
CCSD Superintendent Report

November & December 2025

CCSD Appreciations

- Thank you to CCSD's Indigenous Education Committee, Craig Tribal Association, Cultural Coordinator Jess Isaacs, Guest Speaker Sydney Isaacs-Hulstine, and all our volunteer presenters for their support during the CES Youth Gathering and Cultural Day on Friday, December 5th. Our elementary students thoroughly enjoyed the day!
- Thank you to CCSD's staff for going above and beyond as we near the end of our first semester. From the CHS Elder Luncheon and CMS Poetry Slam to CES Cultural Day, concerts, and classroom celebrations, the collective commitment of staff makes these moments possible.

CCSD Finances/Budget

- On Thursday, November 4, 2025, I certified CCSD's reported October student counts and FY 2026 Foundation Claim at 574.84 students, including 80 students receiving Special Education services. Please note that those numbers did not account for deduplication efforts by the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) or whether the submitted intensive claims would ultimately be approved.
- It is my current understanding that PACE's projected count and foundation claim may decrease by **-13.92**. CCSD finalized its FY26 intensive claim at 10 students. The impact on CCSD's foundation funding will remain uncertain until DEED completes its review of our intensive needs submissions. A summary of CCSD's FY 2026 Foundation Claim is attached to my board report for reference.
- As a reminder from my October Board Report, CCSD partnered with KCSD (Klawock) and SISD (Southeast Island) on the SOAR UP grant, which has now been officially awarded at \$500,000 per year for five (5) years. This grant will support expanded Career and Technical Education (CTE), with the possibility of beginning implementation as early as second semester. While the SOAR UP grant originally included the potential for shared positions across the three (3) districts (approximately .33 FTE per district), I have advocated for CCSD to have our own staff member included in the regional plan to support CTE offerings.
- If the revised SOAR UP budget revision is approved, CCSD is estimated to receive approximately \$55,000 - \$58,000 in grant funding to support CTE staffing aligned with district needs. It is important to note that this position would be limited to providing CTE Instruction or Career Counseling and must be combined with the SOAR UP Grant Coordinator responsibilities to meet grant requirements. This approach offers a cost-effective way to add much-needed personnel to CHS and expand our current CTE offerings, as approximately 75% of the position would be funded through the grant, rather than the district's general operating budget for the next 5-years.
- On behalf of CCSD, I reached out to Congressman Begich regarding the FY26 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill. In short, CCSD opposes the proposed cuts to Title I, II, and III, which would negatively impact students across Alaska. My full letter, included with this Board Report, emphasizes the importance of maintaining these essential K-12 funding streams to ensure stable, high-quality instruction and services for CCSD students as well as all Alaska students.

CCSD Human Resources/Staff Updates

- Please join me in welcoming the following staff to CCSD: Ms. Meggie Curry (CCSD Migrant Tutor) and Ms. Natasha Durgan (CEHS Special Education Paraprofessional).
- CCSD currently has the following positions posted: CMS Social Studies Long Term Substitute, CMS Head Wrestling Coach, CMS Assistant Wrestling Coach, CEMS Special Education Paraprofessional.

CCSD Curriculum/Instruction & Professional Development/PLC Committee Updates

- CCSD's first Professional Learning Community (PLC) Committee meeting took place on Friday, November 14th. While originally scheduled as the third meeting, it became the first due to prior cancellations. This year, CCSD has two (2) active PLC Committees:
 - **Safety PLC Committee:** Continues to focus on CCSD's Emergency Operating Procedures and works to create clear, actionable plans to address potential emergencies.
 - **Teacher Evaluation PLC Committee:** Focuses on reviewing CCSD's Teacher Evaluation Handbook and updating it to better align with current statutes and regulations, as well as to support improvements in professional practice as outlined by the committee. This work ensures that evaluation processes are meaningful, consistent, and effective in promoting teacher growth.
- The Staff Wellness Committee (from last year's PLC's) has been absorbed by the administrative team, and quarterly connectedness activities will be held for CCSD staff. Earlier this year, staff enjoyed a hot cocoa and ice cream bar, and the second-quarter activity will be our annual holiday party on Friday, December 12th.

CCSD Special Programs

- CCSD's Special Education Child Count Summary has been completed and certified. This data provides the foundation for accurate reporting to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) and supports the District's compliance with state and federal requirements. In addition, I compiled and submitted the Special Education Report to DEED, which includes updates on staffing, service delivery, and student enrollment trends.
- Per the Fall OASIS Collection 2025, CCSD's Special Education Count is at 80. PowerSchool Special Programs currently shows the following casemanager numbers.
 - CES/CMS - 18
 - CMS/CHS - 18
 - PACE - 36
 - S/L Pathologist - 12
- The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has announced its intention to transition away from supporting PowerSchool Special Programs as the statewide special education data system. DEED is recommending a new platform, *Embrace*, which is expected to replace PowerSchool over time. While districts are not yet required to move to Embrace, DEED has indicated that state funding for PowerSchool Special Programs will eventually be discontinued.
- An early opportunity is available for districts to join the January transition cohort. After consulting with staff, I have submitted an application for CCSD to be considered for this cohort. Selection is not guaranteed due to limited funding; however, if accepted, DEED will cover all associated costs - including

data migration, training, and implementation support. This would allow CCSD to transition on a timeline that works for us while receiving full technical assistance from DEED and support for our IT department.

- Given PowerSchool Special Programs will no longer be supported at the state level, CCSD will eventually need to transition to Embrace. Moving sooner rather than later would reduce long-term expenses and help ensure a smoother, more controlled transition. Early feedback from other districts suggests that Embrace may be more user-friendly and require fewer data fields, which would be welcomed improvements. I will continue to keep the Board informed as we learn more about the application status and next steps.

CCSD Projects

CHS New Shop/Biomass Project

- On December 2nd, I met with Aaron Morrison, Natural Resources Director from Southeast Conference, and John Bolling to review biomass projects on Prince of Wales Island. The discussion focused on the CHS Biomass Project and the Craig Aquatic Center/CEMS Biomass Boiler issues. We reviewed the current status of the CHS project, discussed funding challenges and project delays, and explored potential solutions. Aaron also toured both sites with our Maintenance Director, Daniel Nelson, to assess current conditions. I will be happy to answer any questions the Board may have during the meeting.

CEMS Rehabilitation Project

- CMS construction progress includes vestibule construction, shear walls, duct penetrations, and hold-downs, with exterior wall insulation underway and plumbing rough-ins nearly complete. Upcoming work includes drywall installation, continued vestibule and low roof framing, shear walls, plumbing and mechanical ductwork, roof penetrations, restroom rough-ins, heat piping, and the start of electrical and lighting installation.
- While construction on the CEMS Rehabilitation Project continues to progress, several significant hurdles have emerged over the past month.
 - It has been confirmed that the upper four (4) southern classrooms in the CMS were removed from the contractor's scope to reduce the overall project bid. The contractor will only complete minimal work in these spaces, including lighting, fire suppression, ceiling ducting, internet drops, and new drop ceiling installation. All work in the four (4) south-facing classrooms - including any sheetrock work, painting, flooring, and trim will be completed by CCSD's Maintenance Department. Our Maintenance Director, Daniel Nelson, will work with the contractor to match the same flooring as used in the CMS remodel.
 - Board preauthorization is requested for additional electrical and controls work to integrate pre-action sprinkler valves at Craig Elementary School, estimated at \$31,000 - \$36,000, exceeding the Superintendent's \$20,000 limit. This cost-effective, code-compliant option avoids a higher-cost alternative. For full details, please refer to Memorandum 10d in the Board packet.
- Please note that I remain committed to minimizing costs wherever possible on the CEMS Rehabilitation Project. Challenges have arisen from a combination of design issues and contractor/subcontractor adjustments encountered during construction. With the project's design spanning nearly nine (9) years and involving three (3) superintendents, addressing these issues while maintaining cost-effective and timely progress has been extremely challenging. I will continue to do my best to keep things moving smoothly.

Current/Upcoming District Events

- December 9th: Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) Opens / Begins
- December 10th: CCSD School Board Meeting
- December 12th: CCSD Staff Holiday Celebration
- December 15th: Policy Committee Meeting
- December 16th: CCSD Indigenous Education Committee Meeting
- December 19th: FY24 ESEA / Title I Compliance - Third Response Due
- Dec. 22nd - Jan. 2nd: CCSD Winter Break
- January 5th: CCSD School Resumes
- January 15th: CCSD End of Quarter 2 / Semester 1
- January 16th: CCSD Teacher Workday (No School)

***Please be sure to check CCSD's Website for dates of events and activities for CES, CMS, and CHS!