



KPBSD BOE Meeting School Consolidation/Closure for FY 25-26

MARCH 3, 2025

Overview

Purpose

To determine which schools should be considered for School Closure/Consolidation

Identify costs savings and factual information

What is school closure/consolidation and what does it mean for the future?

Alaska State Statute regarding School Closures/Consolidation

[AS 14.17.410 \(b\)\(I-M\)](#)

(I) if the basic need calculated under (H)(i) - (iii) of this paragraph for one of the first four fiscal years after consolidation is less than the basic need calculated under (A) — (C) of this paragraph for that fiscal year, the basic need may not be adjusted under (H) of this paragraph for that fiscal year;

(J) a district may not offset a decrease under (H) of this paragraph if

- (i) a new facility is constructed in the district for the consolidation; or
- (ii) the district offset a decrease under (E) of this paragraph in the same fiscal year;

(K) a district that offsets a decrease under (H) of this paragraph **may not reopen** a school that was closed for consolidation in the district until

- (i) seven or more years have passed since the school closure; and**
- (ii) the district provides evidence satisfactory to the department that the schools affected by the consolidation are over capacity;**

(L) a district may not reopen and reconsolidate a school that was consolidated in the district more than once every seven years for purposes of the calculations made under (H) of this paragraph;

(M) a district offsetting a decrease under (H) of this paragraph shall provide the department with the list of schools participating in the consolidation and the corresponding ADM;

Alaska Statute – School Closures/Consolidation

Factors considered to determine Net Savings

Certified Salaries

Non-Certified Salaries

Employee Benefits

Staff Travel

Utilities

Purchased Services

Supplies

Other Expenses

Schools being considered
(Presented
Alphabetically)

Homer Middle
School

McNeil Canyon
Elementary
School

Moose Pass
School

Nikiski
Middle/Senior
High School

Nikolaevsk
School

Paul Banks
Elementary
School

Seward Middle
School

Sterling
Elementary
School

Tustumena
Elementary
School

1. Homer Middle School – FY26 Projected Enrollment 181

Building Capacity 360

Consolidate with Homer High School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 551

Building Capacity 600

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	581,521	581,521	581,521	581,521	581,521	581,521
Revenue lost to school size factor	(712,218)	-	-	(235,032)	(470,064)	(712,218)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ (130,697)	\$ 581,521	\$ 581,521	\$ 346,489	\$ 111,457	\$ (130,697)

Homer Middle School

GSF: 65,556

Year School Built: 1970, 1978

Deferred maintenance amount: \$21,066,411

Year Last Renovated or Large Project: New Kitchen 2024

Transportation: ~5-minute increase in ride time, no capacity issues reported.

Homer Middle School

2. McNeil Canyon - FY26 Projected Enrollment 150

Building Capacity 260

Consolidate with Paul Banks and West Homer Elementary School

Paul Banks – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 237

Building Capacity 270

West Homer Elementary School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 304

Building Capacity 450

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	878,099	878,099	878,099	878,099	878,099	878,099
Revenue lost to school size factor	(528,794)	-	-	(174,502)	(349,004)	(528,794)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ 349,305	\$ 878,099	\$ 878,099	\$ 703,597	\$ 529,095	\$ 349,305

McNeil Canyon

GSF: 32,750

Year School Built: 1983

Deferred maintenance amount: \$7,318,707

Year Last Renovated or Large Project: Sewer treatment system replaced 2001. 17053 SF roof replaced in 2009; 17096 SF roof replaced 2011. boiler replacement 2021

Transportation: Insufficient time to deliver to West Homer and return for HS/MS routes—adjust start/stop times. It’s a 17-minute (one-way) trip to PB and 23 minutes (14.1 miles) to West Homer. Requires approximately a 1-hour adjustment, increasing mileage, fuel costs, and local ridership. Solution: Add 2 buses.

McNeil Canyon Elementary School

3. Moose Pass School – FY26 Projected Enrollment 19

Building Capacity 50

Consolidate with Seward Elementary School and Seward Middle School

Seward Elementary School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 199

Building Capacity 450

Seward Middle School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 112

Building Capacity 227

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	351,004	351,004	351,004	351,004	351,004	351,004
Revenue lost to school size factor	(159,388)	-	-	(52,598)	(105,196)	(159,388)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ 191,616	\$ 351,004	\$ 351,004	\$ 298,406	\$ 245,808	\$ 191,616

Moose Pass K-8

GSF: 8,989

Year School Built: 1935, 1953, 1960, 1974, 1993

Deferred maintenance amount: \$3,983,860

Year Last Renovated or Large Project: Lighting 2007, Roof 2013, Boiler 2023

Transportation: Bus to Seward (27 miles): Current buses pass through the area but are near capacity without adding 17 students. A second bus may be needed. The ride time remains 1 hour 15 minutes but would now include elementary students.



Moose Pass School

4. Nikiski Middle/Senior School – FY26 Projected Enrollment 270 Building Capacity 600

Consolidate with Nikiski North Star School, Kenai Middle School, and Kenai Central High School

Nikiski North Star School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 248 Building Capacity 430

Kenai Middle School – New FY 26 Projected Enrollment 470 Building Capacity 500

Kenai Central High School – New Projected Enrollment 683 Building Capacity 800

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	1,256,553	1,256,553	1,256,553	1,077,240	1,256,553
Revenue lost to school size factor	(777,167)	-	-	(256,465)	(777,167)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ 479,386	\$ 1,256,553	\$ 1,256,553	\$ 820,775	\$ 743,623

Nikiski Middle High School

GSF:117,504

Year School Built: 1987

Deferred maintenance amount: \$32,114,366

Year Last Renovated or Large Project: Septic Tank Repair 2022, Locker Replacement 2023, Roof 2012

Transportation: Kenai (18 miles): No additional buses needed. NNS bell time change of +25 minutes, increasing mileage and fuel costs.

Nikiski Middle/Senior High School

5. Nikolaevsk School – FY26 Projected Enrollment 19

Building Capacity 175

Consolidate with Chapman School and Homer High School

The Chapman School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 186

Building Capacity 150

Homer High School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment is 374

Building Capacity 600

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	476,247	476,247	476,247	476,247	476,247	476,247
Revenue lost to school size factor	(193,322)	-	-	(63,796)	(127,592)	(193,322)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ 282,925	\$ 476,247	\$ 476,247	\$ 412,451	\$ 348,655	\$ 282,925

Nikolaevsk K-12

GSF: 25,324

Year School Built: 1976, 1981, 2002

Year Last Renovated or Large Project: Roof 2008, 2009, Boiler 2024

Transportation: Bus to Chapman (10 miles) and Homer (20 miles): No current bus service in the area. The route has a 12.5–15% grade, soft shoulders, and no turnaround. Plan: Payment in lieu for all students in the new Chapman area, with two pickup points (Nikolaevsk Road and North Fork & Sterling Highway).

Estimated ride time could be up to 1 hour and 25 minutes for the first/last stop. Estimated payment in lieu: \$22,491 (21 students, 170 days, 4.5 miles one way, \$0.70/mile).



Nikolaevsk School

6. Paul Banks Elementary – FY26 Projected Enrollment 169

Building Capacity 270

Consolidate with West Homer Elementary – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 391

Building Capacity 450

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	838,020	838,020	838,020	838,020	838,020	838,020
Revenue lost to school size factor	(610,363)	-	-	(201,420)	(402,840)	(610,363)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ 227,657	\$ 838,020	\$ 838,020	\$ 636,600	\$ 435,180	\$ 227,657

Paul Banks

GSF:33,414

Year School Built:1964, 1975, 1984

Deferred maintenance amount: \$10,908,585

Year Last Renovated or Large Project: Roof 2012, 2015

Capacity Issues: Displacing Fireweed may incur moving costs but will use the same facilities.

Transportation: Minimal impact with ~5-minute ride time change.

Paul Banks Elementary School

7. Seward Middle School – FY26 Projected Enrollment 110 Building Capacity 227

Consolidate with Seward Elementary and Seward High School

Seward Elementary – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 218 Building Capacity 450

Seward High School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment is 230 Building Capacity 400

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	569,633	569,633	569,633	569,633	569,633	569,633
Revenue lost to school size factor	(413,387)	-	-	(136,418)	(272,835)	(413,387)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ 156,246	\$ 569,633	\$ 569,633	\$ 433,215	\$ 296,798	\$ 156,246

Seward Middle School

GSF:37,500

Year School Built: 2005

Deferred maintenance amount: \$2,556,629

Year Last Renovated or Large Project: Earthquake repair of exterior corners 2024

Unintended Cost: Newest facility with the lowest operating and deferred maintenance costs, serving as the central data feed for fiber for all three schools.

Capacity Issues: This consolidation does not appear viable at this time. A review of facility space shows that Seward High School cannot absorb Seward Middle School. The original middle school space in the high school was eliminated when the current Seward Middle was constructed.

Transportation: No impact.

Seward Middle School

Consolidate with Soldotna Elementary School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 360 Building Capacity 470

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	702,113	702,113	702,113	702,113	702,113
Revenue lost to school size factor	(518,140)	-	(170,986)	(341,972)	(518,140)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ 183,973	\$ 702,113	\$ 531,127	\$ 360,141	\$ 183,973

8. Sterling Elementary School – FY26 Projected Enrollment 111 Building Capacity 270

Consolidate with Redoubt Elementary School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 359 Building Capacity 400

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	702,113	702,113	702,113	702,113	702,113
Revenue lost to school size factor	(517,202)	-	(170,677)	(341,353)	(517,202)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ 184,911	\$ 702,113	\$ 531,436	\$ 360,760	\$ 184,911

Sterling

GSF: 35,507

Year School Built: 1958, 1961, 1963, 1968, 1978, 1983

Deferred maintenance amount: \$9,636,122

Year Last Renovated or Large Project: 2008 Lighting, 2000 Generator, 2011 Generator transfer, 2016 Roof, siding 2002, scheduled for new Boilers in 2026

Capacity Issues: Redoubt, K Beach, and SOEL capacity may require school boundary adjustments. If additional space is needed in the future, consider the "seven years" and "and" clause for schools involved in consolidation. Redoubt can accommodate just over 100 more students.

Transportation: Bus students to Soldotna EL (11 miles) and Redoubt (12 miles), leading to increased mileage, fuel costs, and approximately 20-minute longer ride times. Additional buses are needed in already full zones, contributing to traffic in busy parent pickup/drop-off areas. Estimated longest ride time: 1 hour 8 minutes (SOEL or Redoubt), with Tustumena adding +25 minutes.

Sterling Elementary School

9. Tustumena Elementary School – FY26 Projected Enrollment 136 Building Capacity 400

Consolidate with Ninilchik and Redoubt Elementary School

Ninilchik School – New FY26 Projected Enrollment 196 Building Capacity 300

Redoubt Elementary School – New FY 26 Projected Enrollment 328 Building Capacity 400

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Net Savings from Consolidation	573,535	573,535	476,247	573,535	573,535
Revenue lost to school size factor	(414,580)	-	(136,811)	(273,623)	(414,580)
Net Gain (loss) on consolidation	\$ 158,955	\$ 573,535	\$ 339,436	\$ 299,912	\$ 158,955

Tustumena

GSF: 46,679

Year School Built: 1958, 1969, 1978, 1983, 1995

Deferred Maintenance amount: \$10,530,489

Year Last Renovated or Large Project: 2020 Exterior Doors & Windows, 2014 Roof, 2013 Generator, 2003 Lighting, 2023 Boiler.

Capacity Issues: Redoubt, K-Beach, and SOEL may require boundary adjustments. If additional space is needed in the future, consider the "seven years" and "and" clause for schools involved in consolidation.

Transportation:

- Bus upper area to K-Beach or Redoubt (17 miles)
 - Bus lower area to Ninilchik (24 miles) — area already traveled
- Adjust boundaries to include Coho Loop and areas south of the school into Ninilchik; north area added to K-Beach. This will result in additional mileage and fuel costs. Longest regular education ride time: 1 hour 25 minutes (Ninilchik).

Tustumena Options:

1. 74/74 split: May require a second bus going south.
2. 46/102 split (Coho going south), boundary on river: No additional bus required.
3. 13/136 split (Coho going north).

Tustumena Elementary School

Immediate Actions for 2025-26

- Two schools can be closed **without requiring modifications** to the receiving schools.
- These closures provide immediate cost savings and help address enrollment and budget challenges.

Future Considerations for 2026-27 and Beyond

- Additional school closures may be necessary, depending on enrollment trends and financial realities.
- The remaining schools under review should be considered as part of a phased approach over the next two to three years.

Considerations:

TAKE A **STRATEGIC, PHASED APPROACH** TO SCHOOL CLOSURES.

DECISIONS MADE NOW SHOULD CONSIDER BOTH **IMMEDIATE IMPACTS AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY** FOR KPBSD.

FINAL DIRECTION SHOULD REFLECT THE BOARD'S PRIORITIES FOR MAINTAINING STRONG EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE DISTRICT.