

Small School Strengths:

Deep Relationships

- Students
- Staff
- Community
- Everyone knows each other
- Ability to build multi-year relationships
- Teachers really get to know the kids and families and vice-versa
- Teachers can have a significant impact to school and community
- Teacher longevity builds trust

Multi-grade Level Benefits

- Students have the ability to interact with other grades and instruction
- Flexibility of pacing
- Students learn independent learning skills, due to the nature of school structure.
- Schoolwide can truly be “school wide”
 - Behavior Plans
 - Celebrations
 - School expectations
- In-house mentoring between students
- Built in differentiation.

Smaller Class Size

- Interventions are quicker and more specific
- Kids can play all sports
- Students feel greater ownership of school
- Allows for targeted instruction

Staffing

- Aides and tutors are the pillars of the community
- Admin who share two or more sites, brings those communities together
- Teachers can have significant impact to school and community

Consensus Building

- Can be flexible
- Ability to be very creative
- Ease of piloting new programs

Place Based Resources

- Ease of accessibility
- Share culture and incorporates local knowledge
- Community support
- After school programs

- Trapping
- Welding
- Ski Clubs
- Archery
- Specific language
 - Russian
 - Susgtan

Other Supports

- Chigachmiut
- Tyonek Foundation
- Title VI Rachel Pioch
- Migrant Ed.
- Project Grad
- Kenaitze

Small School Challenges:

Staffing

- Wide range of instructional levels
- Typically teaching outside teaching area/degree
- Multiple preps
- Principal/Teacher position is very challenging to balance

Class Offerings

- Hard to offer advance courses
- Place based is limited
- Distance courses challenging
 - Delivery
 - Alignment of schedule
- IEPs often through para and itinerant

Outside Agencies

- Not as many
- Hard to bring in to sites
- Need more behavior support

Staff Retention and Recruitment

- Sometimes these positions are viewed as a stepping stone
- Burnout
- IEP Support is not daily
- High turnover

Administrative Challenges

- Regional v. Principal/Teacher
- Scheduling stretches everyone at site

Less Opportunities

- Clubs and sports
 - Budgets are small
 - Cost is higher for remote sites
 - Travel is a challenge
 - Have to tap the community which is small
 - No bussing, gyms, Pools

CTE is limited

Teacher Housing

- One more task of admin
- Can cause relationship strife

Other

- Classrooms not designed for specific instruction
- Curriculum needs constant rearranging
- Network issues
- Fixing the physical plant can be delayed due to remoteness