anchorage in May. This learning will be brought back and shared across schools to strengthen instructional practices and improve student literacy outcomes district-wide.

Department Transitions

- Christina Nash — Principal, Anaktuvuk Pass School
- Caitlin Santos — Interim Assistant Superintendent
- Michele Brown — Interim Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Current Hiring Needs

- Instructional Specialists (2 positions)
- Curriculum Coordinator (1 position)

Student Services - Michael Hautala

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District.

The hiring season is upon us. It is time to analyze staffing needs for next year and determine retention status for current staff.

Staffing estimates for next year are now 6 SPED teaching positions, and 1 Counselor positions district wide. The \$7500 retention/recruiting bonus for Special Education before the NSBSD school board has started to pull more interest from candidates, we have also seen a spike in current employees that are SPED certified look at position changes. The estimate of SPED teachers this month has dropped by half with many positions filled by transfers, while this from a compliance standpoint for Special Education is good, it does shift needs to other departments.

Huddle Up has been providing Tele-Mental Health Services to our students. The Huddle Up, working with our District Social Worker and Counseling department began services with the start of the new year, we are currently approaching 100% of capacity. We have had several parent requests regarding services continuing over the Summer. Student Services is currently working with the superintendent to provide summer service and expanded capacity for next school year.

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal 5: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, and physically safe learning Environment.

Counseling

Counselor positions are in a good place, we currently only have one position posted (Ipalook Elementary).

Site Highlights

- **Nuiqsut:** High individual counseling and subbing workload.
- **Kaktovik:** Balanced Tier 1 instruction, collaboration, and meetings.
- **Nunamiut & Alak:** Elevated individual counseling demand.
- **Tikigaq:** Strong teacher collaboration and Tier 1 lessons.

Strengths & Challenges

- Strengths: High individualized support, consistent Tier 1 instruction, strong collaboration, effective use of referrals.
- Challenges: Non-counseling duties limit counseling capacity, limited Tier 2 sessions, staffing gaps, and incomplete reporting.

Recommendations & Next Steps

- Expand Tier 2 small group offerings.
- Monitor impact of substitute and non-counseling duties.
- Maintain strong teacher collaboration and MTSS practices.
- Continue counselor recruitment and ensure full staffing across sites.

Social Emotional

Overview

March was a steady month for Student Support Services, with ongoing work supporting students and families across sites.

Responsibilities this month included direct student support, crisis response, re-entry planning, and coordination with school staff and community partners.

Continued efforts were also made to strengthen service access, family engagement, and collaboration with external agencies.

Key Data & Activity Summary

Huddle Up Services:

- - Spring Break Requests: 6 new student/family service requests received
- - Summer Interest: Families beginning to request continued services into summer
- - Access: All Utqiagvik school sites equipped with on-site Huddle Up computers
- - Site Update: Huddle Up services resumed in Point Lay

Safety & Response:

- - OCS Reports: 6 reports filed in March
- - Wellness Checks: 3 home visits conducted
- - LightSpeed Alerts: 3 alerts responded to per administrative request

Trend & Service Stability

Service levels remained stable compared to February.

No significant change in referral volume or response needs.

Increase in parent-initiated contact for support and check-ins.

Spring Break requests and early summer interest reflect growing trust in services.

Program Implementation & Improvements

Therapy spaces adjusted at select sites to improve privacy and confidentiality.

All Utqiagvik schools now able to provide consistent telehealth therapy access.

Ongoing coordination with Tanana Chiefs Conference for next school year planning.

Initial coordination with incoming principal in Anaktuvuk Pass regarding student support services.

Family & Community Engagement

Increase in parents requesting regular check-ins and support.

Home facilitators more actively involved in home visits and family support.

Joint support provided with Deputy Director of Behavioral Health for a family.

Continued growth in trust and connection with Student Support Services.

Collaboration & Leadership Activities

Attended four re-entry meetings across two school sites.

Participated in one remediation/re-entry meeting.

Served on interview panel for social worker position.

Attended professional development: 'Being a Mindful Co-Worker'.

Provided supervision to a new elementary counselor (groups and Huddle Up coordination).

Ongoing collaboration with administrators across all schools.

Next Steps / Ongoing Work

Gathering final numbers for Huddle Up summer participation.

Continued coordination with TCC and Behavioral Health partners.

Maintaining consistent access to services across all sites.

Qatqiññaġvik / Career & Technical Education - Kent Mingneau

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

The CTE Department continues to strengthen partnerships with industry, postsecondary institutions, and community organizations to expand career exploration opportunities for students. Students participated in career exploration activities including heavy equipment simulator training at NANA Industrial Training (NIT), Introduction to Aviation, and Public Safety career exploration, where students learned about law enforcement, fingerprinting, and related career fields.

Four students who completed Healthcare I and Healthcare II intensives at the Qatqiññaġvik Learning Center through this year were accepted into the **Alaska Health Education Center (AHEC) Capstone Program**, earning dual credit through (UAA). These students attended the **Alaska HOSA State Leadership Conference**, where they participated in leadership development, healthcare career exploration, and networking with healthcare professionals and postsecondary partners. Through the AHEC scholarship program, the district will be reimbursed for student and chaperone travel, lodging, and per diem.

The CTE Department is also preparing for the **North Slope Borough School District Career Fair on April 17 at Barrow High School**, bringing together representatives from colleges, industry partners, the military, and local organizations. This event will provide students the opportunity to explore career pathways, connect with professionals, and learn about postsecondary education opportunities.

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

Eight students participated in the Alaska EXCEL program, where they explored career pathways through a simulated corporate environment. Students applied for positions, participated in interviews, and carried out job responsibilities while developing employability skills. Participants also engaged in leadership development, healthy lifestyle education, social media awareness, substance abuse prevention, and suicide awareness training.

Students prepared for job shadow opportunities while strengthening essential workplace skills such as communication, responsibility, and teamwork. Successful completion of the program provides students with 0.5 high school elective credit.

Goal 3: All students are prepared for their pathway of choice post-high school

The CTE Department continues to expand hands-on learning opportunities through career-focused intensives. Current and upcoming programs include:

- Construction Trades Intensive – Tiny Home Project (Part 1) in partnership with IntellaHomes, where students begin building a tiny home while learning construction safety, measuring, layout, and framing from industry professionals.
- Basic Small Engines (two 5-day intensives) where students learn engine operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair.
- Amped on Energy (5-day intensive) in partnership with the Alaska Resource Agency, introducing students to energy production, electricity, renewable energy technologies, and careers in energy and utilities.
- Introduction to Heavy Equipment Operations Part I & II (10-day intensive), where students learn equipment identification, safety procedures, and operating principles using heavy equipment simulators before gaining supervised hands-on experience.

These programs provide students with practical technical skills while introducing them to high-demand career pathways in construction, energy, mechanical trades, and heavy equipment operations. Several programs also provide opportunities for dual credit through Iñisaġvik College.

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

CTE instructors continue to expand programming across the district by delivering two-week intensive courses in welding and culinary arts in multiple village schools. The welding instructor will provide two-week welding intensives at Nunamiut School and Harold Kaveolook School, while the culinary instructor will deliver two-week culinary intensives at Barrow High School and Harold Kaveolook School.

These efforts ensure that students across the district have access to high-quality Career and Technical Education programs regardless of location, while also strengthening instructional capacity and workforce readiness programming.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

The CTE Department continues to maximize resources and partnerships to expand student opportunities. Through participation in programs such as the AHEC Capstone Program, the district will receive reimbursement for student and chaperone travel, lodging, and per diem expenses, helping to reduce program costs while maintaining access to high-quality career exploration and postsecondary opportunities.

Additionally, the department continues to coordinate travel and logistics for students to participate in district and statewide opportunities such as career intensives, industry training experiences, and the upcoming NSBSD Career Fair, ensuring efficient use of district resources while prioritizing student access to career and postsecondary pathways.

Department Transitions:

Kent Mingneau- Coordinator II Qatqiññaġvik Learning Center / Career & Technical Education

Current Hiring Needs:

. CTE Instructor: (4 positions)

Human Resources -

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

We are expanding our partnership with Gustavus and their Nursing Department. Their students will

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

Mr. Michael Brooks is hired as the new Human Resources Director for the 26-27 school year. He brings more than 20 years of experience in the field. His key priorities include improving recruitment outcomes, enhancing hiring processes, and supporting employee retention efforts. This leadership transition is intended to ensure a more strategic and consistent approach to workforce management that aligns with the mission and vision of the District.

The District participated in a recruitment event in Greeley, Colorado as part of its continued effort to expand the candidate pool beyond Alaska. As a result of this effort, six (6) employment contracts were extended; however, none were accepted.

This outcome reflects the ongoing nationwide teacher shortage and the highly competitive nature of educator recruitment. Districts across the country are experiencing similar challenges, with rural and remote districts facing additional barriers.

We are scheduled to attend two career fairs in Washington and one in New Mexico. We are also seeking career fair opportunities in states with high layoff rates this year, such as Ohio and California.

The District has implemented Workable to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the hiring process.

This platform has allowed the District to streamline recruitment by centralizing job postings, improving applicant tracking, and enhancing communication with candidates. As a result, the District is better positioned to respond to vacancies in a timely and organized manner.

The use of Workable supports a more consistent and professional hiring process and strengthens the District's ability to compete for qualified candidates.

Business Office - Megan Williams

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

The FY27 budget is nearly complete and is on track for adoption by the School Board during the May meeting. This year's budgeting process was a collaborative effort that included input from Community School Advisory Committee (CSAC) members, principals, and department directors. The District conducted a thorough review of staffing and expenditures to ensure alignment with its priorities and to make the most of available resources.

Bargaining between the North Slope Borough Education Association (NSBEA) and NSBSD has commenced, and the negotiation teams have met twice since the beginning of 2026 to start to work towards a tentative agreement on changes to the NSBEA/NSBSD agreement. It will likely be several months before the tentative agreement will be brought to the full Board of Education for review and ratification.

The District is submitting its property and general liability insurance renewal applications by mid-April in preparation for FY27. This annual renewal process helps determine the rates the District will receive and whether there will be any changes or increases in coverage costs. The results will inform the final stages of budget planning and ensure continued protection of District assets and operations.

Finance and Human Resources met with Marsh & McLennan Agency (MMA), the District's benefits broker, to review the annual Third-Party Administrator (TPA) and stop-loss insurance contract renewals and discuss projected health insurance cost increases for NSBSD. Based on current-year claims experience, a modest increase in TPA fees, and a significant rise in stop-loss insurance premiums driven by higher claims activity, MMA is preliminarily estimating an overall increase of 30%–35% in health plan costs. An increase was incorporated into the FY27 budget development process, and Finance will continue to closely monitor claims trends and cost drivers throughout the upcoming year.

A comprehensive review of standard operating processes and procedures is ongoing, in alignment with our strategic plan. This review focuses on identifying areas for optimization to ensure consistent and efficient practices across the District.

Upcoming:

- Proposed FY27 Operating Budget (May)
- FY26 Preliminary Audit (6/15-19) & Fiscal Year End (6/30)
- FY26 Final Audit (8/3-7)

Information Technology - Reginald Santos

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

NSBSD IT Department – April Administrative Report

Central Office & Utqiagvik and Remote Village Campus Upgrades

The IT Department continues to improve communication and meeting capabilities across the district.

At the Archie Brower Conference Room (Central Office), we completed a full audio/visual enhancement that includes:

- A new wireless microphone system for improved clarity and mobility
- An automatic voice-tracking camera that pans to the active speaker

This upgrade significantly improves hybrid meetings, allowing remote participants to clearly see and hear discussions without manual camera operation.

At Barrow High School Auditorium, we replaced the previous wireless discussion system with a reliable wired discussion microphone system.

- Eliminates wireless interference issues experienced during large events
- Provides consistent, high-quality audio for assemblies, board meetings, and community events

USDA RUS Grant – Audio/Visual Modernization Project

The district was successfully awarded a \$1,000,000 USDA Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT) Grant to modernize A/V systems across multiple rural schools.

An RFP was publicly posted, and after a full competitive process, a vendor has been selected. The recommendation is included in this month's board packet.

Project Timeline:

- Start: Summer/Fall 2026
- Estimated Completion: January–February 2027

Scope of Work by School

The following upgrades will be implemented at each site:

Point Lay Kali School

- High-lumen projector (approx. 13,000 lumens) for gym/multipurpose use
- Motorized projection screen
- Full room audio system upgrade (speakers + amplification)
- Wireless microphone system (handheld & lapel)
- Multi-camera setup for Zoom/distance learning
- Video switching system for live production and streaming

Meade River School

- High-brightness projector and screen for large space visibility
- Upgraded audio system for assemblies and events
- Wireless microphones for staff and presenters
- Multi-camera system for remote instruction and meetings

- Integrated video switching for seamless hybrid presentations

Fred Ipalook Elementary School Gym

- Gym-wide projection system upgrade
- Enhanced speaker coverage for even audio distribution
- Wireless mic system for school events and performances
- Multi-camera system for recording and live streaming
- Centralized control system for ease of use

Nuiqsut Trapper School

- Large-format projection and screen system
- Audio upgrades for multipurpose/gym space
- Wireless microphones for instruction and community use
- Multi-camera setup for distance learning
- Video production/switching capability

Nunamiut School

- High-lumen projection system for gymnasium
- Full audio system modernization
- Wireless microphones for flexible use
- Multi-camera configuration for virtual learning and events
- Integrated switching system for live and recorded content

Educational Impact

These upgrades directly support:

- Expanded distance learning opportunities across remote sites
- Improved community engagement through live streaming and hybrid meetings
- Enhanced instructional delivery with modern classroom technology
- Standardization of A/V systems across the district for easier support and training

Maintenance & Operations - Barry Broome

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

This month, Maintenance and Operations (M&O) has been collaborating with Ilisagvik College to enhance and expand program offerings in preparation for the pool opening in April. Key discussions have focused

on continuing Lifeguard Certification courses and introducing swim classes sponsored by Ilisaġvik College.

Partnering with Ilisaġvik College will remain ongoing, as we work together to ensure a fully operational pool and develop aquatic programs that benefit students and the North Slope Borough community. These efforts are designed to support current swimmers while also providing valuable training opportunities for children and adults who are not yet proficient in swimming.

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal 5: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

Maintenance and Operations (M&O) across the North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) successfully supported all March Madness events, ensuring seamless coordination of transportation, lodging, and food services districtwide.

In Kaktovik, despite persistent blizzard conditions during Regional competitions, student safety remained the top priority, with all participants kept warm, secure, and fully supported throughout the weather event. Across other village sites, additional competitions were executed successfully, including basketball games and the hosting of NYO in Utqiagvik.

These coordinated efforts not only ensured the success of each event but also strengthened connections among students and communities, fostering school pride, resilience, and outstanding sportsmanship.

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

In recent weeks, we have onboarded a Food Services Manager, Matumelo Watkins, to strengthen compliance efforts and lead improvements within the Food Services Department. This role is focused on ensuring required staff training is maintained, overseeing daily, weekly, and monthly regulatory reporting, and enhancing overall operational processes.

Additionally, increased monitoring of food production records, menu planning, and food quality will support greater consistency and elevate student meal satisfaction. These efforts represent an important step forward in delivering reliable, quality meal services to our students.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

The Transportation Department is actively reviewing strategies to reduce fuel expenditures, with a particular focus on operations in Utqiagvik. As part of this effort, fuel cards are being removed from individual vehicles and replaced with a centralized card system maintained in a secure location.

This approach is intended to strengthen accountability, improve oversight of fuel usage, and minimize the potential for excess or unauthorized use. These measures support our broader goal of increasing operational efficiency while maintaining reliable transportation services.

Alak School:

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- Alak School Renovation & Upgrades -Design ongoing and currently at 65% design. Project continues to press forward.. UPDATE: Phase one was punished for PRC approval and was included for a final vote/approval.
- HVAC System - HVAC testing and balancing; report received. Will balance during the CIPM heating project. UPDATE: Project will be excluded because it will be encompassed in Phase 2 of the project. New boilers were recommended and pushed for approval at 2027 PRC.

Barrow High School:

- Future projects approved in FY25: Fire system upgrades. Design has started for system upgrade/replacement. UPDATE: Installation is to start summer of 2026 and to last complete summer.
- Project Analysis Report Barrow High School-Project to resume- Note: this project is to provide information on the status of BHS; in previous years there have been conversations about whether repairing the building (Voc-Ed wing) would cost more than building a new high school. Army Corp and a separate engineering firm are analyzing. RSA and Army Corp. of Engineers will provide new analysis including newer mechanicals being installed by UIC. Analysis completed by a third party.
- BHS Pool Opening: M&O and BHS is working with local community members to provide training and an action plan to verify and make sure the facility is ready and can be supported by NSB. Planning a soft opening March 2026 depending on certified Life Guards. UPDATE: Training was completed. Certification for the pool will happen in the first few weeks of April. The goal is to have the pool opened and operating with morning/evening rec. Illisogvik College is working on training programs for the community to sign up for, including swim lessons.

Eben Hopson Middle School:

Fred Ipalook Elementary School:

Harold Kaveolook School:

- Phase II is scheduled to begin ideally spring of 2027. Estimated end of project date: 2028. UPDATE: UIC has mobilized and pile locations have been designated and work started.

Kali School:

- Modular House Purchase: installed. Awaiting assistance from NSB to install electrical and plumbing. Hired contractor to put in a drop for electrical. UPDATE: Electrical contractor installed the electrical and now waiting on arctic sewer tank to be ordered and delivered. Working with NSB to obtain new sewer tanks from Wainwright as there are a few there, for a project that will not happen.
- Generator Replacement- Project will be placed for bid. Will assess others after RSA Assessment. UPDATE: Additional funding was noted on PRC with a priority.

Meade River School:

- Pool: A contractor provided a loose quote on the pool liner. Looking for funding for the liner and basic equipment to replace the filters and pool ladder.
- Library: In process to start order for new shelving so the library can come back online.

Nuiqsut Trapper School:

- Pool Repairs - M&O is working with a contractor to evaluate repairs of the pumps and filters. No visual leaks in the liner. Pool holds water.
- The scoreboard is inoperable. Alternative funding through a local company is being used to purchase a new scoreboard.
- Sewer issues: Contractor is preparing to replace all glass piping in the building as a main factor to the smell. We continue to have failed lift stations, which will be replaced during this time as well. UPDATE: NSB contractor is onsite and resolving the issues. They were issued a NTP 2 weeks ago. They will be replacing all the glass piping, grease traps, and all items previously outlined.

Nunamiut School:

- Future projects approved in FY25: Heating, HVAC & DDC System upgrades. Update: Contractor was chosen to start the preliminary needs in the upgrades. The contractor will be visiting the listed sites in the request.
- Install a temporary wall w/door in the SPED classroom. Wall ordered and awaiting arrival for assembly. UPDATE: Waiting on delivery
- Entry Lighting: Lighting and fixtures are in disarray. M&O to do a trial on open lens grid LED fixtures plus spot lights on display cabinets and mural. UPDATE: Materials ordered and partially received.

Tikiġaq School:

- Project to revise installed security system to move Ai-phones from exterior door to interior doors. No ETA yet, will provide an update.
- Kitchen Remodel- NSB CIPM waiting for proposals. Tikigaq Corporation working with CTPM for a summer renovation schedule. UPDATE: Start time is when school ends for the school year with a summer start.

Districtwide

- DW Fire hose/sprinkler repairs: Approved by the Board of Education Aug. 2025; awaiting schedule from vendor. UPDATE: Repairs and testing have started in November 2025.
- Food Service Admin Review: Scheduled for October 2025. Sites selected: PHO, BHS, IPK. specific timelines of auditing material were given for review in September 2025. Changed to Nov 11, 2025. BHS, IPK, KAK. UPDATE: Result with deficiencies arrived. Many issues were similar to the areas of inspection including signage and not having an extra type of milk available to serve. We are wrapping up the deficiencies and submitting them to DEED.
- Generator Replacement:
 - M&O: Award was made for M&O office building only. 18-24 month lead time of the generator. .
- PA & Clock System Upgrades and Standardization - On 2027 PRC.

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- Video Surveillance, Access Control System, camera upgrades, security funnel, and door detex alarms, - End of life for P2000 video surveillance, and access control software - support no longer available effective July 1st. CIPM working on task order for district wide replacement/ addition. Placed out for bid and will need to be done in phases due to costs and scope. UPDATE: Working with CIPM for additional funding to replace cameras at HMS, as a priority. Then other locations needing new cameras to replace non-working ones.
- Ai-Phone and audible crash bars will be installed in every school by the end of school year. Funding secured for this project, which include all buildings who have not already received this upgrade. Preliminary design is starting along with onsite verification. ALL perimeter doors will receive an audible alarm and front main entry Ai-Phone. UPDATE: 4 locations are left and currently have had their surveys completed. CIPM will provide updates on next steps after surveys and pricing is received by the contractor.

Student Activities - Steve Zanazzo

The Barrow High School Cheer team attended the State Cheer Competition in Anchorage on March 17th. The team placed 3rd overall in Division II. Dayna Olemaun and Marck Ortilla made the All-Tournament Team.

The Barrow Girls Basketball team went into the 3A State Tournament ranked #1. Barrow beat Kotzebue 71-20 in the first round and 50-39 over 3-time champion Grace Christian. Barrow took on Monroe in the championship. After a close game throughout, the Lady Whalers pulled ahead late in the 4Q to win their 6th State Championship 56-49. Aiga Unutoa, Zadah Unutoa and Kylen Burnell were selected to the All-tournament team.

The All-State Girls Team was well represented by the Lady Whalers. First Team: Aiga Unutoa and Kylen Burnell. Second Team: Zadah Unutoa. Third Team: Faagie Unutao. Senior, Aiga Unutoa was named 3A Girls Player of the Year!

The Barrow boys were ranked 3rd going into the State tournament. Barrow was down by 11 points early in the 4Q to 6th ranked Kenai Cardinals. Barrow went on a 22-3 run to win the first-round game 59-50. Then came conference rival Nome in the semi-finals. Nome and Barrow have battled all year and once again did not disappoint the fans. Barrow prevailed 63-50 and headed back to the State Championship game for the first time since 2018. The State Championship game versus #1 seed Mt Edgecumbe game will be talked about and remembered for years to come. Barrow and Edgecumbe battled to a historic triple overtime battle with the Braves edging the Whalers 98-97. Jaziah Tivao and Alex Freun were named to the All-Tournament team.

The All-State Boys Team selections were Jaziah Tivao on the 2nd Team and Alex Freun was selected to the first team. Alex Freun was also named the 3A Boys Player of the Year!

NYO Regionals were held at BHS on March 27-29. We had a total of 50 athletes from seven of our villages competing in the 11 events. Tikigaq's 8 athletes were weathered in and did not make the trip. Lots of personal bests were accomplished over the weekend and our athletes are continuing to improve each meet. We have 25 athletes (Including some from Tikigaq) heading to the State NYO meet on April 16-18 in Anchorage.