



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Instructional Services

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August 11, 2026

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Commissioner Deena M. Bishop, Ed.D.

P.O. Box 110500

Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Commissioner Bishop,

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District respectfully submits this letter as a formal notice of intent to modify the name of Seward High School to Seward Middle/High School.

1. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education took action on closing Seward Middle School (#240500) at its regular meeting on April 6, 2026. Board minutes attached.
2. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education would like to change Seward High School (#240200) to Seward Middle/High School with a grade configuration of 7-12. The Board of Education will take action on this name change at the next meeting, September 14th.
3. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education would also like to request a grade configuration for Seward Elementary School (#240190) to grades PK-6. The Board of Education will take action on this grade change at the next meeting, September 14th.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Kari Dendurent", is written over a large, stylized blue loop.

Kari Dendurent

Assistant Superintendent

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Apr 06, 2026 - REVISED Board of Education Meeting
Category	11. Action Items
Subject	B. Seward Middle School Closure
Access	Public
Type	Action
Recommended Action	Move to approve the Superintendent to implement the permanent closure of Seward Middle School, effective June 30, 2026, at the end of the 2025–2026 school year.
Goals	Goal 2. Develop a Long-Term Fiscal Plan and Advocate for Sustainable Funding

Public Content

Background Information: The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) faces a projected budget deficit of approximately \$8.5 million for the upcoming fiscal year, necessitating difficult decisions regarding the operation of under-enrolled schools;

Seward Middle School currently serves 106 students in a facility with a capacity of 227, resulting in significantly higher per-student operational costs compared to other schools in the district;

Continued operation of Seward Middle School is not financially sustainable, and closure is projected to result in substantial cost savings for the district, estimated at approximately \$405,796 annually;

The district has explored potential alternatives, including community-based solutions, and conducted public engagement with stakeholders, including the Seward community;

Alternative educational options are available in the community with 6th grade going to the Seward Elementary School, and 7th and 8th grade being housed at Seward High school , both of which have capacity to accommodate reassigned students;

Upon the Board's approval for the Superintendent to implement the permanent closure of Seward Middle School, effective June 30, 2026, at the end of the 2025–2026 school year the Superintendent will;

1. Implement a transition plan for reassignment of all Seward Middle School students to appropriate receiving schools;
2. Ensure that all affected families are supported in this transition, including assistance with transportation and enrollment;
3. Reassign staff in accordance with district policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements;
4. Develop a plan for the future use, repurposing, or disposition of the Seward Middle School facility in coordination with borough authorities;
5. Continue communication with the Seward community throughout the closure and transition process, with respect and transparency.

Administrative Content