



SOLDOTNA ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL

KPBSD School Board Monthly Meeting

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

A conversion charter designed to preserve neighborhood access, strengthen school-level voice, and focus on growth for every student.



October 19th, 2026

APPLICATION UPDATES IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND REVIEW

Parent & Staff Feedback	Included an appendix with parent survey results
Enrollment	Clarifications on enrollment approaches
Lottery	Updates to lottery language, dates, etc.
Facility / Location	Options for facility and location
What we offer	Highlighting what sets us apart
Professional development	Certifications and trainings related to STREAM
Staffing & Budget	Updates based on discussions with Finance

PARENT & TEACHER INTEREST

87%

of parent responses very or somewhat likely to attend

48 of 55 families, representing 78 children

88%

of teacher responses very or somewhat likely to teach here

14 of 16 teachers; 2 needed more information; none unlikely

2

parent responses unlikely to attend

<1% of an estimated 181 families

“

...ensure that the vision of inclusivity is maintained and that over time it doesn't become a 'traditional charter.'”

“

I want to ensure that the curriculum chosen supports and enables a diverse and inclusive group of students.”

“

Making sure if the school transitions into a charter school that it doesn't become exclusive and serves the existing community. Making sure we retain many of the current teachers and maintain the current school's community feel”

“

...I think creating a charter will give parents more input. I am afraid the school district will continue to ignore and disregard the [community's] opinions if we do nothing. It was already voted on and in favor of to re-build Soldotna Elementary. Why is community and parent input being so widely disregarded? Why are we even voting? It feels a proposal for a charter is our only hope for being heard.”

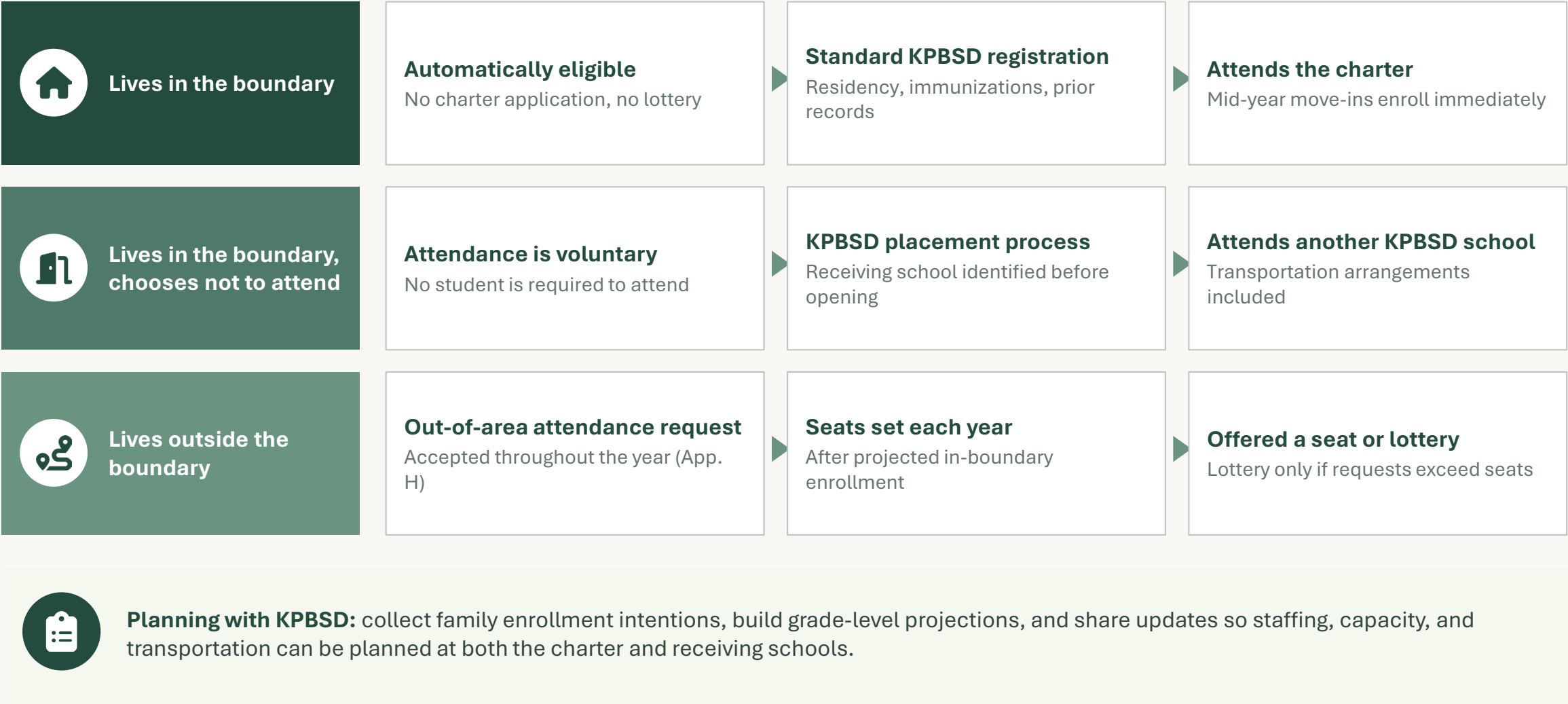
“

I'd like to make sure that the school isn't exclusive, and that it prepares students for not just educational challenges that they will face as they grow but also that they learn to navigate social and emotional challenges.”

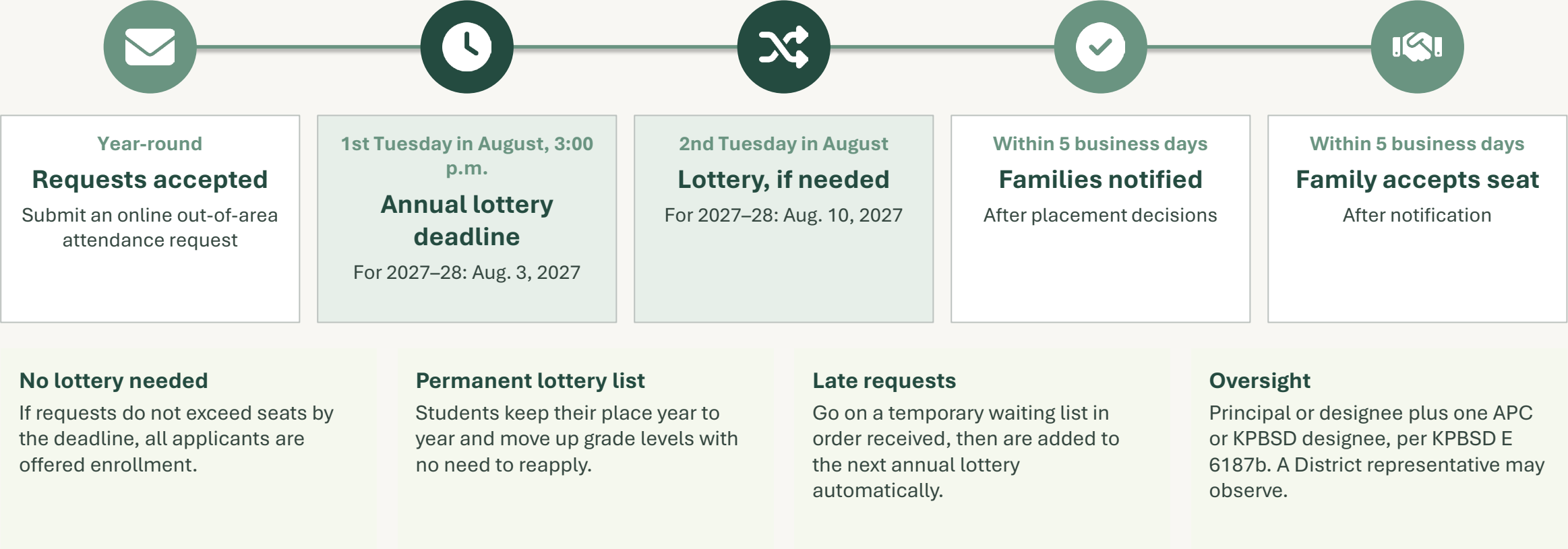
“

Would like to see a diverse population offered the opportunity to continue strong community development among all children.”

ENROLLMENT PROCESS



OUT-OF-AREA ATTENDANCE AND LOTTERY DATES



Mid-year openings: offered first to the permanent lottery list, then the temporary waiting list. If no list exists and space is available, students may enroll without a lottery.

ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY

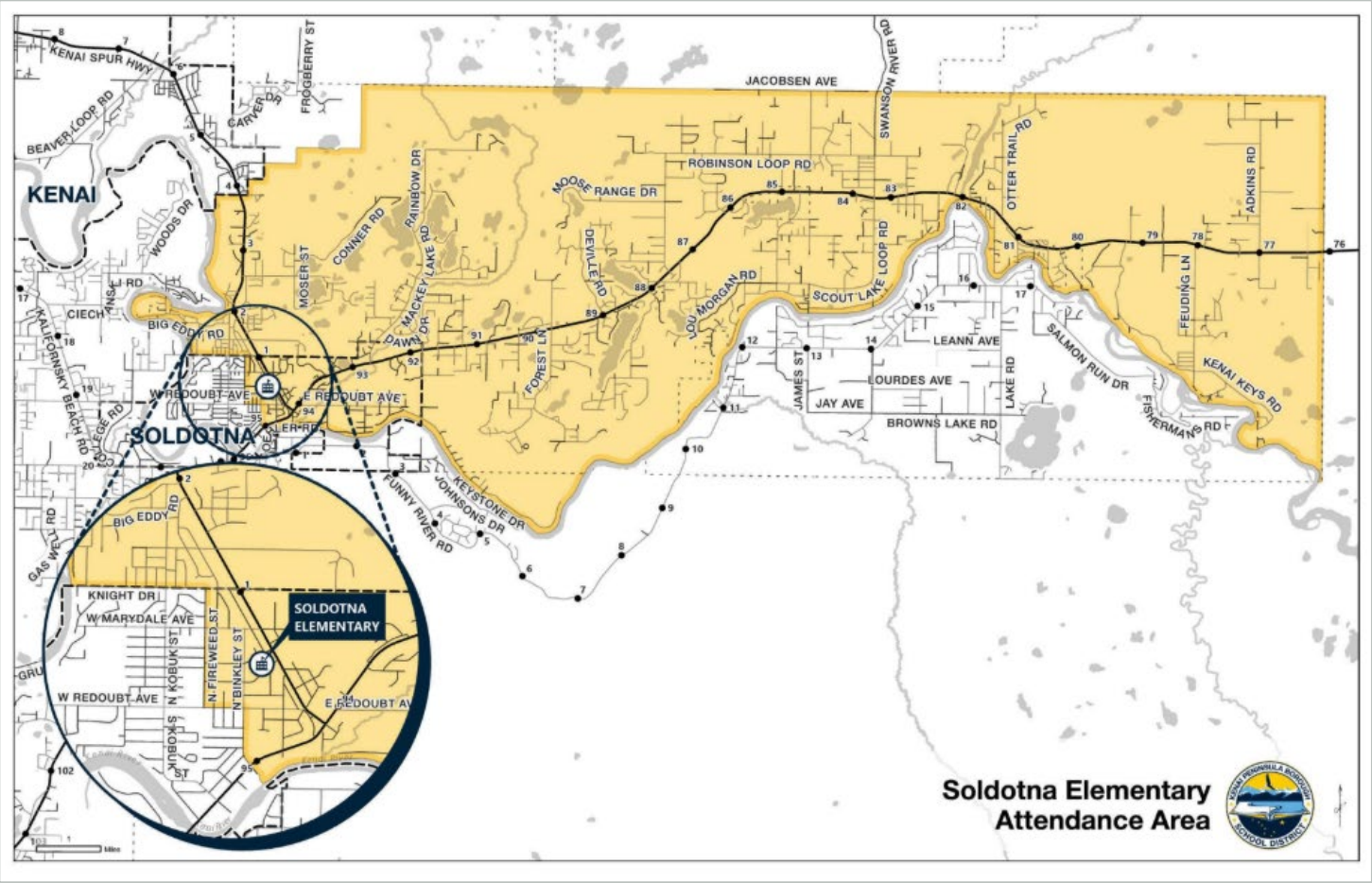


Figure K-1, Appendix K. Boundary shown as of September 2026.

HOW THE BOUNDARY APPLIES



Inside the boundary

Automatically eligible; register through standard KPBSD registration.



Outside the boundary

Submit an out-of-area attendance request; seats depend on capacity.



Opting out

Families may attend another KPBSD school through the placement process.



Transportation

KPBSD routing continues for eligible students within the boundary.

FACILITY & LOCATION OPTIONS



OPTION 1
Existing Soldotna Elementary building

Temporary occupancy for a mutually agreed period while a permanent solution is developed.

- Continuity for students and staff
- Review of building condition, maintenance, operating cost, and construction plans



OPTION 2
Soldotna Prep or Redoubt building

Dedicated space on the consolidated campus, on its own or shared with another school or program.

- Possible shared nursing, custodial, food service, transportation, and SpEd staff
- Written agreement on classrooms, schedules, and costs



OPTION 3
Another facility or phased arrangement

Other District or Borough space, a renovated community building, or a leased Soldotna-area facility.

- Modular classrooms possible in a phased plan
- Evaluated for access, transportation, cost, and safety



Right of first refusal

Documented review of qualifying District space under AS 14.03.255(d). Any lease is limited to actual operational cost per square foot.



Joint planning and funding

APC, District, and Borough compare options. Possible funding to investigate: USDA Community Facilities, federal charter facilities credit enhancement, and Alaska school construction grants.

WHAT SETS US APART FROM NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

SAME AS ANY KPBSD SCHOOL

KPBSD curriculum and required assessments

Neighborhood registration

Transportation and school meals

Special education, 504, and intervention services

KPBSD staffing formula as the minimum

WHAT THE CHARTER ADDS, IN WRITING



APC and parent voice

Parent and staff representation on the APC brings family feedback into school decisions and program review.



STREAM in every grade

Quarterly hands-on projects connect subjects, apply KPBSD curriculum, and document student learning.



Weekly explicit SEL

A core lesson each week, reinforced through classroom routines and STREAM projects.



Science specialist for every class

Dedicated K–6 Science, Music, and PE teachers. Proposed specialist staffing exceeds the FY27 formula by one FTE.



Training supports STREAM

Explore literacy, STEM, and arts training. Named programs depend on funding and availability.



Annual program review

STREAM & SEL performance assessments help the APC review progress each year.

KPBSD curriculum provides the foundation. The charter adds coordinated STREAM learning and a formal role for parent and staff voice.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SPECIALIZED TRAINING



Early literacy

Primary grades (K–2)

- Science of Reading Academy
- Amplify science of reading professional learning
- LETRS
- Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE)



STEM & engineering

Intermediate grades

- Project Lead The Way (PLTW)
- National Institute for STEM Education (NISE) certification
- National Science Teaching Association (NSTA)
- National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF)



Outdoor & place-based

All grades

- Project WILD (coordinated in Alaska by ADF&G)
- iTREC! place-based workshops (Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, BLM Campbell Creek Science Center, Chugach National Forest)



Arts

Interested teachers

- National Art Education Association (NAEA)
- Alaska Arts Education Consortium (AAEC) Summer Arts Institutes

Funding

Career Development Grants (every two years), plus school PD funds as the budget allows

Selection

Administrator approves based on mission fit, staff needs, program availability, and cost

Application

Training feeds curriculum planning, STREAM projects, and classroom instruction

COMPARISONS TO LOCAL CHARTER SCHOOLS

Program feature	Aurora Borealis K-10	Fireweed Academy (K-6)	Kaleidoscope K-5	Soldotna Montessori K-6	TuĦen K-4	Soldotna Elementary Charter School K-6 (proposed)
Classical instruction and Latin	X					
Montessori materials and independent learning				X		
Mixed-age classroom model		Multi-age groups		X		As necessary
Dena'ina language and cultural learning					X	
Arts integrated across academic learning		X	X		X	X
Hands-on inquiry and investigations		X	X	X	X	X
Dedicated Teachers (Elementary)	Music/Art, PE	Art	Science, Music/Band, PE	Music, PE/Intervention		Science, Music, PE
Explicit School-wide STEAM/STREAM Framework		Theme immersion/ project based learning			X	X
Social Emotional Learning	N/A*	Direct SEL instruction, restorative practices, cooperative learning	Conscious Discipline/ Lifeskills	Conscious Discipline	Conscious Discipline	Second Step
Standard attendance-area registration						X
KPBSD Transportation		X	X	X	X	X
Hot Lunch Program		X	X	X	X	X
Location	Kenai	Homer	Kenai	Soldotna	Kenai	Soldotna

* Reference to practicing Foundation Stones, but no explicit instruction required.

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Number of Students	194	104	173	164	48	290
Students Economically Disadvantages	18.1 %	45.2 %	35.6 %	24.4 %	--	44.7 %
Special Ed %	9.1 %	8.7 %	21.0 %	16.5 %	--	25.9 %
SpEd Students	17.6	8.9	36.3	27.0	--	64.9
SpEd. Final Budget (4220 + 4200)	\$ 83,580	--	\$ 352,876	\$ 365,765	--	\$ 1,334,829
SpEd. Funding per SpEd. Student	\$ 4,760	--	\$ 9,722	\$ 13,550	--	\$ 20,583
SpEd. Funding per Student	\$ 431	--	\$ 2,040	\$ 2,230	--	\$ 5,339
BARRIERS						
Signed Parent/Student Contract	X	X	X		X	
Minimum Grade Requirements	X					
Late arrivals and late pickup tracking	X					
Behavior Contracts	X					
Screening appt / Parent-only orientation / Parent Meetings / Classroom observation / Other commitments		X		X	X	
School-specific volunteer training			X			
Classroom Supply Fee		X			X	
Evening or Daytime Parent Commitments			X		X	

Thank you

Soldotna Elementary Charter School

Questions and discussion

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