



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT

KENAI
PENINSULA
BOROUGH
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear KPBSD students, families, community members, and staff,

As we look back on the 2023-2024 school year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the dedication and hard work of our entire KPBSD community.

Our mission, “Supporting Students in Life Success,” continues to guide our efforts and is reflected in the outstanding achievements and progress made across our 42 diverse schools. From innovative teaching methods to enhanced support systems, our focus remains on providing an educational environment that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and community engagement.



I extend my appreciation to our families and community members. Your continual support and active involvement in the educational journey of our students have been instrumental in their success. Whether through volunteering, participating in parent-teacher conferences, or engaging in school activities, your contributions have created a supportive and vibrant community that values education and the holistic development of our children.

Looking ahead, our vision is clear. We are committed to continuously enhancing education in our district through our strategic plan, which focuses on student success, school climate and safety, and family and community engagement. We will continue to provide a strong academic foundation and increase college and career opportunities for all our students.

As we embark on the 2024-2025 school year, I am confident that, together, we will continue to build on our successes and address new challenges with the same spirit of collaboration and determination. It is an honor to serve as the Superintendent of the KPBSD, and I look forward to another year of working alongside such a dedicated and supportive community.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the success of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Clayton Holland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clayton Holland, KPBSD Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Message from Zen Kelly, President

This past year has had many areas of success and celebration for our school district. We made significant strides in literacy through the implementation of the Alaska Reads Act. This landmark legislation has provided a roadmap for enhancing literacy outcomes for our youngest learners. By investing in early screenings, evidence-based instruction, and targeted interventions, we are laying a strong foundation for lifelong success.

Our continuing goal of engaging with the public resulted in unprecedented involvement and advocacy from parents, community members and staff, who called on the Legislature to provide adequate funding for our public schools. We will continue to push predictable and sustainable funding for the future.

In the years to come, we will continue to prioritize literacy, invest in our educators, foster strong partnerships within our community, and ensure the safety and well-being of all our students. We are committed to creating a learning environment where every student feels supported and challenged to reach their full potential and become a lifelong learner. I look forward to pursuing academic excellence and workforce development to grow Alaskans that want to stay and contribute to our local communities and economy.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President this past year and on the Board of Education for the past eight years.

Zen Kelly

Tentative Board Meeting Dates



Tentative Work Session Dates



Board Members

- | | |
|--|------------|
| Zen Kelly, President | District 9 |
| Jason Tauriainen, Vice President | District 3 |
| Virginia Morgan, Clerk | District 6 |
| Penny Vadla, Treasurer | District 4 |
| Tim Daugharty, Member | District 8 |
| Patti Truesdell, Member | District 1 |
| Matt Morse, Member | District 2 |
| Kelley Cizek, Member | District 5 |
| Dianne MacRae, Member | District 7 |
| Maggie Grenier, Student Representative | |





2022-2027

STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION: Every KPBSD student will be a lifelong learner who will graduate with the knowledge, skills, integrity, perseverance, and community connectedness needed to pursue their passions and desired post secondary opportunities.

MISSION: Supporting students in life success

Core Values



Community

We are welcoming to all and seek to accomplish our goals through collaboration; ensuring the work honors and reflects our diverse voices and values.



Academic Excellence

We will support and engage students in their learning in order for them to demonstrate the abilities to perform, achieve and excel in scholastic performance.



Integrity

We will provide students the skills and the experiences to become honest and exhibit strong moral principles.



Perseverance

We are committed to instilling a strong work ethic in students, providing multiple opportunities to succeed while encouraging them to keep striving for greater and greater achievement.

Priorities

Priority One: Student Success

Our Why: Student success is our most critical commitment - it represents our promise to provide academic excellence for all. KPBSD will ensure all students have equitable access to and engagement with programs and supports that reduce barriers to learning.

Priority Two: School Climate and Safety

Our Why: A positive school climate - where students feel a sense of safety and belonging where relational trust prevails - improves academic achievement, test scores, grades and engagement and helps reduce the negative effects of poverty and trauma on academic achievement.

Priority Three: Family and Community Engagement

Our Why: Family and community engagement in schools contributes to positive student outcomes, including improved child and student achievement, decreased disciplinary issues, improved parent-teacher, and teacher-student relationships and improved school environment.

Priority Four: Workforce Development

Our Why: Workforce development leads to prosperous employees, schools, and local communities. By training, and upskilling our workforce, our district can enjoy happier staff, lower turnover and exciting growth opportunities.

Priority Five: Organizational and Resource Management

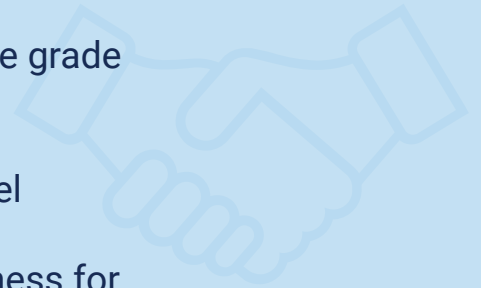
Our Why: Organizational and Resource Management represents the conscious commitment to align the district as one team, unified in a singular commitment to support all schools, students, and families, and build a culture of continuous improvement centered on designing equitable systems for school and instructional improvement.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Achieving the KPBSD Board of Education's Goals and the District Strategic Plan Priorities will require close collaboration and partnership with the Alaska State Legislature.

Support students through programs and rigorous standards that ensure preparation for success in life

- Prioritize career and technical opportunities for all students
- Support implementation of the Alaska Reads Act
- Focus on improving the number of students at or above grade level in Literacy and English Language Arts using evidence-based practices
- Increase the number of students at or above grade level proficiency in math using targeted core instruction
- Support the development of student citizenship, readiness for the workforce, and endeavors beyond graduation



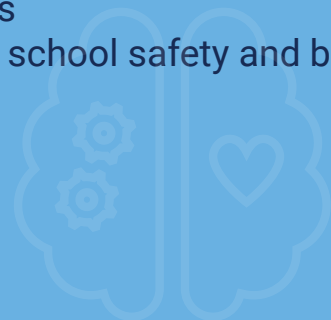
Provide fair, predictable, and proactive funding

- Adjust the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and develop mechanisms to compensate for inflation
- Create innovative pathways to grow our own teachers and staff
- Explore affordable health care for employees
- Fund deferred maintenance costs and capital improvement projects
- Provide transportation funding based on actual expenditures
- Focus on retention and recruitment of high-quality educators by providing a sustainable retirement system



Ensure safe schools and support student well-being by creating positive school climates and targeting student social, emotional, and wellness development

- Foster family and community engagement
- Support extracurricular activities
- Focus on approaches that target student health: physical, social, mental, and emotional
- Provide training in trauma informed practices
- Improve school safety and building security



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Our District spans 25,600 sq. miles

Student Transportation

42

unique schools

17

diverse communities

3,865

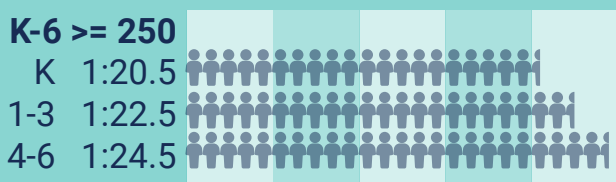
Students every day

7,040

Miles throughout the district

Staffing Ratios

Student Nutrition



131,581

Total Breakfasts

Paid	Free	Red.
28,528	86,444	16,609

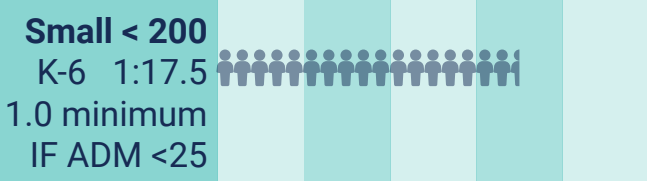
415,504

Total Lunches

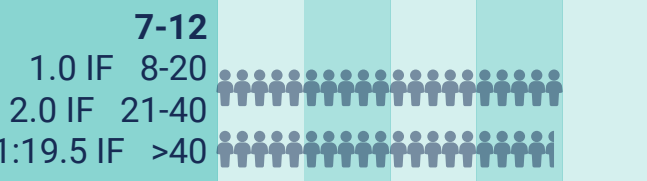
Paid	Free	Red.
166,684	202,981	45,839



2023-2024 Team Sports Awards



Team	Class	Award
Soldotna	D2	Baseball : Champions
Seward	3A Boys	Basketball : Sportsmanship
Soldotna	D1	Basketball Cheer : Academic
Kenai Central	D2	Basketball Cheer : Champions
Seward	D2	Basketball Cheer : Academic
Seward	D2 Girls	Cross-Country : Champions
Soldotna	D1	DDF : Academic
Nikiski	D2	DDF : Sportsmanship
Kenai Central		ESPORTS : Champions
Seward	9-man	Football : Champions
Soldotna	D2	Football : Champions
Kenai Central	D3	Football : Champions
Soldotna	D2 Boys	Soccer : Champions
Kenai Central	D2 Girls	Soccer : Champions
Soldotna	D2	Softball : Academic
Seward	Boys	Swimming : Sportsmanship
Kenai Central	3A	Volleyball : Champions & Academic
Soldotna	4A	Volleyball : Sportsmanship
Seward	D2	Wrestling : Champions
Soldotna	Girls	Wrestling : Champions
Homer	Girls	Wrestling : Sportsmanship



8,384 Total Enrollment

120
Preschool

4,313
K-6

1,304
7-8

2,647
9-12

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Information Services remains committed to enhancing the experience of KPBSD students, staff, and the community through our technology platform. Throughout 2024 and into 2025, the team is actively planning, implementing, or managing projects that:

- **Refresh interactive classroom display technology**
- **Upgrade aging network equipment**
- **Refresh server infrastructure technology**
- **Evolve with advances designed to improve operational efficiency**

Additionally, the technology plan, now in its 24th year, includes an annual refresh of approximately 1,000 devices in schools. This model ensures that the technology used for instruction remains relevant and functional, providing a predictable foundation upon which key systems and processes run.

The Information Services team seeks innovative methods to simplify processes and better support the KPBSD mission. We strive to create helpful technological experiences and are prepared to adapt and incorporate new technologies to meet ever-evolving needs. Our journey of improvement is continuous, and we are excited for what the future holds.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND PROJECTS

On December 13, 2022, Ordinance 2022-19-31 was passed to forward fund project design effort associated with the School Improvement Projects.

Under Construction Spring 2024

- Kenai Field Restroom and Concession
- Seward Track and Field Replacement

In Design

- Nikiski North Star Roof Replacement
- Mountain View Roof Replacement
- Soldotna Elementary Replacement
- Soldotna Preparatory School Renovation

Design Complete

- Hope School Roof Replacement
- Nikiski Track and Field Replacement
- Soldotna High School Siding Repair

Scheduled to begin 2025

- Homer High School Front Entrance Improvements
- Kenai Middle Safety and Security Renovation
- Parent Student Drop Off Improvements

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

The Indigenous Education program experienced a year of growth, with 965 students and staff district-wide participating in cultural lessons, from drum workshops, to learning about traditional foods and waterproof clothing, to making their own NYO kickballs. Principals and staff learned about local Indigenous history and explored current issues through “Cultural Snapshots” sessions at administrator meetings.



The K-6th STEM Explorers Club had 76 families participate with students learning about how to earthquake-proof buildings, clean up after an oil spill, as well as make ice cream from scratch. Seeking to help students see themselves in the literature they read, sets of Indigenous books were sent to 116 families.

As part of the Federal Programs department, staff helped coordinate two Family Engagement nights, one in Kenai and one in Homer. Over 250 people attended with families being able to pick out books, make crafts, play games and connect with staff. 23-24 was an amazing year!



**Connecting students and staff to the land on which we live,
the history of the land, and the cultures of Alaska.**

CTE AND MIDDLE COLLEGE

1635

TOTAL CTE CREDITS

228

CTE CERTIFICATIONS

During the 2023-24 school year, students earned a total of 1,635 credits in CTE classes, including 143 credits for Work-Based Learning opportunities. A total of 228 CTE certifications were awarded: 53 students completed the BLS (Basic Life Support) certification, 84 students earned their Food Service Worker Card, 10 students completed the CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) certification, 33 students completed the OSHA 10-hour certification, and 4 students completed the 24-hour OSHA HAZWOPER certification. *Additional certifications were earned as part of classes or camps but are not included in the totals due to data collection and CTE course alignment.*

Meet the Class of 2024
Cain Miller




Senior spotlights
Homer




Cain completed 61 college credits with Kenai Peninsula Middle College and earned an Associate of Arts (AA) from KPC in addition to meeting the graduation requirements at Homer High School!

Meet the Class of 2024
Willow Patrick



Senior spotlights
KCHS



Willow completed 66 college credits with Kenai Peninsula Middle College, in addition to meeting the graduation requirements at Kenai Central High School! She also earned her Associate of Arts (AA) from KPC and was named Valedictorian of Kenai Peninsula College (KPC).

126

MIDDLE COLLEGE STUDENTS ENROLLED

1620

COLLEGE CREDITS

In total, 126 students were enrolled in the Middle College program for the 2023-24 year. Over 1,620 college credits were earned through the Middle College program. Additionally, students in EMT/CNA, Microsoft Office, Medical Terminology, and Communications earned dual credits through their local high school classes and KPC. KPBSD students also completed courses utilizing JumpStart for additional credits.

ANNUAL RECOGNITIONS



2024 Don MacKinnon Excellence in Education Award
Deb Cary

Newsela Educator Spotlight
Misty Crain



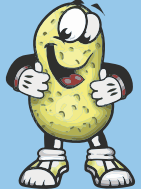
2023 Fullbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program Award
Myla Liljemark

AKSHA Friend of the Association
Kelli Creglow



2023 US Department of State English Language Specialist Project
Amanda Adams

AKSHA Friend of the Association
Kris Kempf



2024 AK Science of Reading Symposium Reading Ambassador Parent Organization
Paul Banks PTA

2024 DEED Teacher of the Year Alternate
Jennifer Hornung



2024 AK Science of Reading Symposium Reading Ambassador District Level Leader
Kari Dendurent

2024 Spirit of Youth
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District



2024 KPBSD Alan Haskins Principal of the Year
Heidi Stokes

2024 AASSP Region III Principal of the Year
Chris Brown



2024 Alaska MathCounts State Champions
Kenai Middle School

2024 ASTE Tech Support of the Year
David Henson



2024 Anchor Point Community Educator of the Year
Heidi Stokes

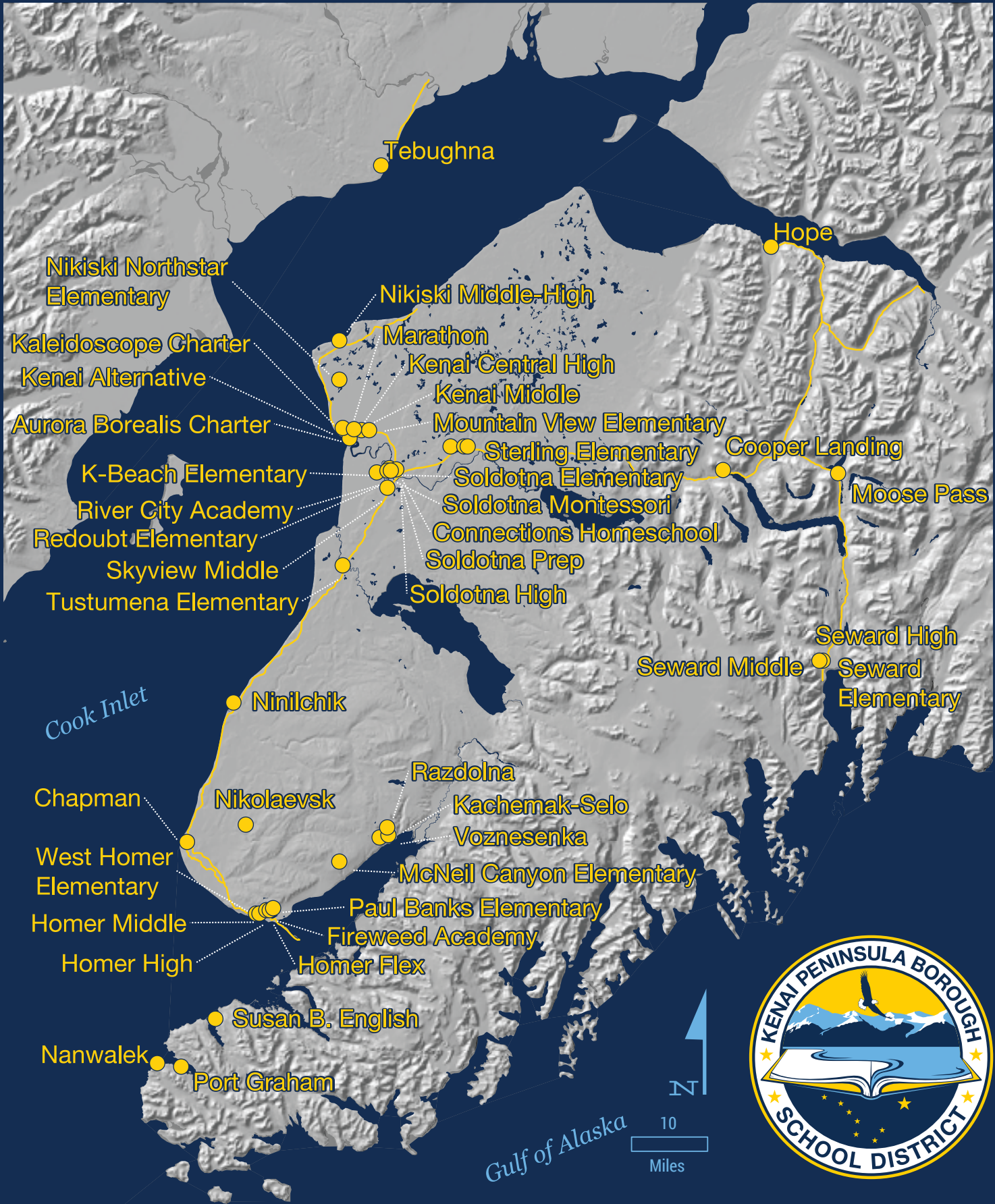
2023 America Volleyball Coaches Association Region 10 Coach of the Year
Tracie Beck



2024 ASTE Administrator of the Year
Eric Soderquist

2023-2024 Association of School Business Official Meritorious Award &
2023-2024 Association of School Business Official Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting
Finance Department





Our Mission

Supporting students in life success