

KPBSD Annual Report

2025-2026



Message from the Superintendent



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

When I look back on the 2025–2026 school year, I am proud of what we accomplished together. This was not an easy year. We faced significant budget challenges, made difficult decisions, and experienced changes that deeply impacted some of our schools and communities. Through a year of tremendous change, we remained focused on supporting students and improving student outcomes.

Our mission, Supporting Students in Life Success, is more than words on a page. It is the responsibility we share across KPBSD. This year, we saw our graduation rate continue to rise, with the graduation rate for our Alaska Native students 15 percentage points higher than the statewide rate. Our students also met or exceeded most state and national growth measures, and more students accessed career and technical education, college credit, and opportunities that prepare them for life after high school. Our students excelled in academics, athletics, activities, the arts, and service to their communities. There is so much happening across KPBSD that deserves to be celebrated.

At the same time, we know we have more work to do. We want more students demonstrating grade level proficiency in reading and math on state assessments. We want every student to graduate prepared for what comes next. We need to improve attendance and continue strengthening how we identify and respond to student needs. I believe strongly that being proud of our district and being honest about where we need to improve can and should go hand in hand.

This year also reminded me just how important relationships and community are to our schools. KPBSD served students across 42 schools and communities spread throughout an area roughly the size of West Virginia. Each of our schools and communities is unique, with different needs, challenges, and strengths. Yet, we are united by our mission, vision, and core values, and by our commitment to improving outcomes for every student.

Student outcomes must remain at the center of our work. We will continue strengthening instruction, using data to better understand and respond to student needs, expanding opportunities for students, and aligning our work around our mission, vision, strategic plan, and core values. Most importantly, we will continue working to make sure every student is safe, seen, and celebrated.

I have spent much of my life on the Kenai Peninsula, and my own children completed their entire K–12 education in KPBSD schools. It is an incredible honor to serve this district and the communities that make it so special. I see the commitment of our staff, the support of our families and communities, and, most importantly, the potential of our students. I believe deeply in KPBSD and in what we can accomplish together.

Thank you for supporting our schools, our staff, and our students. I am proud of what we have accomplished, honest about the work still ahead of us, and excited about where we are going together.

- Clayton Holland- KPBSD Superintendent

Message from the KPBSD BOE President

Every year, it seems like the district faces new challenges, but one of the constants I have seen is the willingness of our staff to continue working hard for our students and community schools. The Board has initiated a renewed focus on basing our decisions on improving student outcomes, which is exciting. This can be challenging as we weigh fiscal and enrollment realities with what we believe is best for our community schools, and at times, it feels like we have to make impossible decisions. However, I am bolstered by the knowledge that we have a staff dedicated to doing their best to make us the top district in the state.

This year has been particularly difficult as the Board had to wrestle with—and ultimately decide on—closing and consolidating three school buildings and one school-within-a-school. This was not a decision we took lightly, and it will have lasting effects on the district. Moving forward, it is our job to turn these difficult decisions into positive outcomes for our students. Throughout this challenging process, I am proud of the work we did to partner effectively with the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

The Board will once again look to strengthen community outreach and involvement to show that our community schools and our correspondence program, Connections, are the best choices for students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. By working with the public, it is my hope that the Board and district administration will adopt policies and make decisions that make our schools places our community is proud of and eager to be a part of.

It has been an honor to serve the school district for the past nine years as a board member. While challenges remain on the horizon, I am hopeful that the KPBSD and Board of Education will continue to work with the State Legislature, the KPB, and the new Governor toward a sound fiscal plan while maintaining a steadfast focus on improving student outcomes.

Jason Tauriainen- KPBSD Board President



Board of Education Members



Jason Tauriainen

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KPBSD Strategic Plan

Vision- Supporting Students in Life Success

Mission- 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.

Core Values- Community, Perseverance, Integrity and Academic Excellence

Priorities-

One: Student Success

Two: School Climate and Safety

Three: Family and Community Engagement

Four: Workforce Development

Five: Organizational and Resource Management

KPBSD BOE

Legislative Priorities

- Support students through programs and rigorous standards that ensure preparation for success in life.
- Provide fair, predictable, and proactive funding.
- Ensure safe schools and support student well-being by creating positive school climates and targeting student social, emotional, and wellness development.





District Facts

Size of District

The KPBSD is comprised of 42 diverse schools, in 17 diverse communities spanning 25,600 square miles.

Transportation Miles

- 3,651 Students per day
- 3,456 Miles per day



Student Nutrition Services

Total of Meals Served

Breakfast

• Free	Reduced	Paid
• 98,055	22,191	38,434

TOTAL: 158,680

Lunch

• Free	Reduced	Paid
• 204,391	45,450	155,014

TOTAL: 405,855

Staffing Ratios:

- **Elementary Schools K-6 ≥ 250**
- K 1:20.5
- 1-3 1:22.5
- 4-6 1:24.5
- **Small Elementary Schools K-6**
- 100-250
- 1:19.5
- **Small Schools < 200**
- K-6 1:17.5 * 1.0 minimum
- IF ADM < 25
- **High School 1:30**
- **Middle School 1:25**



Alaska School Activities Association State Champions

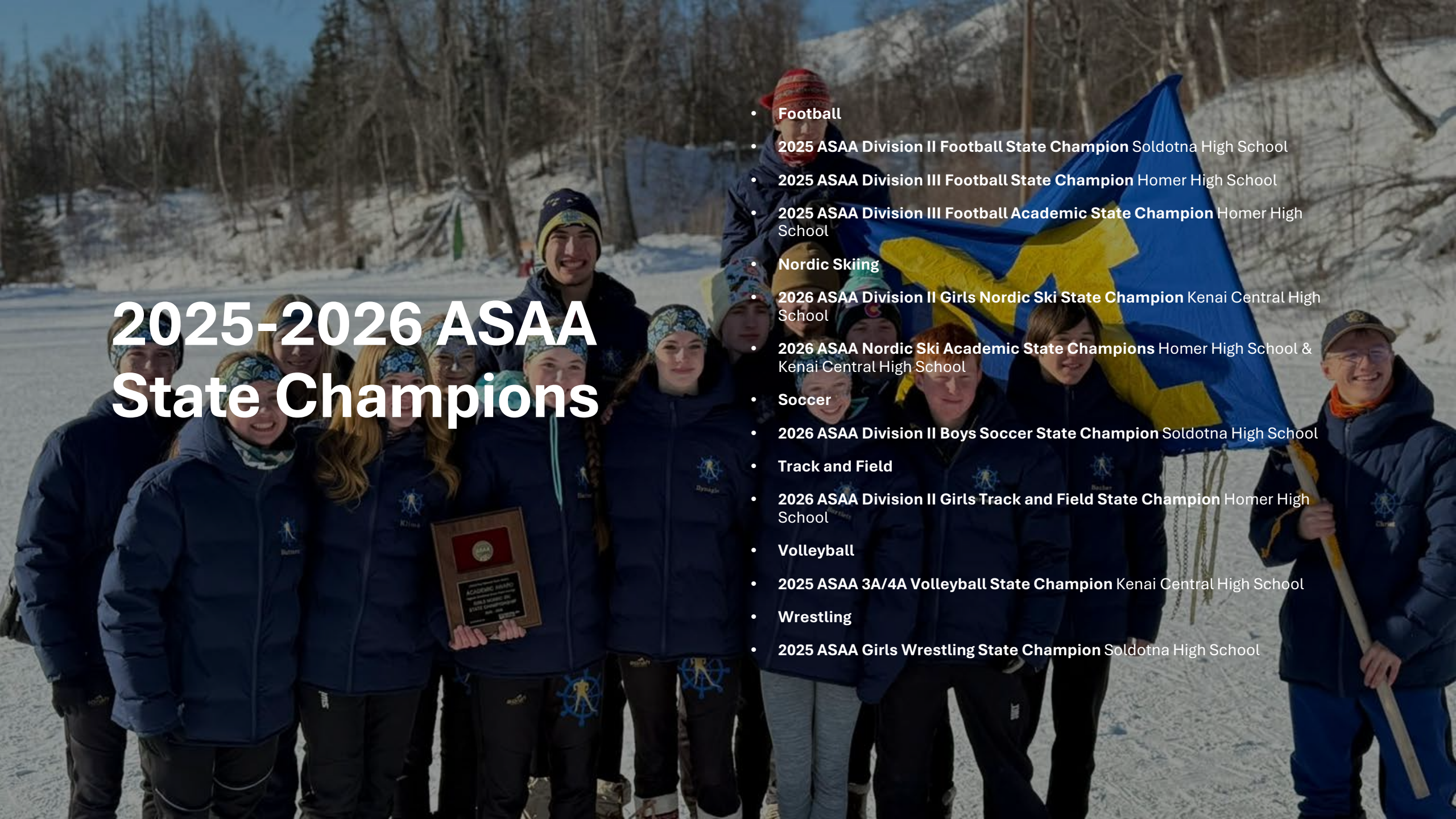
KPBSD ASAA State Champions and State Honors 2025–2026 School Year:

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District proudly celebrates the outstanding achievements of its student-athletes and student artists during the 2025–2026 Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) season. KPBSD students demonstrated excellence in academics, athletics, fine arts, and extracurricular activities, earning numerous state championships and statewide recognitions.

2025-2026 ASAA State Champions

- **Baseball**
 - **2026 ASAA Division II Baseball State Champion** Homer High School
- **Basketball**
 - **2026 ASAA 2A Girls Basketball State Champion** Seward High School
 - **2026 ASAA 2A Boys Basketball State Champion** Ninilchik School
- **Cheer**
 - **2026 ASAA Division II Cheer Academic State Champion** Seward High School
- **Cross Country Running**
 - **2025 ASAA Division II Boys Cross Country State Champion** Homer High School
 - **2025 ASAA Division II Girls Cross Country State Champion** Homer High School
- **Drama, Debate, and Forensics**
 - **2026 ASAA Division I Drama Sweepstakes Champion** Soldotna High School
- **Fine Arts**
 - **2026 ASAA State Art Competition** Sierra Mullikin, Homer High School –
Printmaking State Champion *The Rabbit That Lived the Longest*





2025-2026 ASAA State Champions

- **Football**
- **2025 ASAA Division II Football State Champion** Soldotna High School
- **2025 ASAA Division III Football State Champion** Homer High School
- **2025 ASAA Division III Football Academic State Champion** Homer High School
- **Nordic Skiing**
- **2026 ASAA Division II Girls Nordic Ski State Champion** Kenai Central High School
- **2026 ASAA Nordic Ski Academic State Champions** Homer High School & Kenai Central High School
- **Soccer**
- **2026 ASAA Division II Boys Soccer State Champion** Soldotna High School
- **Track and Field**
- **2026 ASAA Division II Girls Track and Field State Champion** Homer High School
- **Volleyball**
- **2025 ASAA 3A/4A Volleyball State Champion** Kenai Central High School
- **Wrestling**
- **2025 ASAA Girls Wrestling State Champion** Soldotna High School

KPBSD 2025– 2026 Awards and Accomplishments

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District takes great pride in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of our students, staff, schools, and programs during the 2025–2026 school year. These achievements reflect the district's commitment to excellence in academics, career and technical education, the arts, athletics, leadership, and fiscal stewardship. Congratulations to the following individuals, teams, and programs for their well-deserved recognition.

Student Achievement

- Aiden Cole – Kenai Middle School (Left)
Crowned the Alaska State Spelling Bee Champion,
representing Alaska in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
- Ethan Anding – Soldotna High School (Top Right)
Named the Alaska Society for Technology in Education
(ASTE) High School Student of the Year for exceptional
leadership and innovation in educational technology.
- Leo Nipp and Noah Flowers – Seward High School (Below
Right) Earned First Place in the *Caring for the Kenai*
competition, demonstrating outstanding environmental
stewardship and scientific inquiry



Student Achievement

- Sobina Clendaniel – Seward High School
Recognized as the 2026 Pride of Alaska Youth Girls Athlete of the Year, honoring her outstanding athletic achievements and leadership
- Joshua Bolling – Kenai Central High School
Selected as the 2026–2027 Student Advisor to the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development, representing Alaska students in statewide education discussions



Educator and Leadership Excellence

- Michael Wojciak – Principal, Kachemak Selo and Voznesenka Schools
Received the prestigious Alan Haskins Award as the KPBSD Principal of the Year, recognizing exemplary educational leadership and service.



- Angela Coelho Named the 2027 Alaska Teacher of the Year Alternate by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, recognizing exceptional instructional excellence and dedication to students.



- Megan Murphy – Soldotna High School
Honored as the 2025 Alaska School Counselor of the Year for outstanding commitment to supporting student success and well-being.



Educator and Leadership Excellence

- Kyle Schneider – Homer High School
Selected as the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Outstanding Music Educator for the State of Alaska, celebrating excellence in music education and student achievement.
- Katharine Bynagle – Homer High School
Named the 2026 Region III Principal of the Year by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP) in recognition of exceptional school leadership.
- Penny Bearden – Nanwalek School
Named the 2026 Region III Principal of the Year by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP), recognizing her outstanding leadership and dedication to students and community



School and District Program Excellence

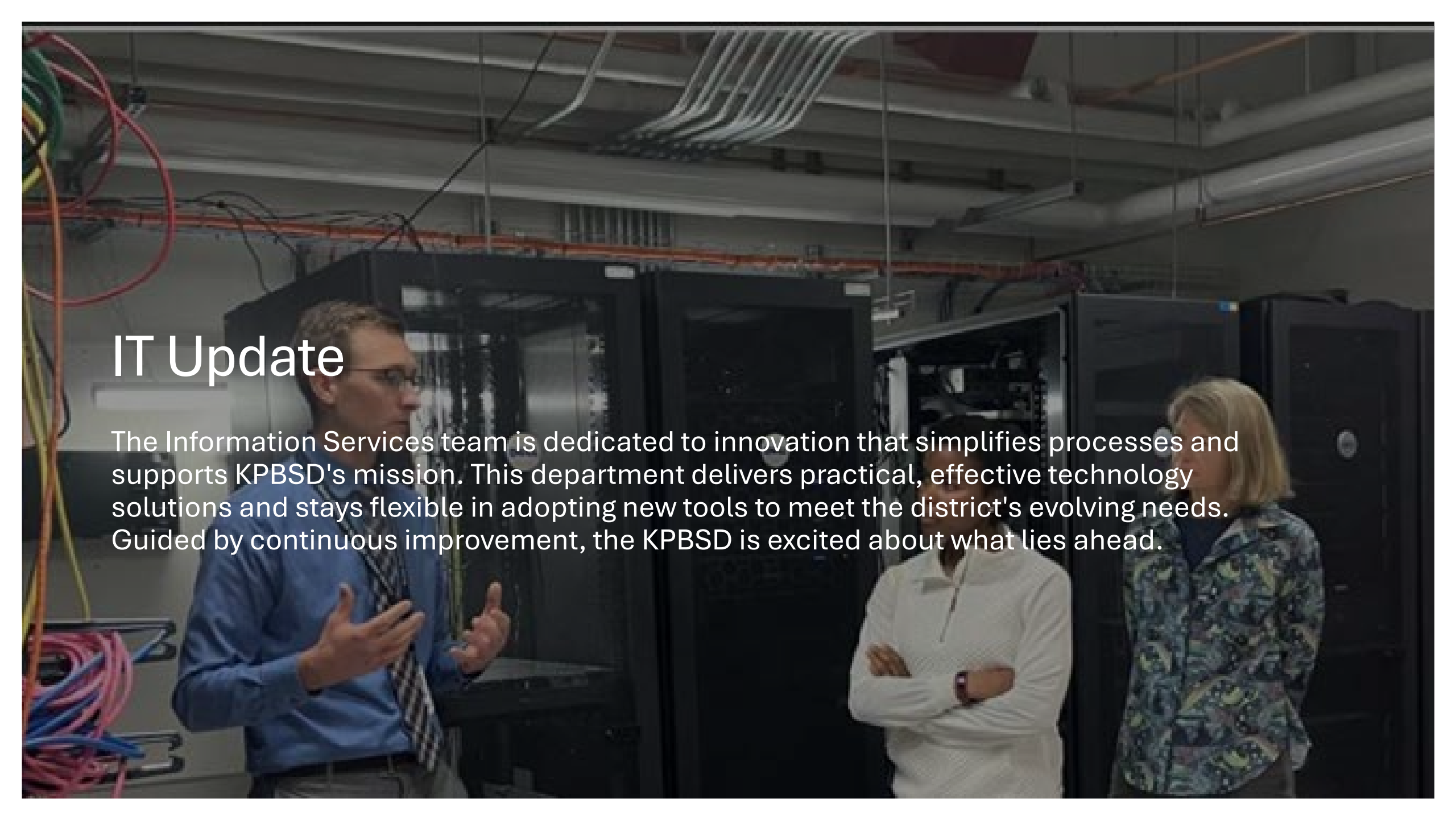
- Kenai Central High School Band (Top)
Earned the prestigious Esprit de Corps Award at the Bands of America Grand National Championships, recognizing exceptional character, professionalism, and school spirit.
- Razdolna School Welding Program (Left)
Received the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Career and Technical Education (CTE) Innovative Program Award, highlighting excellence in workforce development and hands-on learning.
- Soldotna Montessori Student Support Services Team (Right)
Recognized as a State of Alaska Inclusive Practices Award Nominee for its commitment to creating inclusive educational opportunities for all students.



District Excellence

- Jimmy Love – KPBSD Finance Department Named the 2025 Alaska Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) School Business Official of the Year in recognition of outstanding leadership and excellence in school finance.
- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Received the National Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) for excellence in budget development, transparency, and financial planning.



A photograph of three people in a server room. On the left, a man in a blue shirt and tie is gesturing with his hands while speaking. In the center, a woman in a white polo shirt stands with her arms crossed. On the right, another woman in a patterned shirt stands looking towards the man. They are surrounded by rows of black server racks. On the far left, there are bundles of colorful network cables (red, yellow, blue, pink) hanging from the ceiling. The ceiling has exposed pipes and cable trays.

IT Update

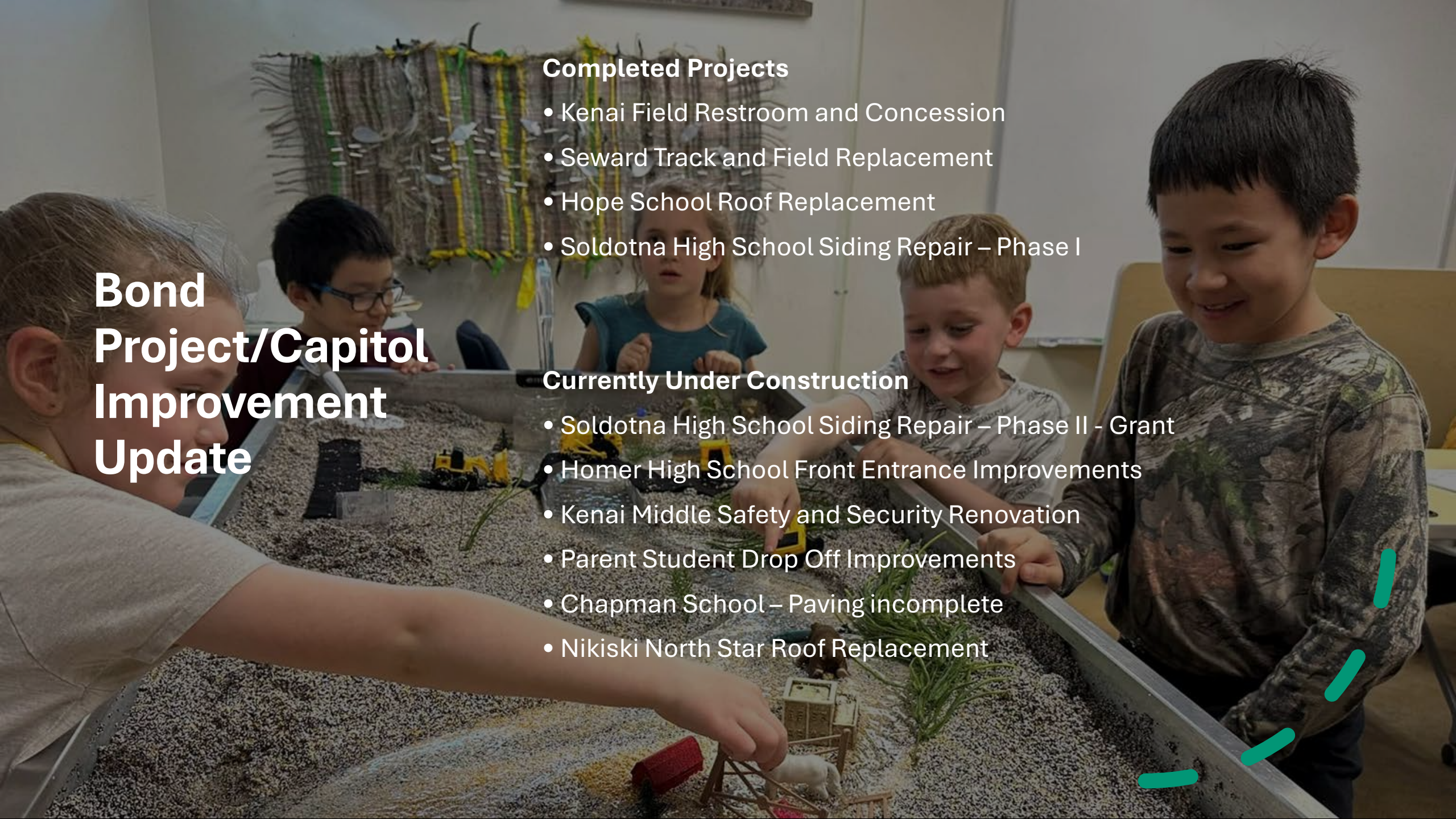
The Information Services team is dedicated to innovation that simplifies processes and supports KPBSD's mission. This department delivers practical, effective technology solutions and stays flexible in adopting new tools to meet the district's evolving needs. Guided by continuous improvement, the KPBSD is excited about what lies ahead.

IT Update

Current key initiatives include:

- **Wireless Infrastructure Refresh:** The IT Department expects to complete a multi-year effort to upgrade the district's wireless network, last refreshed in 2015.
- **Core Network Modernization:** Several core infrastructure components, also dating to 2015, are scheduled for replacement.
- **Business Process Optimization:** Currently streamlining internal IT processes by expanding automations, workflows, and electronic forms. This effort is expected to extend beyond IT to other business units.

The district's long-standing Technology Plan, now in its 26th year, also supports replacing approximately one-sixth of district instructional devices each year. This keeps classroom technology dependable, providing a strong, stable foundation for learning and operations.

A group of five children are gathered around a large sensory bin filled with grey beads. They are playing with various toys including a yellow excavator, a red truck, and some green plants. The background shows a wall with a colorful, textured hanging. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Bond Project/Capitol Improvement Update

Completed Projects

- Kenai Field Restroom and Concession
- Seward Track and Field Replacement
- Hope School Roof Replacement
- Soldotna High School Siding Repair – Phase I

Currently Under Construction

- Soldotna High School Siding Repair – Phase II - Grant
- Homer High School Front Entrance Improvements
- Kenai Middle Safety and Security Renovation
- Parent Student Drop Off Improvements
- Chapman School – Paving incomplete
- Nikiski North Star Roof Replacement



Bond Project/Capitol Improvement Update

Scheduled to begin 2027

- Parent Student Drop Off Improvements
- Kenai Middle School

In Design

- Parent Student Drop Off Improvements
- Homer Middle School
- Mountain View Roof Replacement
- Soldotna Elementary Replacement / Preparatory School Renovation

Design Complete

- Nikiski Track and Field Replacement

KPBSD Assessment Overview 2025–2026

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) utilizes a comprehensive assessment system to monitor student achievement, measure academic growth, and guide instructional decision-making. Rather than relying on a single assessment, the district examines multiple measures throughout the school year to provide a complete picture of student learning, school performance, and district effectiveness.



Assessment System

KPBSD administers both formative and summative assessments throughout the academic year.

State Summative Assessments

- AK STAR English Language Arts and Mathematics (Grades 3–9): Alaska's statewide summative assessment developed through a partnership between the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) and NWEA. Results are available in the fall following spring administration.
- Alaska Science Assessment (Grades 5, 8, and 10): Measures student proficiency in science standards.
- WIDA ACCESS for English Learners: Federally required assessment administered annually to students identified as English Learners. The assessment measures proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Assessment information, resources, and guidance for families are available through the KPBSD Assessment webpage.

Universal Screening Assessments

- Amplify mCLASS (Grades K–5): Universal literacy screening used to identify student strengths, monitor reading development, and provide targeted interventions aligned with the Alaska Reads Act.
- NWEA MAP Growth (Grades 3–10): Measures student growth and achievement in Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics. Results are available immediately after testing and are used by teachers to adjust instruction and monitor individual student progress.

Reading

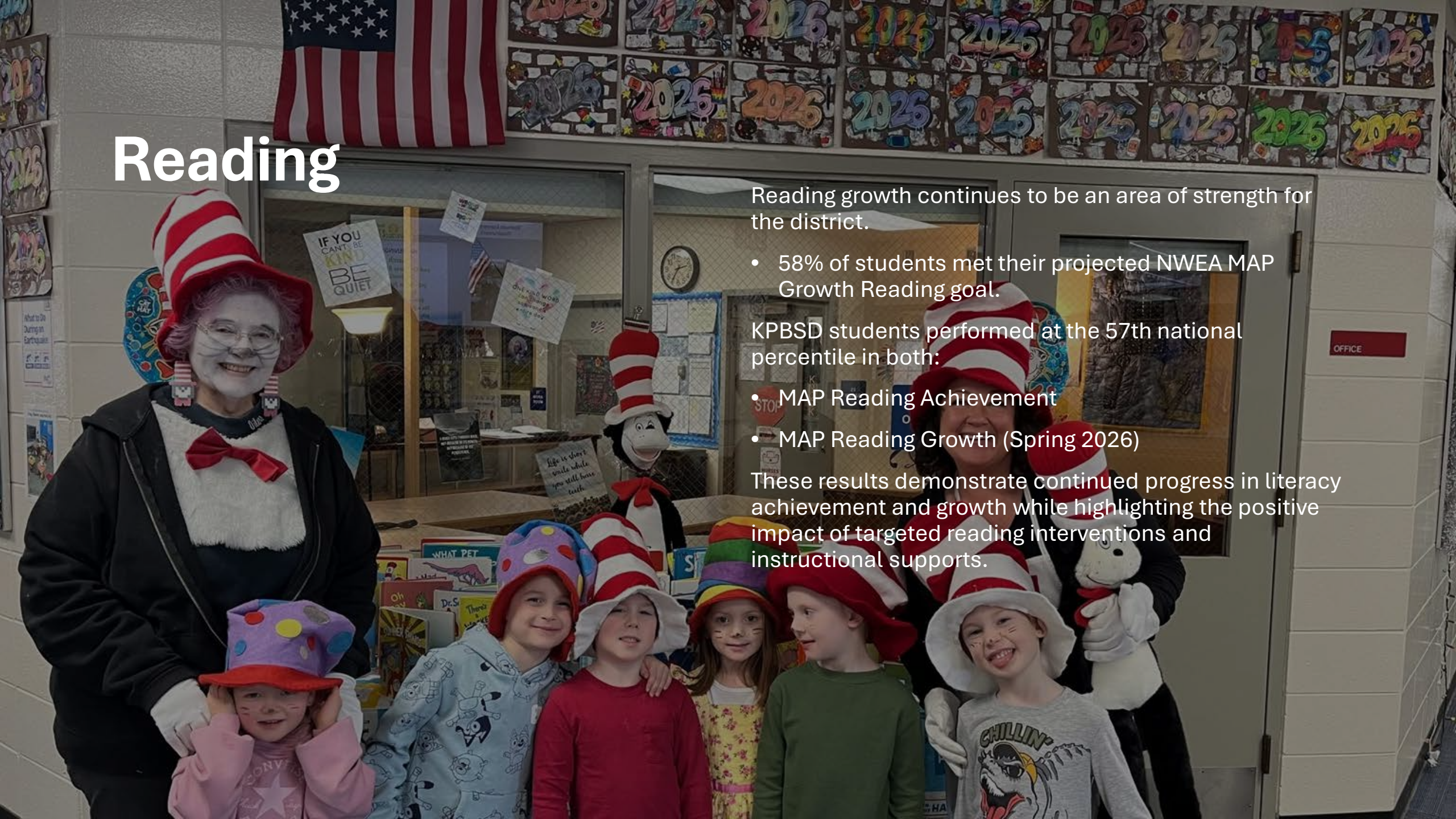
Reading growth continues to be an area of strength for the district.

- 58% of students met their projected NWEA MAP Growth Reading goal.

KPBSD students performed at the 57th national percentile in both:

- MAP Reading Achievement
- MAP Reading Growth (Spring 2026)

These results demonstrate continued progress in literacy achievement and growth while highlighting the positive impact of targeted reading interventions and instructional supports.



Mathematics

Mathematics achievement remained above the national average.

57% of students met their projected MAP Growth Mathematics goal, compared to 65% the previous year.

District performance remained at the:

- 54th national percentile in MAP Mathematics Achievement
- 54th national percentile in MAP Mathematics Growth (Spring 2026)



AK STAR Results

Spring 2025 statewide assessment results provide valuable information regarding student proficiency.

38.78% of all students scored Proficient or Advanced in AK STAR Mathematics.

37.35% of all students scored Proficient or Advanced in AK STAR English Language Arts.

Because AK STAR measures student mastery of Alaska State Standards, these results complement the growth information provided through MAP Growth.

Instructional Response

Assessment results continue to drive instructional improvement across the district.

Key initiatives include:

- Mandatory Into Literature professional development for all secondary English Language Arts teachers (Grades 6–12) during FY2026.
- Quarterly teacher-led collaborative professional learning sessions throughout the 2026–2027 school year focused on instructional strategies, student data analysis, and continuous improvement.
- Continued use of MAP Growth and Amplify mCLASS data to identify student needs, monitor intervention effectiveness, and inform instructional planning.
- Ongoing emphasis on evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with district strategic priorities and the Alaska Reads Act.

Looking Forward

KPBSD remains committed to using multiple measures of student learning to improve educational outcomes for every student. Universal screening, progress monitoring, and statewide assessments provide educators with timely information to support instructional decision-making while ensuring students receive the interventions and enrichment necessary for success.

Moving forward, the district will continue to:

- Strengthen literacy outcomes through research-based instructional practices.
- Improve mathematics growth through targeted instructional support.
- Expand professional learning focused on data-informed instruction.
- Use assessment data to ensure equitable opportunities and continuous academic growth for all students.

The district's ongoing commitment to data-driven decision-making supports KPBSD's mission of Supporting Students in Life Success.



Advanced Placement (AP)

80% pass rate, earning scores of 3, 4, or 5—scores that are widely recognized by colleges and universities as demonstrating college-level knowledge and achievement.

Advanced Placement courses provide students with the opportunity to challenge themselves through rigorous, college-level coursework while still in high school. Success on AP exams can lead to college credit, advanced placement in college courses, reduced college costs, and a stronger foundation for future academic success.

This remarkable achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of our students, as well as the exceptional support and instruction provided by our teachers and school staff. It is also a testament to the encouragement of families who partner with our schools to help students reach their goals.

AP[®]

 **CollegeBoard**

Graduation Rates 2024-25

- 85.01% Overall
- 81.63 % American Indian/Alaska Native
 - o 20% increase since 2021 and 21% higher than the state average



2025-26 KPBSD Libraries Report

The district's school libraries continue to inspire a strong culture of reading, reaching 78,782 checkouts this year including Soldotna Elementary with 11,314 (the highest total checkouts), and engaging 76 district teams in the yearly Battle of the Books competition. Students also demonstrated strong research engagement and academic use of resources through 35,375 PebbleGo articles, 976,780 World Book hits, and 12,007 digital book engagements on the Sora Reading app totaling 13,127 hours of reading.



Indigenous Education Program

- The Indigenous Education program experienced another year of growth with 1,392 students being served through Cultural Lessons and Workshops. Students learned about traditional foods, waterproof clothing, our Kenai Volcanoes, Alaska history, the importance of salmon, and how to tell their own stories with our guest artists, Chickaloonies.
- A total of 260 families took part in our programming outside of school, with our take home kits centering around culture and STEM projects as well as our Federal Programs Family Fun Fests.
- Title VI tutors/aides are at four schools, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Tebughna, and Tuten Charter, serving 175 students.



KPBSD Career & Technical Education (CTE):

The 2025–2026 school year marked significant growth for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs across the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Students expanded participation in career pathways, earned more industry-recognized credentials, and increased college credit attainment while developing skills aligned with Alaska's workforce needs.



Key Outcomes:

- 4,242 CTE courses completed districtwide.
- 2,121.63 high school credits earned through CTE coursework.
- 900 industry-recognized certifications earned by students, an increase of 70% from 530 certifications in 2024–2025.
- This represents substantial growth in student access to industry-recognized credentials and reflects the district's continued emphasis on workforce readiness.
- These certifications help students demonstrate technical competency, strengthen postsecondary and employment applications, and leave high school with tangible credentials connected to career pathways.
- 528 college credits earned through CTE courses, an increase from 428 credits in 2024–2025.

This growth demonstrates continued progress in expanding dual credit and articulated credit opportunities across CTE programs. By embedding college credit into high school CTE pathways, KPBSD students are able to reduce postsecondary costs, accelerate progress toward certificates and degrees, and better understand the expectations of college-level career training.

Career Pathways and Program Expansion:

Continued expansion of dual credit opportunities and post-secondary partnerships.

- KPBSD continued to strengthen and expand career pathways aligned to student interest, regional workforce needs, and postsecondary opportunities. Program development during the year included continued emphasis on pathways such as construction, welding, small engines, health sciences, education, natural resources, transportation, personal finance, and other high-demand career fields.
 - The district also continued work to align CTE programming with college credit and post-secondary training opportunities through partnerships with institutions such as Kenai Peninsula College, AVTEC, and University of Alaska programs. These partnerships support smoother transitions from high school into certificates, apprenticeships, technical training, college programs, and employment.
-



CTE Student Organizations (CTSOs):

Growth in student participation and leadership through SkillsUSA, Educators Rising, FFA, and HOSA.

Career and Technical Student Organizations continued to grow across the district, providing students with leadership development, competition opportunities, career exploration, and real-world skill application. During the 2025–2026 school year, KPBSD saw increased participation and program development in CTSOs including:

- SkillsUSA — supporting students in skilled trades, technical education, leadership, and employability skills.
- Educators Rising — expanding opportunities for students interested in education careers and helping build a future educator pipeline.
- FFA — supporting leadership, agriculture, natural resources, and career development opportunities.
- HOSA — growing student engagement in health science careers, including new or developing chapter support and increased interest in healthcare pathways.
- These organizations give students a place to apply classroom learning, build confidence, compete in career-focused events, and connect with peers and professionals across Alaska and beyond.

Looking Ahead:

As KPBSD continues to expand Career and Technical Education opportunities, the district CTE program is focused on increasing equitable access to high-quality CTE experiences for all students, regardless of school size or location.

A key priority for 2026–2027 will be the development of small-school cohort camps and additional districtwide intensive learning opportunities that allow students to access specialized equipment, industry expertise, and certification opportunities that may not be available at every site. These short-term, high-impact programs will provide hands-on experiences in high-demand career fields while helping students earn industry-recognized credentials and explore postsecondary pathways.

The district will also continue to strengthen the use of shared resources among schools, maximizing instructor expertise, equipment, curriculum, and community partnerships to expand opportunities for students across the Kenai Peninsula. Through collaborative planning and resource sharing, KPBSD aims to increase access to specialized pathway courses while maintaining strong local programming.

Federal Programs

The Federal Programs Department, including Indigenous Education, Migrant Education, Title I, Title III (EL), McKinney-Vento Program (MVP), and numerous community partners, collaborated to make our 2026 Federal Programs Family Fun Nights a tremendous success across the Central Peninsula, Seward, and Homer communities.

Provided opportunities for families to engage in hands-on learning experiences together through STEM activities, crafts, face painting, games, literacy stations, and interactive activities such as plant and bird feeder projects.

Participation has steadily increased over the past three years, growing from 175 attendees in FY24, to 279 attendees in FY25, and reaching 341 attendees in FY26.

The events highlighted the district's continued commitment to family engagement, equitable access, literacy, cultural connection, and strong school-community partnerships.

Family feedback reflected the impact of the events, with comments including, "10 out of 10 — we will come again!" and "Thank you for bringing our little community a great family-oriented night."



Professional Development

Professional Learning in KPBSD supported significant growth in instructional excellence this year.

11% increase in data access

15% rise in teacher satisfaction.

Supported by high staff confidence in data literacy, more instruction is being tailored to specific learning needs, representing a 10% increase in personalized instruction over the previous year.



Virtual Learning (Distance Ed + Credit Recovery)

Virtual learning in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) connects students to success through two vital pathways: initial credit opportunities through the Distance Education program and credit recovery options via Edgenuity.

Here is how these two programs served our students and schools this year:

- **Initial Credit (Distance Education):** The Distance Education Team leverages just four specialized educators to provide 62 asynchronous online courses to 16 district schools, ensuring small or understaffed schools can meet crucial graduation and Alaska Performance Scholarship requirements. This value-added program serves over 700 course enrollments by filling critical content gaps, addressing emergency staffing needs, and supporting district-wide teacher retention.
- **Credit Recovery:** The Credit Recovery program offers students a supportive second opportunity to fulfill course requirements for classes they previously did not complete successfully. During the May–June 2025 summer session, 117 KPBSD students utilized this pathway to complete 121 credits. This momentum continued throughout the 2025–2026 school year, with students earning an additional 231 high school semester (.5) credits via Edgenuity.



Supporting student success remains a central focus. KPBSD will continue efforts to provide additional support for special populations, ensuring that all students have meaningful access to career exploration, credential attainment, work-based learning, and post-secondary opportunities.

RootEd Career Guide pilot: The district will maintain a strong emphasis on career guidance and postsecondary planning, particularly for juniors and seniors. Through the implementation of the pilot program students will receive individualized support in career exploration, college and training program selection, financial aid completion, scholarship applications, workforce preparation, and postsecondary transitions. This enhanced advising model will help students connect their educational experiences to clear plans for life after graduation.

Supporting Students in Life Success

