

Superintendent Report April 2026

Hiring We have filled 5 of our 6 vacant teaching positions.

Elementary Teacher:	Rose Villazor
Elementary Teacher:	Diane Rodriguez
Elementary Special Education:	Seth Johnson
Secondary Credit Recovery/Math:	Rebecca Shatwell
Secondary ELA:	Amanda McAvoy
Secondary Health/PE:	XXXXXXXXX

Legislative

Principal Conn and I spent the last week of March in Juneau attending the Alaska Council of School Administrators' annual legislative fly-in. She did an outstanding job representing not only Petersburg School District, but also the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals and ACSA. She presented to the joint Senate and House Education Committees on the realities and challenges facing elementary education, particularly related to the Alaska READS Act and preschool.

During the visit, we met with several legislators to advocate for the needs of public education.

As the legislative session draws to a close, I am cautiously optimistic that education will see some level of increased funding. The House has been focused on a one-time funding increase, while the Senate has placed more emphasis on major maintenance and capital improvements. Any additional support is beneficial; however, consistent and sustainable long-term funding is critical. Reliable annual funding would significantly improve our ability to plan, budget, and support student needs effectively.

Superintendent Regulation Working Group

I am a member of a superintendent working group collaborating with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to streamline, update, and reduce administrative regulations in education. The group meets bi-weekly.

At our most recent meeting, we reviewed proposed changes to the basic competency exam requirements, including lowering Praxis reading and math score thresholds by one standard deviation, lowering writing by two standard deviations, and incorporating the Praxis Bridge option.

We also worked on revisions to 4 AAC 12.396 (Addition and Removal of Endorsements), including removing the required minor while maintaining credit requirements to provide greater flexibility in adding endorsements.

In addition, the group discussed preschool requirements (4 AAC 60.101 Applicability), including the potential removal of the requirement for "a group of five or more." The Alaska Kindergarten Developmental Profile was also reviewed.

Our upcoming meeting will focus on teacher certification regulations, including out-of-state reciprocity.

Safety & Security

Stedman Elementary School hosted local law enforcement and first responders for an Active Threat Training on April 15. I had the opportunity to observe two of the three practice scenarios and was impressed by the strong coordination and collaboration among the participating agencies.

Following each scenario, teams conducted debrief sessions to reflect on strengths and identify areas for improvement. These trainings play a critical role in maintaining preparedness and strengthening partnerships with our local emergency responders.

The Crisis Committee met on April 20 to outline the scope of work for FY27. Planned meeting dates and focus areas include:

- **September 9, 2026** – Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan
- **October 21, 2026** – Threat Assessment and Intervention Plan
- **January 13, 2027** – Stakeholder review of current practices and recommendations for improvement
- **April 21, 2027** – Crisis Response Plan

Capital Improvement

Roof Project

Ed Taylor and Aaron Bueller conducted the final inspection of the PHS/MMS roof project, marking the transition to substantial completion. A few minor issues remain and have been communicated to the contractor. The most notable concern is a persistent leak in the art room.

The contractor plans to return with dye testing to better identify the source of the leak and ensure it is fully resolved.

CIP Application

I have been attending the Bond Reimbursement & Grant Review Committee (BRGR) meetings this year. The committee has been tasked with reviewing the CIP application and scoring framework, as concerns have been raised that the current system does not fully reflect the condition of Alaska's aging school facilities, differences in district resources, or the need to prioritize life-safety and structural issues.

The committee is considering several modifications to better align the application and scoring process with these priorities. Key areas under discussion include:

Section 3 – Project Information (Question 3b: Weighted Average Age)

The proposal would replace building age with the Facility Code Index (FCI) and restore the maximum points to 30. This change would provide a more accurate measure of a facility's condition rather than relying primarily on age.

Section 3 – Project Information (New Question 3k: Funding Equalizer)

The proposal would add a question to award points to districts that lack the financial resources to advance projects to more developed design stages prior to receiving state funding.

Section 4 – Code Deficiency / Protection of Structure / Life Safety

The proposal would increase the maximum points in this section to reflect the growing number of

projects addressing significant safety and structural deficiencies. This would allow projects with multiple critical issues to stand out and help ensure the most urgent needs are prioritized.

Section 5 – Requirements for Space

The proposal would expand data collection for major maintenance projects to include student enrollment (ADM), facility capacity, and allowable square footage—aligning these requirements with capital improvement projects. Given declining enrollment in many districts, this information will provide important context on how facilities are currently utilized.

Sections 6 & 7 – Project Planning and Design / Cost Estimate

The proposal would award maximum points for cost estimates developed at the 35% schematic design phase, rather than the current 65% requirement. This change would reduce upfront costs for districts while still allowing projects to remain competitive.

I will be attending the Capital Improvement six-year submission workshop in Anchorage on April 28–29.