

**Vision:** We grow self directed, life-long learners who are grounded in their culture and contribute to their communities.



**Mission:** We will nourish student growth by investing in partnerships and implementing culturally responsive, place based education.

Date: February 5, 2026  
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board  
From: Kasie Luke, Superintendent  
Re: Report: February 12, 2026

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### **Dates & Happenings:**

- Basketball Season! ASAA schools (Newhalen & Port Alsworth) are competing through LPSD and booster/community support and 2 LPSD funded tournaments per team in accordance with budget, and our mix-3 small schools teams travel to District Basketball Tournament hosted by Meshik School, February 16 - 18, 2026

## Sustaining Emergency Response in the Lake and Peninsula Region

### 1. Winter Emergency Response: What Happened

- During late December and early January, the Lake and Peninsula region experienced sustained extreme cold, placing significant strain on school and community infrastructure.
- Although this period fell over winter break, emergencies did not pause: boilers failed, systems were stressed, and freeze-related risks increased across multiple sites.
- LPSD's maintenance department responded continuously, repairing boilers, maintaining heat, and addressing urgent issues before they escalated into major system failures.
- Their efforts ensured schools and community facilities remained warm, operational, and protected during one of the coldest periods of the year.

### 2. People Behind the Response: Gratitude and Reality

- This level of response is only possible because of the longevity, experience, and relationships built by individuals such as **Tim McDermott and Carl Adams**, along with the dedicated LPSD maintenance team.
- Decades of service, trust within our communities, and deep institutional knowledge allowed for quick decision-making, effective troubleshooting, and coordination across remote sites.
- This capacity cannot be replicated quickly or easily; without these individuals, LPSD would not be able to respond at the same level or with the same effectiveness during emergencies.
- The district is deeply grateful for their commitment, reliability, and willingness to show up—especially during times when systems and communities are most vulnerable.

## **Sustaining Emergency Response in the Lake and Peninsula Region (continued)**

### **3. Looking Forward: Concern and Call to Action**

- The current response capacity highlights both our strengths and our vulnerabilities.
- LPSD must continue advocating with Lake and Peninsula Borough in conversations about:
  - Emergency response expectations and coordination
  - Resources needed to support sustainable response capacity
  - Long-term planning for systems, structures, and the future of schools and communities
- Considering we are reactive in our responses, the future goal would be to, in time, proactively plan and invest are essential to ensure that LPSD can continue to respond effectively as experienced personnel are available or not and systems age.

## Alaska State Legislature & what we are watching...

### **BBRCTE Residential Funding (FY27 Advocacy)**

#### **Overview**

The Bristol Bay Region Career and Technical Education (BBRCTE) program has been approved by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) as a statewide residential Career and Technical Education program. Implementation of the residential component is contingent on legislative appropriation, with the earliest possible funding beginning in FY27. Advocacy efforts are underway with legislators and the Administration to ensure this funding is included in the state budget.

#### **Key Points:**

- DEED has approved BBRCTE for up to **54 residential students**, pending legislative funding authorization beginning in FY27.
- Residential funding is essential to ensure **equitable access** for students from remote and rural communities who must travel long distances to participate.
- The program has received **strong statewide support** from school districts, higher education, Alaska Native organizations, labor unions, and industry partners due to its direct connection to workforce development and “Grow Your Own” career pathways.

## **Alaska State Legislature & what we are watching...**

### **HB 261 – Education Funding Stability**

#### **Overview**

House Bill 261 is under consideration this legislative session and focuses on improving the predictability and stability of public school funding by updating how student enrollment is counted for funding purposes.

#### **Key Points:**

- The bill would allow districts to use the greater of prior-year enrollment or a three-year average, reducing sharp funding swings caused by short-term enrollment changes.
- This approach would provide greater budget certainty, supporting earlier staffing and program planning.
- HB 261 also includes adjustments related to special education and career and technical education funding, improving responsiveness to student needs.

#### **Other Legislative Considerations for Public Education: Statewide Education Funding Context**

- Districts continue to raise concerns about education adequacy, inflationary cost pressures, staffing shortages, and the sustainability of current funding levels.
- Legislative discussions are ongoing regarding long-term solutions beyond one-time funding increases.

## **Alaska State Legislature & what we are watching...**

### **Governor's Education Tax Credit Program – Implications for Public Schools**

#### **Key Points:**

- Education tax credits reduce state general fund revenue, which may increase competition for K-12 funding in future budgets.
- Expanded education choice options may influence enrollment trends, which can affect district funding tied to student counts.
- Public schools remain the primary providers for rural, special education, and high-needs students, highlighting the importance of maintaining stable and equitable public school funding.

## **LPSD Food Service**

***USDA/National School Lunch Program:*** Nondalton, Perryville, Chignik Lake, Levelock, and Chignik Lagoon are participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) utilizing USDA foods for the 2025-2026 school year based on their feedback and current available funds submitted to their individual accounts in January 2025. After assessing the remaining balance of funds in each of these accounts, these communities can anticipate having enough funds through at least the 2025-2026 school and for some, beyond. LPSD will maintain communication with these communities regarding their food service balance at the start of the year, on a quarterly basis or as needed.

***Community Supported Food Service:*** Kokhanok, Port Heiden, Igiugig, Newhalen/Iliamna, and Port Alsworth continue to provide food for students through combined efforts within their community(ies).

We are also reaching out to communities this month to understand if there are any changes in what communities would like to do with their food service program for the 2026-2027 school year; either participate in NSLP through providing funding, or the community/parents/guardians oversee providing food to children.