RENEWAL
Charter School
APPLICATION
for

Fireweed Academy

FY 2027

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

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Charter School Renewal Application

Please provide narrative responses to the following areas. If referencing evidence within a document that is included as an appendix, please also provide sufficient detail in the narrative response for review purposes

Section 1: Establishment of the Charter at the local level

i. Provide the primary purpose of the charter and how it specifically differs from other educational options available in the community. Provide a narrative to describe how the charter has changed since the last application. *AS 14.03.265(a)(1-3)*

Purpose and Differences

History and Mission
Established in 1997 as Homer Charter School, Fireweed Academy is the only public charter school in the southern Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Its mission is to provide a compassionate learning environment that fosters self-reliance, cooperation, creativity, reasoning ability, personal growth, and academic achievement. Fireweed Academy's engaging approach allows it to set its own educational goals while meeting state standards, offering a unique and enriching educational experience for its students.

Educational Differences
Fireweed Academy provides a unique and rich educational experience through:

- Adoption of High Quality Instructional Materials
    - By utilizing materials that are aligned to state standards and are backed by research, we ensure that our students are engaged with rigorous content while incorporating all the other aspects of our educational environment.
- Theme Immersion
    - Theme immersion for the classroom is an educational approach where the entire curriculum or multiple subjects are integrated and organized around a central, overarching topic, issue, or question. This method involves an in-depth, hands-on study that allows students to make meaningful, real-world connections across different academic areas including outdoor exploration, scientific study, art, language and reading while fostering deeper understanding and improved knowledge retention.
    - At Fireweed, Theme Block is a multi-age setting and provides an opportunity for students to apply knowledge learned in their content and grade-specific classes, engage with the community, and showcase their learning. Fireweed students engage in 2 themes per year, often culminating in a community showcase of their learning at the end of each semester.
- Socratic Practice
    - Socratic Seminars are structured, student-led discussions based on a shared text or idea, using open-ended questions to foster deep thinking, critical analysis, and collaborative meaning-making, rather than debate or lecturing, with the teacher acting as a facilitator. Students engage in Socratic Practice throughout their content and grade-level classes, in structured and unstructured settings with adults and peers, and in Theme Block.

- Project and Place Based Learning
    - Project-Based Learning (PBL) is a teaching method in which students learn by actively engaging in real-world and personally meaningful projects. By connecting students to their surroundings including our environment, culture, history, and community, students are able to internalize concepts and connect them to familiar and meaningful life experiences. At Fireweed Academy, students engage in PBL during Theme Immersion Block and throughout their content-specific classes. PBL provides a backbone of academic growth and standards-based achievement and serves as a vehicle for the school's initiatives.
- Experiential Learning in our Community
    - Fireweed prioritizes taking field trips into the community so that students can learn from experts throughout Homer and the Kenai Peninsula. Community members and experts are also frequently invited to the school in order to bring the learning from the field into the classroom and to invite students to take part in authentic learning experiences that contribute to their community. For example, an expert on Alaskan oil spill responses came in to explain their work in the community, which then bolstered the learning that students were already doing on conservation and using math in real jobs.
- Restorative Practices
    - Restorative practices are a relational approach to building community, teaching social-emotional skills, and resolving conflict by focusing on repairing harm and healing relationships through dialogue, empathy, and shared accountability. At Fireweed Academy, Restorative Practices are implemented in the classroom through community circles, in school discipline through mediated conversations, and as a whole school through Community Council.
- Multi-age Classrooms and Teacher:Student Ratio
    - Fireweed Academy class sizes are capped at 18 for K-2nd and 20 per grade in 3rd-6th grades. Students benefit from individualized instruction and support. Throughout their day (3rd-6th grades) and weekly (K-2nd), students engage in both same-age and multi-age settings. Multi-age classrooms allow for the development of leadership and social skills as well as flexibility in mastering standards along a timeline.

Summary:
Fireweed Academy blends rigorous, research-backed academics with real-world connection. Through theme immersion and place-based projects that foster deep-critical thinking alongside Socratic Seminars, we take learning out of the classroom and into the Homer community.

We support this hands-on approach with small, multi-age classes and a restorative culture, ensuring every student is seen, heard, and given the individualized attention they need to thrive.

Changes Since Previously Approved Application
The primary changes since our last application have been the adoption of CKLA as our literacy

curriculum and mCLASS to better align our school with the Alaska Reads Act. In addition, we have strengthened and increased our community partnerships with organizations such as Bunnell Street Gallery, Homer Council on the Arts, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Homer OPUS, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide real-world learning opportunities. This also includes new connections with our neighboring schools to facilitate afterschool programming and professional developments. Fireweed staff, students, APC, and parents came together to formalize the educational philosophy of Fireweed that is now known as our "We Believe" statements (Appendix O). In 2025, Fireweed expanded our agriculture opportunities at the Little Fireweed campus with the addition of a chicken coop next to the garden that is cared for and maintained by the students and community. Fireweed's Principal and Staff work together to identify areas of professional development and have held trainings for project-based learning, curriculum (CKLA, Envision, PBL TEACH), Autism through Alaska Autism Resource Center, and more.

ii. *Provide evidence of the signed contract between the charter school and the local school board containing all required elements under AS 14.03.255(c) marked as Appendix A. AS 14.03.255(c)(1-14)*

Evidence of School Board Approval
Evidence of the local school board approval of this reapplication is included in this document as Appendix A.

Provide evidence of the local school board approval of the reapplication for the charter school marked as Appendix A. *AS 14.03.250(b)*

iii. *Provide evidence of the signed contract between the charter school and the local school board containing all required elements under AS 14.03.255(c) marked as Appendix A. AS 14.03.255(c)(1-14)*

Evidence of Signed Contract w/ Required Elements
Evidence of the signed contract between this charter school and the local school board is included in this document as Appendix B. (Contract to be signed upon Board approval)

iv. Provide either the charter school's bylaws marked as Appendix C **or** an indication on the signed assurance page that the bylaws previously submitted to the department in the initial application or previous renewal applications have not changed. *4 AAC 33.110(a)(4)*

Evidence of Bylaws or Assurance
The updated charter school bylaws are included in this document as Appendix C.

v. Provide evidence of the Academic Policy Committee (APC) consisting of parents of students attending the school, teachers, and school employees. Evidence includes a list of the members of the APC and their qualifications, as well as the written minutes from

meetings where the charter school met with the academic policy committee to fulfill the requirement of at least once each year monitoring the progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals. Mark as Appendix D. *AS 14.03.250(a), AS 14.03.255(b)(4), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(1)*

Evidence of APC - Names/Qualifications, Meeting Minutes
Evidence of the Academic Policy Committee consisting of parents of students attending the school, teachers, and school employees are included in this document as Appendix D. Link to access to Academic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes is also included in Appendix D.

References: AS 14.03.250. Application for charter schools, AS 14.03.255(c)(1-14) Organization and operation of a charter school, AS 14.03.265 Admission, 4 AAC 33.110 Charter school application and review procedure.

Use the reviewer rating template below to fill in the page numbers to depict the location of the responses for each sub-element. Do not use the reviewer's notes column.

Reviewer Rating Template		
Section 1	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Purpose	Page 5	
Evidence of board approval	Page 7, 37-38 (Appendix A)	
Evidence of signed contract with all required elements	See required element below (items 1-14) **Page 7, 38-41 (Appendix B)**	
1. Description of educational program	Page 39	
2. Specific levels of achievement for the education program	Page 39	
3. Admissions Policy and Procedures	Page 40	

Section 1	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
4. Administrative Policies	Page 40	
5. Statement of Charter funding	Page 40	
6. Method of accountability for receipts and expenditures	Page 40	
7. Location and description of facility	Page 40	
8. Name of teachers who by agreement will teach in the charter	Page 41	
9. Teacher to student ratio	Page 41	
10. Number of students to be served	Page 41	
11. Term of contract (not to exceed 10 years)	Page 42	
12. Termination Clause	Page 42	
13. Statement of state and federal law compliance	Page 42	
14. Exemptions or requirements included in contract	Page 42	

Section 1	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Evidence of bylaws or assurance	Page 7, 43 (Appendix C)	
Evidence of APC, including list of names/qualifications, meeting minutes	Page 8, 51-54 (Appendix D)	

Section 2: Organization and Administration

I. Provide information on how the charter school is administered to ensure that the terms of the contract required by AS 14.03.255 (c) are being met; including who is responsible and what mechanism(s) they use. *AS 14.03.255(b)(2)*

Fireweed Academy Charter School ensures the terms of the contract required by AS 14.03.255(c) are being met in the following ways:

- Fireweed Academy (FWA) adheres to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) Charter School Policy.
- FWA has a certified school administrator with a Type B credential issued by the State of Alaska. It is the role of the school administrator, with oversight of the APC, to ensure that the terms of the charter school contract are being met.
- FWA is administered according to state statute with an active Academic Policy Committee (APC). The APC enjoys a healthy relationship between principal, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) known as Friends of Fireweed Academy (FoFA), staff, and families to ensure collaboration and sustainability.
- FWA conducts an annual review using KPBSD form e6187c that is on file at KPBSD and FWA. The KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair receives this form and approves the charter school annual review which includes elements of contract terms being met, as well as any concerns that may have been raised and addressed. (Appendix K)
- The school administrator works in tandem with the district, school staff and the Academic Policy Committee to ensure that rigorous student achievement levels are attained; that school admission policies and procedures are clear, compliant with state statute and are adhered to; and that school administrative policies are in compliance with state and district policies.

II. *Provide the written administrative policy manual utilized by the charter or an indication on the signed assurance page that the policy manual submitted to the department in the initial application or previous renewal applications has not changed. Mark as Appendix E. 4 AAC 33.110(a)(13)*

Evidence of Written Administrative Policy Manual or Assurance
Fireweed Academy Charter School adheres to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Administrative Policy Manual. The Policy Manual is available to the public, online, at the KPBSD website. KPBSD Charter School Policy is provided as evidence in Appendix E.

III. Provide evidence that the charter school met regularly with parents and with teachers of the charter school to review, evaluate, and improve operations of the charter school, including any review recommendations. *AS 14.03.255(b)(3)*

Fireweed Academy regularly seeks feedback from both families and staff in order to maintain and improve operations to fulfill its mission and vision. This occurs through annual surveys, family engagement nights, and community-wide events. Annual surveys include an evaluation of teachers, principal, and each of the two school campuses. Other surveys occur when specific feedback is requested by the principal, staff, or APC to address a need or question that has been brought up. An example of this was a recent survey that went out regarding community perception of technology use in Fireweed Academy. These data were compiled and informed the APC adoption of the Fireweed Academy Technology Policy (Appendix M). Evidence of the surveys can be found in Meeting Minutes linked in Appendix D.

The Fireweed Academy APC meets regularly throughout the year on the 1st Thursday of each month and both parents and teachers serve as committee members. These meetings are open to the public including staff and community members. Evidence of APC meetings can be found in Appendix D. In addition to APC meetings, Friends of Fireweed Academy (FoFA) serves as our PTO and also meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month.

In addition, Fireweed Academy holds weekly staff meetings at each campus, full staff meetings once a month, training during inservice and early release days, and Collaboration Days throughout the year. Fireweed Academy also regularly develops and evaluates schoolwide goals using the School Development Plan process, which includes prioritization of our Title 1 funds on years that Fireweed qualifies as a Title 1 school (7 out of the last 10 years). Meetings for community information, events, and goal setting are held in accordance with the Federal Programs Calendar that is followed by all Title 1 schools in KPBSD.

IV. Provide evidence that the charter school met with the APC at least once a year to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals. *AS 14.03.255(b)(4)*

The APC meets faithfully each month during the school year, and it often hosts a work session during the summer in order to monitor progress and maintain accountability to its fiduciary responsibilities. Additionally, the APC has completed periodic evaluations of its own performance in order to monitor progress. This is supported from Meeting Minutes (Appendix D) and Charter School Annual Review Forms (Appendix K).

V. Provide a description of the school schedule and calendar. *4 AAC 33.110(a)(9)*

Fireweed Academy follows the KPBSD districtwide calendar for all non-variance schools. Current school calendar can be found in Appendix P.

VI. If applicable: Provide information on alternative educational options for students not wishing to attend the charter if the charter school is the only school in the community. *4 AAC 33.110(a)(12)*

Not applicable.

References: AS 14.03.255. Organization and operation of a charter school, 4 AAC 33.110 Charter school application and review procedure.

Reviewer Rating Template		
Section 2	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Description of administrative oversight	Page 10, 72-81 (Appendix K)	
Evidence of written administrative policy manual or assurance	Page 10-11, 55 (Appendix E)	
Evidence of regular parent and teacher contacts for continuous improvement	Page 11, 51-54 (Appendix D), 86-88 (Appendix M)	
Evidence of annual APC meeting	Page 11, 51-54 (Appendix D), 72-81 (Appendix K)	
Description of school schedule and calendar	Page 12, 100-101 (Appendix P)	
Alternative options for students if no other educational program exists	Not Applicable (Page 12)	

Section 3: Educational Program and Student Achievement

I. Provide a description of the educational program to be offered at the charter school including specific teaching methods that benefit an age group, grade level or specific type of student and examples of curriculum utilized. AS 14.03.255(c)(1), AS 14.03.265(a)(1-3), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(5)

As a charter school, we adopt high quality instructional materials alongside curricula that fits the philosophy, mission, and vision of Fireweed Academy's charter. While remaining grounded in the original charter, Fireweed Academy recognizes that curricula is an ever-evolving process that is chosen to provide the best academic experience for students and stays relevant with the demands and needs of the time.

Fireweed Academy's educational program delivers instruction through a variety of methods within the daily schedule: homeroom/morning meeting, content-specific Courses, and theme-immersion block. All curriculum explained in the next subsection and Appendices F and Q.

Homeroom or morning meeting time is how we start and end the day as a connected class through relationship building activities and social-emotional lessons. We prioritize this time as essential for knowing how students are entering into school and being able to set the tone for a positive day of learning.

Given the high cognitive load required by content specific courses (especially ELA and Math), we schedule these subjects in the morning for all students. This fits with research that elementary-aged students are better able to focus and absorb rigorous content in the morning hours.

Theme Immersion Model - Fireweed Academy's thematic model allows students to creatively experience how various content areas overlap, just as they do in life. Because social studies, science, literature, mathematics, and the arts are not mutually exclusive, this thematic approach opens the door for students to develop an informed and enriched understanding of this integration through immersion in these themes. Teachers plan theme-immersion curriculum utilizing project-based learning structures, constructivist practices and past theme-block projects to enhance and expand the adopted curriculum. Our Thematic Immersion program runs on a 4 year cycle between 8 overarching themes: *Community, Roots, Communication, Conservation, Culture, Habitat, Cycles, and Structures*.

We initiate our plan for theme activities by examining the national, state, and KPBSD standards. The state standards are addressed throughout the year in a variety of ways to cover differences in learning styles. All students are given the opportunity to practice and learn the standards through activities in each of the following curricula.

II. Provide evidence of a written instructional program that addresses state content standards under 4 AAC 04 and aligns with the content on the statewide assessment system under 4 AAC 06.710-4 AAC 06.790 marked as Appendix F. 4 AAC 33.110(a)(6)

In addition to the list of curricula marked as Appendix F, below is a description of our instructional program:

Language Arts

Fireweed utilizes the highly-rated Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum, which is a structured, research-based program and integrates systematic phonics instruction with rich content knowledge. This program helps students build strong reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through a combination of foundational literacy and knowledge-building units. Amplify CKLA embraces the "science of reading," and it fits well with our thematic learning, aligns with all state/national standards, allows for staff collaboration and can be accessed both in paper form and alongside technology as needed.

In addition to CKLA, our school instills the importance and love of reading through a variety of ways that incorporate literacy holistically. Some examples of this includes the Fireweed school library that is housed in classrooms, annual participation in the KPBSD 'Battle of the Books', reading to peers across grade levels through 'Buddy Reading', and reading challenges throughout the year.

Mathematics

Fireweed utilizes the enVision Math curriculum, which is a research-based, problem-solving program that emphasizes conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and real-world application through interactive lessons and visual models. It incorporates a blend of guided practice, independent work, and hands-on activities to support diverse learning styles and build a strong foundation in mathematics. Computation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills are practiced and honed on a daily basis.

Science & Social Studies

Fireweed integrates science and social studies within the theme immersion model, emphasizing inquiry-based learning with hands-on, small-group investigations and independent research. We strive to foster curiosity, wonder and awe in the complex world around us through scientific reasoning and process skills, and by formulating questions, designing experiments and interpreting results. We also take a deeper dive into specific topics to promote long-term comprehension about the interconnections of life on Earth. Fireweed also accesses supplemental resources from Generation Genius for hands-on science and math labs. To help structure larger projects, Fireweed has utilized the PBL TEACH resources through PBLWorks to ensure that projects are held to the 'gold-standard' of Project-Based Learning, and so that teachers are provided with the support and resources necessary to carry out projects.

Physical Education/Health

Fireweed knows growing bodies need physical movement to promote healthy students, and we strive for daily outdoor structured and unstructured play. Health objectives are incorporated into thematic units. In addition, Fireweed follows district mandates surrounding health instruction and collaborates with West Homer Elementary and community resources to provide

direct health instruction. When collaborating with an outside organization, an agreement will be adopted that outlines the specific content that will be covered. Fireweed has extra recess time built into our daily schedules in order to provide students with the opportunity to be outside learning through play. In addition, at Big Fireweed, students engage with structured physical education in the gym during the weeks that it is not in use by West Homer Elementary. On the 'off weeks', students go outside where they utilize local trails for hiking/walking as well as structured group activities.

Humanities

Fireweed recognizes art, music and drama as vital elements for developing whole child health. Theme units always integrate some form of art, music and/or drama, and Fireweed regularly participates in the acclaimed Artists in the Schools Program.

Additionally, K-2 students get immersed in twice-weekly violin instruction through Fireweed Frescoes as part of Homer OPUS, and both schools participate in the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra's Carnegie Hall LinkUp music education program. At Big Fireweed, Art is one of our 3 core blocks alongside ELA and Math in which students receive daily instruction from a certified art teacher.

III. Provide a description of plans for serving special education, vocational education, gifted, and bilingual students. 4 AAC 33.110(a)(10)

Special Education

Our Special Education department consists of a full time resource teacher who provides services at both campuses daily based on need and minutes as identified in student Individual Education Plans. We have a full-time resource aide at each location who provides services for our students. We purchase specialized curriculum to meet identified educational needs and work alongside district specialists to meet the needs of all learners at our school. Students at Fireweed have access to a school psychologist, vision, speech and language, occupational, and physical therapies through itinerant specialists who are partially paid through our budget. Fireweed follows the KPBSD process for identifying and supporting all students through special education and 504 plans. Fireweed's principal serves as the 504 coordinator. Many accommodations such as noise-cancelling headphones or break spaces are available to all students to decrease stigma and normalize students accessing what they need throughout the day to be successful.

Vocational Education

As an elementary setting, vocational education is provided in an informal manner. Fireweed's educational program provides students with opportunities to build concrete skills that will support them in many fields of work and education in the future. Teachers bring in local experts to explain how their work coincides with the lessons of themes or content being taught (i.e. how math is used in various vocations), which gives students a tangible application of what they

are learning. Getting out into the community with regular field trips also helps expose students to vocational opportunities in our town, borough, and state. Theme block is grounded in authentic and often community-based contexts, which sets students up for understanding their broader role within their community and the world.

Gifted Education

Students who have been identified as 'Gifted and Talented' benefit from the differentiated instruction that is able to be provided through our small class sizes and the enrichment opportunities that are built into high quality projects.

English Language Learners

Students are identified as English Language Learners through the KPBSD process and are assessed through the annual ACCESS testing. The needs of each student will determine the interventions that are put into place for that student through our MTSS/RTI process.

IV. Provide the written objectives for program achievement desired by the charter. Include information on the progress of the charter to date in reaching the objectives. Include in this section information on System of School Success, comparisons of state assessments for the school to district and state averages, as well as student performance by disaggregated groups. Include a synopsis of how students in your school are performing. Also include information on how the charter addresses the needs of students who do not perform at acceptable levels of proficiency. 4 AAC 33.110(a)(7)

Fireweed regularly maintains our KPBSD 'School Development Plan' that sets goals for our school's continual improvement. While we maintain high levels of achievement and growth over the years as evidenced by the DEED Report Card to the Public, we know we can always improve and are continually updating our plan to do so. During the past few years, Fireweed has had academic goals focused on increasing student achievement and growth, especially for students who perform below the 40th percentile. Each year we utilize our MTSS/RTI process and set a goal to decrease the number of students performing in this tier by 10%. We also have set a goal to increase our attendance rate to over 93% or above, which impacts all areas of student growth and achievement.

Additional goals are set and maintained by our APC through the APC's strategic planning process.

Fireweed follows the same MTSS/RTI plan as the rest of the district to address the needs of students who fall into the 2nd or 3rd tier of performance as indicated on benchmark assessments and progress monitoring. Our intervention team (I-Team) includes the parent, teacher, principal, and school psychologist and meets to determine what extra support a student needs in order to progress. These interventions are carried out both in class and as small groups who work with intervention staff on specific skills. Fireweed utilizes a variety of research-backed intervention tools and curricula depending on the current needs of our

students including Haggerty, UFLI, Boost Reading, Lexia, Phonics for Reading, SpringMath Accelerate, Khan Academy, and ECRI. The I-Team also handles documentation for Individualized Reading Intervention Plans to meet the requirements set by the Alaska Reads Act.

Comparisons of our data to district and state data including disaggregated groups along with our System for School Success Report can be found in Appendix L.

In brief, during the most recent end-of-year assessments (FY25), Fireweed had the highest School Index Value (61.02) in the past decade with growth every year for the past 4 years. 62.5% of students showed proficiency in ELA and 51.79% showed proficiency in math. Our growth was even more impressive as 81.58% of students improved from one year to the next in ELA and 52.63% showed growth in math. As educators at Fireweed, growth is one of the largest indicators of success as students come to us with a wide variety of backgrounds and starting points.

V. Provide a description of the mechanisms for student assessment utilized in addition to those required by state law. *4 AAC 33.110(a)(5)*

Fireweed adheres to all state-required benchmark and end-of-year assessments including mCLASS, AimsWEB+, AK Star, MAPs, and ACCESS for EL students.

In addition, Fireweed utilizes our own formative and summative assessments that are built into our ELA, Math, and Themes curricula to monitor and assess the level where students are performing. Fireweed uses a standards based grading system tied to these assessments and provides opportunities to show mastery of standards through student work and culminating projects. Examples of a culminating project to show mastery could include a presentation on a researched topic such as through the 'Structures Expo' where students presented their research on an ancient, modern, or Alaskan specific structure (building, monument, wonders of the world…etc.) to other students, parents, and community members. The final presentation demonstrated students' mastery of writing standards (researching to answer a question), science standards (developing and utilizing a model), and reading standards (the use and interpretation of informational texts and visual and oral presentation of information).

References: AS 14.03.255. Organization and operation of a charter school, AS 14.03.265 Admission, 4 AAC 33.110 Charter School application and review procedure..

Reviewer Rating Template		
Section 3	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Description of educational program	Page 13	

Section 3	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Evidence of written instructional program that addressees content standards and aligns with statewide assessment system	Page 13-15, 64 (Appendix F)	
Description of plans for serving special education, vocational education, gifted and bilingual students	Page 15-16	
Evidence of written objectives for program achievement, progress on meeting objectives, comparisons of disaggregated assessment data to district and state averages, and plans to address students who do not perform at acceptable levels	Page 16-17	
Description of the mechanisms for student assessment in addition to those required by state law	Page 17	

Section 4: Professional Development

I. *Provide a description of and schedule for staff development activities. 4 AAC 33.110(a)(8)*

Each year, staff provides feedback to the principal on areas that they would like to focus on for professional growth. Over the past three years, the professional development topics have included training in the ELA curriculum (CKLA) that was adopted in 2023, Project-Based Learning, helping students with emotional regulation/de-escalation, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and Autism. Fireweed has brought in experts in these fields including Amplify, Dr. Kay Sturm (PBL), Dr. Linda Chamberlain (SEL/Regulation), and the Alaska Autism Resource Center.

The schedule for professional development is primarily based around the KPBSD school-year calendar with some days at the beginning of each year, in-service (non-student) work days, afternoons during early release days, and during staff meetings. Our team meets weekly as site level teams for staff meetings (Monday for Big Fireweed, Tuesday for Little Fireweed) and monthly as a full school staff.

References: 4 AAC 33.110 Charter School application and review procedure.

Reviewer Rating Template		
Section 4	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Description of and schedule for planned professional development	Page 18	

Section 5: Facility

I. Provide the location for the charter school, description of the facility and lease information. *AS 14.03.255(c)(7)(d), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(15)*

Fireweed has been housed in two campuses since 2013 when Fireweed expanded to include K-2. The K-2 campus (Little Fireweed - LFW) meets in a rented building located at 813 East End Road. Little Fireweed has three classrooms, a teacher work room, playground, and two yurts (and a chicken coop). Big Fireweed (BFW) (3-6 grades) is located inside the West Homer Elementary (WHE) building at 995 Soundview Ave. Big Fireweed rents four classrooms, a small room used as an office, and includes access to shared spaces according to the MOA with KPBSD, last updated in 2019, and kept current by KPBSD Finance. At Big Fireweed, staff shares duty responsibilities with WHE staff, coaches combined afterschool clubs, and a portion of Fireweed's budget goes to pay for shared staff like custodial, food service, and nursing.

The most recent LFW Lease and MOA are attached as Appendix N.

II. Describe the plans for the charter school's facility and any plans for projected growth. *4 AAC 33.110(a)(15)*

Fireweed is currently limited in growth due to space available at both campuses. KPBSD has discussed school consolidation options that would displace Big Fireweed, creating a need to find another location. Fireweed has pursued multiple options around Homer, but there is not a currently viable space available for the whole school to be in one place. A non-profit was created (Friends of Fireweed Academy - FoFA) to help address this 'one campus dream'. FoFA has submitted a KPB land lease application with the goal of privately funding a facility that will be suitable to support the needs of K-6 in one location. If this does not occur before the consolidation of schools, Fireweed would work with KPB on a lease of the open school in town to consolidate campuses temporarily while the lease and building are completed. If consolidation does not occur, Fireweed will continue in the two-campuses until it is able to bring the current plan to life. There has been desire from the community to expand either into the pre-school level or upwards into the middle school level but no plans to do so have been made at this time.

<u>References:</u> AS 14.03.255. Organization and operation of a charter school, 4 AAC 33.110 Charter School application and review procedure.

Reviewer Rating Template

Section 5	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Description of facility and location of the charter school including addressing district leased space if applicable	Page 20, 89-98 (Appendix N)	
Evidence of a written facility plans	Page 20	

Section 6: Admission

I. Provide the written admission policies and procedures utilized by the charter. Please include evidence that the school is ensuring an equal and bias-free access to all eligible students. Mark as Appendix G. *AS 14.03.255(c)(3), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(11)*

Admission policy and procedure is included as Appendix G, which adheres to equal and bias-free practices.

II. Provide a written student recruitment process, including a lottery or random drawing mechanism for enrollment if applicants exceed the school's capacity. Please include information in this section describing enrollment and waitlist numbers for the past 3-5 years. Mark as Appendix H. *AS 14.03.265(b), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(17)*

When a family is interested in enrolling their student at Fireweed Academy, they complete the 'Pre-Enrollment Form' located on our website. We accept Pre-Enrollment forms year long, which either begins the enrollment process or serves as an application to the lottery and waitlist process outlined in Appendix G. Appendix H contains current enrollment over the past 9 years in addition to a brief narrative on our waitlist.

References: AS 14.03.255. Organization and operation of a charter school, AS 14.02.265 Admission, 4 AAC 33.110 Charter School application and review procedure.

Reviewer Rating Template		
Section 6	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Evidence of written admission policies and procedures	Page 21, 65-67 (Appendix G)	

Section 6	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Evidence of a written student recruitment process, including enrollment and waitlist numbers	Page 21, 68 (Appendix H)	

Section 7: Fiscal

I. Provide a written budget summary and financial plan, including a statement of the charter school's funding allocation from the local school board and costs assignable to the charter school program budget. Information in this section should explicitly detail the amount and sources of the revenue streams; the specific indirect rate (not to exceed 4%) and details of what the indirect rate charges cover; as well as the charter's eligibility to receive additional revenue over the 2.65 mills required in the foundation formula. Projected budget marked as Appendix I. *AS 14.03.255(c)(5), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(14)(A)*

Funding for Fireweed Academy comes from the state and borough based on the Base Student Allocation. The money is sent to the district who then allocates it into our accounts. Four percent of our revenue is retained by KPBSD for services rendered such as finance, payroll, human resources, and other such services. Fireweed Academy uses all of the same systems, account structures, and payroll dates as all KPBSD schools. Our budget summary document is attached as Appendix I.

II. Provide a signed assurance that:

- the charter school follows all district approved practices to account for receipts and expenditures;
- the charter school has been successful in ending each year with a zero or positive fund balance;
- all audit reports to date indicate the school has met its obligation to ensure the fiscal integrity of the school's financial operation. AS 14.03.255(b)(1)(c)(6)

Signed assurance showing all of these aspects is attached under Appendix E, which shows that Fireweed Academy has ended each year with a positive or zero fund balance and has met its obligation to ensure the fiscal integrity of our school's financial operation.

<u>References</u>: AS 14.03.255. Organization and operation of a charter school, AS 14.02.265 Admission, 4 AAC 33.110 Charter School application and review procedure.

Reviewer Rating Template

Section 7	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Evidence of a budget plan	Page 22, 69-70 (Appendix I)	
Evidence of assurance	Page 22, 63 (Appendix E Continued)	

Section 8: Transportation

i. Provide the district charter school transportation policy, if proposed or adopted, marked as Appendix J. *4 AAC 33.110(a)(19)*

Fireweed Academy provides transportation to students in the Homer busing boundary area in accordance to Kenai Peninsula Borough School District BP 3540 (Appendix J).

References: AS 14.03.255. Organization and operation of a charter school, AS 14.02.265 Admission, 4 AAC 33.110 Charter School application and review procedure, AS 14.09.010 Transportation (e)(1-3)(f)(g), 4 AAC 27.057 Charter School Transportation policy.

Use the reviewer rating template below to fill in the page numbers to depict the location of the responses for each sub-element. Do not use the reviewer's notes column.

Reviewer Rating Template		
Section 8	Page Number location(s) of response(s) including Appendices	Reviewer's notes Rating: Compliant/Noncompliant
Plans for pupil transportation	Page 23, 71 (Appendix J)	

Charter Schools Assurance Page

By signing this document, the school district files its assurance that the statements, documents and/or information listed below is in compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations.

The charter school bylaws previously submitted to the department in the initial application or previous renewal applications have not changed. 4 AAC 33.110(a)(4)

The charter school administrative policy manual submitted to the department in the initial application or previous renewal applications has not changed. 4 AAC 33.110(a)(13)

The charter school follows all district approved practices to account for receipts and expenditures. AS 14.03255(b)(1)(c)(6), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(14)(B)

The charter school has been successful in ending each year with a zero or positive fund balance. AS 14.03255(b)(1)

All audit reports to date indicate the charter school has met its obligation to ensure the fiscal integrity of the school's financial operation. AS 14.03255(b)(2)(c)(13)

Name of the School District: _____

Name of the Charter Program: _____

Name of Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____ Date: _____

Alaska State Charter School Statutes

Sec. 14.03.250. Application for charter school.

(a) A local school board shall prescribe an application procedure for the establishment of a charter school in that school district. The application procedure must include provisions for an academic policy committee consisting of parents of students attending the school, teachers, and school employees and a proposed form for a contract between a charter school and the local school board, setting out the contract elements required under AS 14.03.255(c).

(b) A decision of a local school board approving or denying an application for a charter school must be in writing, must be issued within 60 days after the application, and must include all relevant findings of fact and conclusions of law.

(c) If a local school board approves an application for a charter school, the local school board shall forward the application to the State Board of Education and Early Development for review and approval.

(d) If a local school board denies an application for a charter school, the applicant may appeal the denial to the commissioner. The appeal to the commissioner shall be filed not later than 60 days after the local school board issues its written decision of denial. The commissioner shall review the local school board's decision to determine whether the findings of fact are supported by substantial evidence and whether the decision is contrary to law. A decision of the commissioner upholding the denial by the local school board may be appealed within 30 days to the State Board of Education and Early Development.

(e) If the commissioner approves a charter school application, the commissioner shall forward the application to the State Board of Education and Early Development for review and approval. The application shall be forwarded not later than 30 days after the commissioner issues a written decision. The State Board of Education and Early Development shall exercise independent judgment in evaluating the application.

(f) A local school board that denied an application for a charter school approved by the state board on appeal shall operate the charter school as provided in AS 14.03.255 - 14.03.290. [This statute applies to charter school applications filed with a local school board on or after July 1, 2014.]

Sec. 14.03.253. Charter school application appeal.

(a) In an appeal to the commissioner under AS 14.03.250, the commissioner shall review the record before the local school board. The commissioner may request written supplementation of the record from the applicant or the local school board. The commissioner may

(1) remand the appeal to the local school board for further review;

(2) approve the charter school application and forward the application to the State Board of Education and Early Development with or without added conditions; or

(3) uphold the decision denying the charter school application; if the commissioner upholds a local school board's decision to deny a charter school application and the applicant appeals to the State Board of Education and Early Development, the commissioner shall immediately forward the application and record to the State Board of Education and Early Development.

(b) In an appeal to the State Board of Education and Early Development of a denial of a charter school application under (a)(3) of this section, the state board shall determine, based on the record, whether the commissioner's findings are supported by substantial evidence and whether the decision is contrary to law. The state board shall issue a written decision within 90 days after an appeal.
[This statute applies to charter school applications filed with a local school board on or after July 1, 2014.]

Sec. 14.03.255. Organization and operation of a charter school.

(a) A charter school operates as a school in the local school district except that the charter school (1) is exempt from the local school district's textbook, program, curriculum, and scheduling requirements; (2) is exempt from AS 14.14.130(c); the principal of the charter school shall be selected by the academic policy committee and shall select, appoint, or otherwise supervise employees of the charter school; and (3) operates under the charter school's annual program budget as set out in the contract between the local school board and the charter school under (c) of this section. A local school board may exempt a charter school from other local school district requirements if the exemption is set out in the contract. A charter school is subject to tests required by the department.

(b) A charter school shall

(1) keep financial records of the charter school;

(2) oversee the operation of the charter school to ensure that the terms of the contract required by (c) of this section are being met;

(3) meet regularly with parents and with teachers of the charter school to review, evaluate, and improve operations of the charter school; and

(4) meet with the academic policy committee at least once each year to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals.

(c) A charter school shall operate under a contract between the charter school and the local school board. A contract must contain the following provisions:

(1) a description of the educational program;

(2) specific levels of achievement for the education program;

(3) admission policies and procedures;

(4) administrative policies;

(5) a statement of the charter school's funding allocation from the local school board and costs assignable to the charter school program budget;

(6) the method by which the charter school will account for receipts and expenditures;

(7) the location and description of the facility;

(8) the name of the teacher, or teachers, who, by agreement between the charter school and the teacher, will teach in the charter school;

(9) the teacher-to-student ratio;

(10) the number of students served;

(11) the term of the contract, not to exceed a term of 10 years;

(12) a termination clause providing that the contract may be terminated by the local school board for the failure of the charter school to meet educational achievement goals or fiscal management standards, or for other good cause;

(13) a statement that the charter school will comply with all state and federal requirements for receipt and use of public money;

(14) other requirements or exemptions agreed upon by the charter school and the local school board.

(d) A school district shall offer to a charter school the right of first refusal for a lease of space in an existing school district facility or in a facility within the school district that is not currently being used as a public school, if the chief school administrator determines the facility meets requirements for health and safety applicable to public buildings or other public schools in the district. If the school district requires lease payments by a charter school, the school district shall negotiate a lease agreement with the charter school for an amount that does not exceed the true operational costs calculated on a square foot basis for space leased under this subsection.

Sec. 14.03.260. Funding for charter school.

(a) A local school board shall provide an approved charter school with an annual program budget. The budget shall be not less than the amount generated by the students enrolled in the charter school less administrative costs retained by the local school district, determined by applying the indirect cost rate approved by the department up to four percent. Costs directly related to charter school facilities, including rent, utilities, and maintenance, may not be included in an annual program budget for the purposes of calculating the four percent cap on administrative costs under this subsection. A local school board shall provide a charter school with a report itemizing the administrative costs retained by the local school board under this section. The "amount generated by students enrolled in the charter school" is to be determined in the same manner as it would be for a student enrolled in another public school in that school district and includes funds generated by grants, appropriations, federal impact aid, the required local contribution, the local contribution under AS 14.17.410(c), special needs under AS 14.17.420(a)(1), and secondary school vocational and technical instruction under AS 14.17.420(a)(3). A school district shall direct state aid under AS 14.11 for the construction or major maintenance of a charter school facility to the charter school that generated the state aid, subject to the same terms and conditions that apply to state aid under AS 14.11 for construction or major maintenance of a school facility that is not a charter school.

(b) The program budget of a charter school is to be used for operating expenses of the educational program of the charter school, including purchasing textbooks, classroom materials, and instructional aids.

(c) The charter school shall provide the financial and accounting information requested by the local school board or the Department of Education and Early Development and shall cooperate with the local school district or the department in complying with the requirements of AS 14.17.910.

(d) The expenses of housing nonresident students who attend the charter school, including room, board, and other reasonable housing expenses, may not be paid for with state money but may be paid for with funds contributed by sources other than the state.

Sec. 14.03.263. Charter school grant program. [Repealed, Sec. 1 ch 100 SLA 2003]. Repealed or Renumbered

Sec. 14.03.264. Charter school grant program.

(a) A charter school that is established on or after the effective date of this section may receive a one-time grant from the department equal to the amount of $500 for each student enrolled in the school on October 1 of the first year in which the school applies for the grant. The charter school shall use a grant received under this section to provide educational services. In this subsection, "educational services" includes curriculum development, program development, and special education services.

(b) The department shall establish by regulation procedures for the application for and expenditure of grant funds under (a) of this section.

(c) If the amount appropriated in a fiscal year for the charter school grant program is insufficient to meet the amounts authorized under (a) of this section, the department shall reduce pro rata the per pupil grant amount by the necessary percentage as determined by the department. If a charter school grant is reduced under this subsection, the charter school may apply to the department in a subsequent fiscal year for the balance of the grant amount.

Sec. 14.03.265. Admission.

(a) The program of a charter school may be designed to serve

(1) students within an age group or grade level;

(2) students who will benefit from a particular teaching method or curriculum; or

(3) nonresident students, including providing domiciliary services for students who need those services, if approved by the board.

(b) A charter school shall enroll all eligible students who submit a timely application, unless the number of those applications exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building. In the event of an excess of those applications, the charter school and the local school board shall attempt to accommodate all of those applicants by considering providing additional classroom space and assigning additional teachers from the district to the charter school. If it is not possible to accommodate all eligible students who submit a timely application, students shall be accepted by random drawing. A school board may not require a student to attend a charter school.

(c) In addition to other requirements of law, a charter school shall be nonsectarian.

Sec. 14.03.270. Teacher or employee transfers, evaluations, and negotiated agreements.

(a) A teacher or employee may not be assigned to a charter school unless the teacher or employee consents to the assignment.

(b) All provisions of an existing negotiated agreement or collective bargaining agreement applicable to a teacher or employee of a district apply to that teacher or employee if employed at a charter school in that district, unless the district and the bargaining unit representing the

teacher or employee agree to an exemption.
(c) A teacher in a charter school shall be evaluated in an equivalent manner as all other teachers in the district, except that if there is no administrator assigned to the charter school, the local school board, with the agreement of the charter school, shall designate a school district administrator in that district to evaluate a teacher in a charter school.

Sec. 14.03.275. Contracts; duration.

A contract for a charter school may be for a term of no more than 10 years.

Sec. 14.03.280. Regulations.

The State Board of Education and Early Development may adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) necessary to implement AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290.

Sec. 14.03.290. Definitions.

In AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290,

(1) "academic policy committee" means the group designated to supervise the academic operation of a charter school and to ensure the fulfillment of the mission of a charter school;

(2) "charter school" means a school established under AS 14.03.250 - 14.03.290 that operates within a public school district;

(3) "local school board" means a borough or city school board or a school board of a regional educational attendance area;

(4) "parent" means a biological, adoptive, or foster parent, or an adult who acts as guardian of a child and makes decisions related to the child's safety, education, and welfare;

(5) "teacher" means a person who serves a school district in a teaching, counseling, or administrative capacity and is required to be certificated in order to hold the position.

Sec. 14.07.165 Duties.

The [State Board of Education and Early Development] shall adopt

(4) regulations requiring approval by the board before a charter school, state boarding school, or a public school may provide domiciliary services.

Sec. AS 14.09.010 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(e) A school district that provides transportation services under this section shall provide transportation services to students attending a charter school operated by the district under a policy adopted by the district. The policy must:

(1) be developed with input solicited from individuals involved with the charter school, including staff, students, and parents;

(2) at a minimum, provide transportation services for students enrolled in the charter school on a space available basis along the regular routes that the students attending schools in an attendance area in the district are transported; and

(3) be approved by the department.

(f) If a school district fails to adopt a policy under (e) of this section, the school district shall allocate the amount received for each student under (a) of this section to each charter school operated by the district based on the number of students enrolled in the charter school.

(g) Nothing in (e) of this section requires a school district to establish dedicated transportation routes for the exclusive use of students enrolled in a charter school or authorizes a charter school to opt out of a policy adopted by a school district for the purpose of acquiring transportation funding.

Sec. AS 14.17.450(d) is amended to read:

(d) If a charter school has a student count of at least 75 but less than 150 for the current year and is in the first three years of operation or had a student count of at least 75 in the previous year of operation,

(1) the adjusted student count for the school shall be calculated by multiplying the student count by the student rate for a school that has a student count of 150; and

(2) not later than February 15, the charter school shall submit for approval of the governing board of the district a plan for the following school year that includes a statement about whether the school will continue to operate if the student count remains the same that year and, if so, a projection of the funding anticipated from the state and other sources, a proposed budget, and a description of anticipated changes to the school staff, program, and curriculum; if the school intends to close if the student count remains the same the following year, the plan must describe transfer plans for students, staff, facilities, and materials.

Alaska State Charter Schools Regulations

4 AAC 27 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 AAC 27.057. Charter school transportation policy.

(a) A local school board shall adopt a charter school transportation policy that describes the transportation services that will be provided by the district to students attending a charter school operated by the district if

(1) a district provides transportation services under AS 14.09.010; and

(2) the district operates a charter school or an application for the establishment of a charter school in the district is pending with the district under AS 14.03.250.

(b) A district must submit to the department an application for approval of its charter school transportation policy on a form provided by the department.

(1) not later than April 15, 2015, if a charter school is in operation in the district on July 1, 2014; or

(2) not later than 30 days after approval of a charter school by a local school board, if a charter school is approved by a local school board after July 1, 2014, and a charter school transportation policy approved by the department is not in effect in the district.

(c) The application to the department must include

(1) evidence that the charter school transportation policy was developed in compliance with AS 14.09.010(e)(1); and

(2) the charter school transportation policy adopted by the local school board that provides transportation service for charter school students in compliance with AS 14.09.010(e)(2); and

(3) other documents or information the department needs to evaluate a charter school transportation policy adopted by a local school board.

(d) Not later than 60 days after receipt by the department of an application for approval of a charter school transportation policy, the department will grant approval for a charter school transportation policy if the charter school transportation meets the requirements of AS 14.09.010 and this section.

(e) If a district seeks to amend an approved charter school transportation policy, it must submit an application for approval of an amendment of the charter school transportation policy on a form provided by the department not later than April 15 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year when the proposed amendment will take effect. An application for approval of an amendment of a charter school transportation policy must meet the requirements of (c) of this section.

(f) Not later than 60 days after receipt by the department of an application for approval of an amendment of a charter school transportation policy, the department will grant approval for the amendment of a charter school transportation policy if the amendment meets the requirements of AS 14.09.010 and this section. (Eff. 4/8/2015, Register 214)

Authority: AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.09.010

4 AAC 33.110 is repealed and readopted to read:

4 AAC 33.110. Charter school application and review procedure.

(a) The application procedure required by AS 14.03.250(a) for the establishment of an initial or renewed charter for a charter school must be in writing and must be available upon request at the school district's central office. The local school board must require an applicant to submit sufficient information so that the local school board may conduct a thorough review of the proposed charter school. An application must conform to the content areas and formatting standards set out at the department's Charter School webpage at: education.alaska.gov/Alaskan_Schools/Charter.

An application, upon final approval by the State Board of Education and Early Development, will operate as the charter for the school. In addition to the requirements of AS 14.03.250(a), an application must include, at a minimum,

(1) a list of the members of the academic policy committee and their qualifications;

(3) the length of the term of the contract required under AS 14.03.255(c);

(4) the charter school's bylaws;

(5) a description of the education program to be offered at the charter school and mechanisms for student assessment to be utilized in addition to those required by state law;

(6) a written instructional program that addresses state content standards under 4 AAC 04 and that aligns with the content on the statewide student assessment system under 4 AAC 06.710 – 4 AAC 06.790;

(7) written objectives for program achievement;

(8) a description of and schedule for staff development activities;

(9) a school schedule and calendar;

(10) plans for serving special education, vocational education, gifted, and bilingual students;

(11) written admissions policies and procedures;

(12) if the charter school is the only school in the community, an alternative option for students not wishing to attend the charter school;

(13) a written administrative policy manual;

(14) a written budget summary and financial plan, including

(A) a statement of the charter school's funding allocation from the local school board and costs assignable to the charter school program budget; and

(B) the method by which the charter school will account for receipts and expenditures;

(15) a written plan for the charter school's facility;

(16) a written plan that addresses the teacher-to-student ratio, including projected enrollment figures;

(17) a written student recruitment process, including a lottery or random drawing mechanism for enrollment if applicants exceed the school's capacity;

(18) a requested or existing exemption for the charter school from a written collective bargaining contract;

(19) a plan for pupil transportation and the district charter school transportation policy, if proposed or adopted;

(20) the written termination clause that must appear in the contract between the charter school and the local school board;

(21) proof of compliance with applicable law; and

(22) other documents or information the district needs to evaluate the proposed charter school.

(b) Not later than 30 days after a local school board's decision to approve an initial application or a renewal application for a charter school, the local school board must forward the application to the State Board of Education and Early Development for review and approval under AS 14.03.250(c) by mailing to the department

(1) the complete application filed with the local school board, including all supporting documents required by (a) of this section;

(2) the written decision of the local school board;

(3) all other materials considered by the local school board in support or in opposition to the application; and

(4) the minutes of the local school board meeting at which the charter school was approved.

(c) An initial application for a charter school approved by a local school board may not be submitted to the department under subsection (b) more than 12 months before the planned start-up date for the new school. A renewal application for a charter school approved by a local school board may not be submitted to the department under (b) of this section more than 12 months before the expiration of the existing contract.

(d) An initial application and a renewal application approved by a local school board and submitted to the department under (b) of this section must be received by the department at least 90 days before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education and Early Development.

(e) The State Board of Education and Early Development will review an initial application or a renewal application approved by the local school board and submitted to the department under (b) of this section. The State Board of Education and Early Development will consider an initial application or a renewal application in the order in which it is received.

(f) Not later than 60 days after a local school board issues a decision to deny an initial application or a renewal application for a charter school, an applicant may file a notice of appeal to the commissioner under AS 14.03.250(d). In the notice of appeal, the applicant must specify the grounds for its appeal, stating which, if any, finding of fact or conclusion of law in the local school board's decision is alleged to be in error. If the applicant alleges that a finding of fact is in error, the applicant shall specify in the notice of appeal the evidence in the record before the local school board that supports a contrary finding of fact. With the notice of appeal, the applicant must file with the commissioner

(1) the complete application submitted to the local school board, including all supporting documents required by (a) of this section;

(2) the written decision of the local school board;

(3) any other materials considered by the local school board in support or in opposition to the application;

(4) the minutes of the local school board meeting at which the charter school was approved or denied, or if the minutes are not yet available, the date on which the minutes will be available for review by the department; and

(5) within ten working days of receipt of the commissioner's written request for a hearing transcript, a transcript of any recorded testimony presented to the local school board regarding the charter school application.

(g) The commissioner will review an appeal of a local school board decision denying an initial or renewal application for a charter school under AS 14.03.250(d).

(h) If the commissioner upholds the denial of an application, the applicant may file an appeal of the commissioner's decision to the State Board of Education and Early Development within 30 days of the issuance of the commissioner's decision. The commissioner will forward the appeal to the State Board of Education and Early Development immediately for consideration at its next meeting. The State Board of Education and Early Development will issue a decision within 90 days after the filing of an appeal of a commissioner's decision upholding a denial of an application.

(i) If the commissioner approves an initial or renewal application by overturning a denial by the local school board, the commissioner will forward the application and record to the State Board of Education and Early Development not later than thirty days after the commissioner issues a written decision of approval. The State Board of Education and Early Development will consider the application at its next meeting.

(j) The State Board of Education and Early Development will not approve an application that contains insufficient information to determine compliance with applicable law.

(k) A decision of the State Board of Education and Early Development granting or denying approval for a charter school application is a final agency action for purposes of an appeal to the superior court. (Eff. 4/27/96, Register 138; am 3/31/2002, Register 161; am 7/26/2002, Register 163; am 8/6/2004, Register 171; am 4/18/2015, Register 214)

Authority: AS 14.03.250 AS 14.03.280 AS 14.07.060
AS 14.03.253 AS 14.07.020

4 AAC 33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 AAC 33.113. Amendment of charter.

A charter school may apply to a local school board for an amendment to its charter during the term of its contract with the local school board. If a local school board approves an amendment to the charter, an amended contract must be executed to conform to the amended charter. The local school board must forward an amended charter and amended contract to the department. A charter school may make district-approved changes to its program that do not require an amendment to its charter without review by the state Board of Education and Early Development, except that a change of program that involves the addition of an elementary or secondary program must be approved by the local school board and the State Board of Education and Early Development. (Eff. 4/18/2015, Register 214)

Authority: AS 14.03.250 AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060
AS 14.03.280

4 AAC 33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 AAC 33.115. Operation of charter schools.

(a) The department may audit the charter school's program during the term of the contract under AS 14.03.255(c) and may take any action necessary to ensure compliance with federal and state law, including the withholding of money under AS 14.07.070. Notwithstanding any provision of a charter or contract, a charter school must comply with state and federal law. A change in state or federal law taking effect during the term of an existing contract or charter will override an inconsistent provision of a contract or charter. (Eff. 4/18/2015, Register 214)

Authority: AS 14.03.250 AS 14.03.280 AS 14.07.060
AS 14.03.255 AS 14.07.020

4 AAC 33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 AAC 33.117. Charter school grant program.

(a) A charter school that is established on or after July 1, 2014, may apply to the department for one-time grant funding under AS 14.03.264. An applicant charter school must

(1) apply on a form prescribed by the department;

(2) provide evidence in its application that demonstrates that grant funding will be used to provide educational services as defined under AS 14.03.264(a); and

(3) file its application with the department not later than September 15 to receive funding based on student enrollment on October 1 of the same fiscal year.

(b) A charter school that received reduced grant funding in a prior fiscal year as permitted under AS 14.03.264(c) may apply for the balance of the grant amount using the procedures described in (a) of this section.

(c) The department will notify a newly approved charter school of its eligibility for grant funding under AS 14.03.264 promptly after approval of the charter by the State Board of Education and Early Development. (Eff. 4/18/2015, Register 214)

Authority: AS 14.03.264 AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060

4 AAC 33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 AAC 33.119. Definitions.

In 4 AAC 33.110 – 4 AAC 33.119,

(1) "charter school" has the meaning given in AS 14.03.290;

(2) "commissioner" means the commissioner of education and early development;

(3) "department" means the Department of Education and Early Development;

(4) "local school board" has the meaning given in AS 14.03.290.

(Eff. 4/27/96, Register 138; am 3/31/2002, Register 161; am 7/26/2002, Register 163; am 8/6/2004, Register 171; am 4/18/2015, Register 214)

Authority: AS 14.03.250 AS 14.07.020 AS 14.07.060
AS 14.03.280

Appendicies

Appendix A: School Board Approval

The charter school reapplication for Fireweed Academy Charter School gained school board approval on {November 2, 2026}.

Name of the School District: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Name of the Charter Program: Fireweed Academy Charter School

Name of the School Board President: Jason Tauriainen

Signature of the School Board President: _____

Appendix A (Cont.)

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES REFLECTING CHARTER SCHOOL APPROVAL

Board approval of the Fireweed Academy Charter School reapplication was documented on BoardDocs during the {November 2, 2026} board meeting. The details are copied below and can be viewed directly on the board meeting page of the district website:

https://go.boarddocs.com/ak/kpbsd/Board.nsf/Public

Click on "Public Access" in the BoardDocs box, go to {November 3} Meeting Agenda. Click on "View the Agenda." Scroll to item {Insert Item Letter}: Fireweed Academy Charter School Application Renewal.

Agenda Item Details Image:

{Insert Image from Board Docs}

Appendix B: District Signed Contract with Fireweed Academy Charter School

FIREWEED ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT

July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2037

THIS AGREEMENT is between Fireweed Academy Charter School, whose address is 995 Soundview Ave, Homer, AK 99603, hereinafter "Charter School," and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board, whose address is 148 N. Binkley St., Soldotna, Alaska 99669, hereinafter "School Board."

WHEREAS, Charter School desires to operate within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, hereinafter "School District," in conformance with Alaska Statute 14.03.250.290 and School District policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting dated November 2, 2026, the School Board Reviewed and Approved Charter School's application; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting dated XXXXXXXXXX, the Alaska State School Board reviewed and approved Charter School's application:

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the parties do agree as follows:

Charter School shall provide an educational programs and services subject to the terms and conditions of this contract, commencing with the first day of school in the School District for the 2027-2028 school year and continuing through the last day of school in the 2037-2038 school year.

1. Educational Program: Charter School shall provide an educational program, which shall advance basic skill areas including mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies appropriate to the age of students included in the program. Additionally, the educational program shall be designed as defined in Charter School Proposal as approved by School District and by the Alaska State Board of Education.

2. Achievement Levels: Charter School's educational program shall meet the specific levels of achievement specified in the proposal.

3. Policies and Procedures: Except as otherwise provided herein, Charter School is required to comply with School Board policies and procedures, and Alaska Department of Education regulations. To develop and implement admission and administrative policies for the school, the Charter School shall establish an Academic Policy Committee.

a. Admission Policies and Procedures: Any resident of the School District who is otherwise eligible to attend Kenai Peninsula Borough School District schools may apply for admission to the Charter School. In addition, the Charter School shall adhere to the admissions policies and procedures specified in the proposal.

b. Administrative Policies: Charter School shall adhere to Charter School administrative policies as specified in the proposal.

c. The Charter School shall prohibit violence and the use or possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and weapons on school grounds. Disciplinary proceedings for violations shall be consistent with applicable Alaska Statutes, state and federal regulations and School District policies.

4. Funding: School District shall allocate funding for Charter School in accordance with State Law, less administrative costs determined by applying the DEED approved indirect cost rate to the amount allocated for Charter School. An annual budget for Charter School shall be submitted to School District according to schedules established by the School District Funds shall be made available to Charter School on July 1 of each year of this contract. The amount of the budget will be adjusted immediately following the ADM count period as established by the State of Alaska.

5. School District Charges: All materials and services provided by School District to Charter School shall be provided to Charter School at rates equal to those charged to other schools in the School District

No tuition shall be charged to Charter School students who reside in the School District. Fees consistent with School District policy and collected from Charter School students shall be retained by Charter School.

6. Budgeting and Accounting: Charter School shall account for receipts and expenditures by using and complying with the School District purchasing and accounting systems. Charter School covenants and agrees that it shall comply with all state and federal requirements for receipt and use of public money.

7. Facility: Charter School shall be operated at the following location: Fireweed Academy Charter School, 995 Soundview Ave Suite #2, Homer, AK 99603 as well as 813 East End Road, Homer, AK 99603.

KPBSD covenants and warrants that the current facility complies with all local, state and federal health and safety requirements applicable to other public schools in the School District.

Fireweed Academy Charter School agrees to pay utilities at a rate agreed upon on an annual basis.

8. Teachers and Support Staff: At the time of executing this contract, Charter School anticipates that the following teachers and support staff will perform teaching/support services in the Charter School:

A. Administrator:
    a. Kye Darbonne
B. Teachers:
    a. Elizabeth Young - Kindergarten
    b. Rebecca King - First Grade
    c. Zachary Kudla - Second Grade
    d. Haley Balog - Third-Sixth Grade
    e. Jennifer Medley - Third-Sixth Grade
    f. Maygen Lotscher - Third-Sixth Grade & Art
    g. Kara Bakken-Clemens - Special Education Resource
    h. Anna Bowers - Intervention
C. Instructional Aides/Tutors:
    a. Dalena McKay - K-2 Instructional Aide
    b. Samantha Bishop - K-2 Special Education Aide
    c. Marjorie Scholl - Instructional Aide
    d. Annia Wolfe - Special Education Aide
    e. Summer Pastro - Title 1 Tutor & Instructional Tutor
D. Non-Instructional Classified Staff
    a. Kathryn Hartill - Secretary
    b. Ashley Green - K-2 Custodian
    c. Allyson Larned - K-2 Nurse
    d. Melissa Miller - 3-6 Nurse
E. Other staff as needed

Charter School shall promptly provide School District with written notice of any permanent changes to staff. It is agreed and understood that all employees will be recruited and employed through School District processes and that teachers must sign a written contract with School District before providing services. Unless the School District and any association representing a teacher or support employee agree to an exemption, all provisions of an existing negotiated or collective bargaining agreement applicable to employees shall remain in effect while the employee provides services at Charter School.

The Charter School agrees to hire, an administrator with Type B Alaska certification.

9. Teacher-to-Student Ratio: Charter School agrees to maintain the teacher-to-student ratio as defined in the Charter School proposal approved by School District.

10. Enrollment: Charter School shall enroll a minimum of twenty [20] students at all times and shall enroll a maximum of students as specified in the proposal.

11. Contract Term: This contract shall be effective upon complete execution and shall terminate at the end of ten [10] academic years unless earlier terminated as provided elsewhere herein.

12. Termination: This contract may be terminated by School Board for Charter School's failure to meet educational achievement goals or fiscal management standards, or a default in any material provision of this agreement or for other good cause. The School Board shall provide 90 days written notice to Charter School of its intent to terminate this contract and the reasons therefore. If Charter School fails to remedy the cause for termination within the time provided by School District, this contract shall automatically terminate at the end of the stated time. Any unused funds and all properties remaining shall immediately be returned to the School District upon such termination.

13. Equal Access: Charter School covenants and agrees that it shall not discriminate against applicants based upon any of the protected classes, and that it shall provide equal access to its facilities to all students in compliance with state and federal law.

14. Nonsectarian: The Charter School shall be nonsectarian, and shall not be affiliated in any respect with any sectarian institution.

15. Charter School Proposal: The Charter School Proposal as approved by the Alaska State Board of Education is hereby incorporated into this contract. This contract shall bind Charter School to its stated purpose, goals, operational procedures, and all other aspects of the approved proposal.

This Charter School was approved by the Kenai Peninsula School Board on November 2, 2026 and was approved by the Alaska State Board of Education on XXXXXXXX. The Undersigned agree to all of this contract as specified herein.

_____ _____

Kari Dendurent, Assistant Superintendent Date

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

_____ _____

Kyle Darbonne, Administrator Date

Fireweed Academy Charter School

APPENDIX C: EVIDENCE OF BYLAWS

BYLAWS

OF THE

Fireweed Academy Charter School

Adopted by the Fireweed Academy Charter

School Academic Policy Committee

September 2024

Homer, Alaska

https://kpbsd.org/schools/fireweed-academy/

ARTICLE I - Name, Office, Fiscal Year, Governance

SECTION 1. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Fireweed Academy Charter School ("FWA").

SECTION 2. PRIMARY OFFICE

The principal office for the transaction of the activities and affairs of the School is West Homer Elementary, 995 Soundview Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603.

SECTION 3. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the School shall coincide with that of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (July 1 through June 30).

SECTION 4. GOVERNANCE

Fireweed Academy shall be governed by the Academic Policy Committee

(APC). **ARTICLE II - Academic Policy Committee**

SECTION 1. GENERAL POWERS

The Academic Policy Committee (APC) is the primary governing body designated to oversee and supervise all aspects of Fireweed Academy. The APC shall have the maximum powers permitted by law, shall establish policy for the school, shall fulfill the duties prescribed in AS 14.03.250 *et seq.* and as set forth in these Bylaws. These duties may include, but are not limited to, the following functions:

a. Fulfill the mission of Fireweed Charter School as stated in the Fireweed Academy Charter School/Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) contract;

b. Oversee and maintain accountability and responsibility for academics, operations, finances and maintenance at FWA.

c. Promote and ensure compliance with federal, state and local laws and rules, including KPBSD policies;

d. Hire, evaluate and oversee a Principal, delegate to the Principal those tasks deemed appropriate by the APC, and collaborate with the Principal regarding all aspects of FWA operations.

SECTION 2. MEMBERS

The Academic Policy Committee (APC) shall be comprised of three (3) to nine (9) members. The APC strives for representation from parents, community members, and staff, including one (1) staff member from each facility (Big Fireweed and Little Fireweed). No member of the APC shall act on his or her own in the name of the APC unless authorized by these Bylaws or by resolution of the APC. The Principal shall serve as an Ex Officio member of APC, with no voting privileges. APC members have a fiduciary duty to make decisions and to act at all times in a manner that promotes the best interests of FWA and its students.

SECTION 3. MEMBER TERMS

The term of all members of the APC shall be two (2) years. It is the goal of these Bylaws that member terms expire in alternate years so all positions do not expire in the same year. If at any time this balance is not maintained, the APC may extend (but not shorten) the term of any APC member(s) until this balance is achieved. A majority vote of the full APC shall be required to extend any term.

SECTION 4. MEMBER ELECTIONS

In Spring of each year, the APC will hold elections for member positions on the APC.

The APC shall give notice and solicit nominations for candidates. Staff members shall be elected by staff. All other members shall be elected by a majority of the APC.

SECTION 5. TERM LIMITATIONS

There shall be no limit on the number of terms any APC member may

serve.

SECTION 6. VACANCIES AND NEW MEMBERS

Any vacancy occurring on the APC shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the APC. Any unexpired term vacancy replacement member of the APC shall be elected for the unexpired term of his/her predecessor in office. Prior to filling any vacancy, the APC shall give notice and solicit nominations for candidates to fill the vacancy from eligible people.

SECTION 7. COMPENSATION

Members of the APC shall not receive any salary or other compensation for their services.

SECTION 8. RESIGNATION

An APC member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chair or Secretary of the APC. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein and, unless otherwise stated, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

SECTION 9. EXPECTATIONS AND REMOVAL

APC members are expected to attend and participate meaningfully in all APC meetings. Although absences at times cannot be avoided, the APC may remove any APC member who fails to attend three regularly scheduled meetings during a school year. Additionally, the APC may remove a member with or without cause when it determines that the best interests of the APC and the school would be served by removal of that member. Removal shall require a consensus of all currently-seated members of the APC where the member in question does not retain voting rights.

SECTION 10. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Each member of the APC shall act in the interest of the common good and for the benefit of the School. It is the intent of these Bylaws to maintain confidence in the APC and to prevent the use of this membership for private financial gain or any other

improper purpose.

SECTION 11. COMMITTEES

The APC shall have the following standing committees:

Principal Evaluation Committee

The APC may create and dissolve ad hoc committees as needed, and ad hoc committees may contain non-APC members with an interest and/or expertise on matters relevant to the committee. Any committee created by the APC shall be bound by the OMA and these bylaws.

ARTICLE IV - Officers of the Academic Policy Committee

SECTION 1. OFFICERS

The officers of the APC shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and the Chair and Vice-Chair must be current members of the APC. The APC may elect or appoint other officers, including one or more assistant secretaries, as it shall deem desirable. Such officers may have the authority and perform the duties prescribed, from time to time, by the APC.

SECTION 2. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

The term for all officers of the APC shall be for one (1) year. The officers of the APC shall be elected annually by a majority of the APC members in the Spring of each year.

SECTION 3. REMOVAL

The APC may remove an officer by majority vote with or without cause when it determines that the best interests of the APC and the school would be served by removal of that officer. Removal of an officer from office shall not constitute removal from the APC.

SECTION 4. VACANCIES

A vacancy in any office may be filled by a majority vote of the entire APC for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION 5. CHAIR

The Chair shall be a member of the APC, and shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of the APC and set the agenda. The Chair shall have such authority and perform such duties as shall be directed by the APC from time to time.

SECTION 6. VICE-CHAIR

The Vice-Chair shall be a member of the APC. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall also perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the APC.

SECTION 7. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

- Keep the minutes of the meetings of the APC in computer files and a book provided for that purpose.
- See that all notices and agendas are duly given and posted in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law.
- Keep an updated list of the mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of each member of the APC.
- Perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the APC.

The APC may delegate any duties of the Secretary to staff after consultation with the APC and the Principal.

SECTION 8. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall work collaboratively with the Principal to present to the APC the annual budget and shall ensure that it justly supports the mission and goals of FWA. The Treasurer and Principal shall meet regularly and present an update of the budget at each APC meeting to help ensure the APC members uphold their fiduciary duties to FWA.

ARTICLE V - Meetings of the Academic Policy Committee

SECTION 1. ANNUAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS

The APC is a “governmental body” pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, A.S. 44.62.310 et seq. (“OMA”). All meetings and activities shall be conducted and all notices posted in accordance with the OMA. The APC shall hold regular meetings at least four (4) times a year, but typically monthly on the first Monday of every month during the school year. Additionally, the APC shall hold an annual meeting in the Spring, during which it will review the Bylaws and the Charter, and elect APC members & officers.

SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS & EMERGENCY MEETINGS

Special meetings of the APC may be called by the Chair, Vice-Chair, or any three

members of the APC with reasonable notice to all APC members and FWA parents. Emergency meetings may be called by the Chair, Vice-Chair, or any three members of the APC for matters of utmost urgency with at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice of the meeting provided to all APC members and FWA parents.

SECTION 3. PLACE OF MEETINGS

The APC may designate any place within the Kenai Peninsula Borough as the place of meeting for any regular meeting or special meeting, and may offer electronic access to meetings when necessary. If no designation is made, the place of meeting shall be at West Homer Elementary.

SECTION 4. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of annual, regular, or special meetings stating the place, date and time of any meeting shall be delivered, either personally, by phone, text, or by email, to each member of the APC in a reasonable timeframe, but not less than one (1) day before the date set for such meeting. In addition, at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to each meeting, notice of and the agenda for each meeting shall be posted at the school and/or circulated via email to FWA parents. New issues not posted on the agenda may nonetheless be raised, discussed and voted upon by the APC at any meeting.

SECTION 5. INFORMAL ACTION BY MEMBERS

Any action that otherwise may be taken at any meeting of the APC may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is agreed upon in writing or e-mail by the members of the APC. A record of these actions shall be kept either digitally or in hard copy.

SECTION 6. QUORUM

A quorum shall be half of the currently seated APC members. Telephonic or video participation may be permitted at any APC meetings at the discretion of the APC.

SECTION 7. MANNER OF ACTING

The act of a consensus of APC members present at a meeting at which a quorum has been established shall be the act of the APC, unless specified otherwise herein.

SECTION 8. NO PROXIES

Members of the APC may not vote by proxy.

SECTION 9. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Executive Sessions may be requested by any APC member, and may be convened by the APC for the following matters.

a. The immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school;

b. Subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person;

c. Which by law are required to be confidential; or

d. Involve the consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure.

The specific subject matter to be discussed during an executive session will be described in the motion calling for the executive session in sufficient detail to describe the subject of the executive session without defeating the purpose of holding an executive session. Executive sessions are conducted solely at the discretion of the APC. Only members of the APC and those expressly invited by the APC may attend an executive session.

The APC may not take official action in executive session and it must limit discussions in executive session to matters specified in the motion calling for an executive session. The APC may, however, give direction to its attorney or a labor negotiator in executive session regarding the handling of a specific legal matter or pending labor negotiations.

When the APC believes an executive session may be appropriate to discuss a subject that may prejudice the reputation or character of a person, the APC shall provide advance notice to the affected individual. The notice will state when and where the proposed executive session will be held and will inform the affected individual of her or his right to request a public discussion on the issue(s) in question.

ARTICLE VI - Checks, deposits, funds, accounting, contracts

SECTION 1. BANK ACCOUNTS, CHECKS, WITHDRAWALS, ETC.

FWA shall use district accounting services, policy and practices for all money transactions. No depository account in the name FWA may be established without the approval of the APC. Purchases or expenditures of $4,000 or more shall be presented to the APC for discussion.

SECTION 2. ACCOUNTING

The Principal and the Treasurer shall meet monthly to compile and summarize FWA

income and expenses since the prior APC regular monthly meeting. The APC may at any time request a full or partial budget report of FWA finances from the Principal or the KPBSD.

SECTION 3. CONTRACTS

Contracts shall be run through the Principal and, if necessary, the KPBSD. The APC shall be made aware of contracts in excess of $10,000 that are in negotiation.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments to Bylaws

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS
Outside of the Annual meeting, these Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new or revised Bylaws may be adopted by a consensus vote of the entire APC at any regular meeting or special meeting, provided that the proposed change in the Bylaws has been submitted in writing to all of the members of the APC and FWA parents, and posted publicly in the school office, at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at which the proposed change will come up for a vote. Proposed changes to the Bylaws may be submitted by any member of the APC.

ARTICLE VIII - Indemnification

SECTION 1. INDEMNIFICATION

FWA may, to the maximum extent permitted by law and in the absence of School or District insurance, defend, hold harmless and indemnify all current and former members of the APC, all persons who at the request of the APC have acted or not acted, and all persons currently or previously employed by FWA, from and against any claims, civil or criminal, in which that person is made a party by reason, in whole or in part, of being or having been an APC member or officer, at the request of the APC have acted or not acted, or being or having been an employee of FWA, when that person has acted within the course or scope of his or her duties to the School. Indemnification shall be provided by a majority vote of the APC, on a case-by-case basis.

Date Adopted: February 28, 2022

Last amended: September 5, 2024

APC Chair: Bob Shavelson

APC Chair (2024/2025): Rachael Kincaid

APPENDIX D: EVIDENCE OF APC - NAMES/QUALIFICATIONS, MEETING MINUTES

Names and Qualifications of APC members (As Of 8-15-2026)

- Savanna Paladino - Chair, Fireweed Parent
- Elizabeth Young - Secretary, Fireweed Teacher & Parent
- Haley Balog - Fireweed Teacher
- Joscie Norris - Community Member (CACS)
- Laura Luttrell - Fireweed Parent
- Matthew Puckett - Treasurer, Fireweed Parent
- Dr. Kay Sturm - Community Member

Meeting Minutes

Example of APC Meeting Minutes found on next 3 pages. All Fireweed Academy APC meeting minutes along with the list of current members can be publicly found on our district website found at the URL: https://kpbsd.org/schools/fireweed-academy/about/academic-policy-committee/

While not included in this Charter Document due to being a separate and non-profit entity, all Friends of Fireweed Academy (PTO) meeting minutes are uploaded to a public google drive that can be found here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Wdtc-dUrTjel_Tsxushe4M0-PpMmXU97?usp=drive_link

APC Meeting 4/30/2026

APC Members: Irene Saxton, Anna Raupp, Kay Sturm, Becky King, Mo Wilkinson, Mo Wilkinson, Hayley Walters
Absent: Maddie Lightsey, Haley Balog, Jane Beck
Staff/Guests: Kyle Darbonne, Laura Littrell, Joscie Norris, Angela, Travis Brown, Jeanne Anderson, Kate Hartill, Savannah Palladino, Kara Bakken Clemens, Greta Mahowald, Brianna Allen, Ash-Lee Waddell, Jesse Godbold, Laura, Lizzy Young

3:37 pm Call to order

Public Comments: None

Consent Agenda: Agenda, Last Meeting's Minutes, Admin Report.Anna wanted to add some Charter Renewal to the Agenda/combined with Admin report. Set meeting date for summer. Becky was questioning if 5 minutes was enough for the financial report- will be added to the PLP. Discussed to move forward in the agenda and add time to the agenda item. Motion to approve the consent by Becky, seconded by Mo.

Old Business:

a. Charter Renewal/Annual Review form: Each year there is a form for Clayton Holland that is needed to be completed by Kyle- has completed the draft which will be looked at by the Chair. Asking if there were any major issues and if they were resolved, amount of meetings held (minimum 4), priorities over the year. Kyle will send out the form after the meeting- Anna will sign and it will be sent to the district.
b. Stakeholder Meeting: Kay and Irene facilitated a meeting on April 15th with some individuals in the fireweed community to gather information for the charter renewal. Question for tonight- how to utilize this information? Longer goal setting can come from this information. Would like to solidify a time for us to meet with students to get their voice on these subjects as well. What does sharing this information outside this meeting look like? Some concern from Becky that with limited information, it could be seen that there continue to be gaps rather that a problem that was solved. Kay again reminded everyone that having a strategic plan would be helpful as it would steer the ship when information like this comes along. This could be added to the summer meeting, with the survey results and the focus group. Brianna added an idea to share the direct quotes from parents that came from this meeting, as well as dive deeper with the parents with concerts to get more information. Student council for Big and connecting with little teachers for little feedback. Kyle also reminded the group that he has a feedback that can be utilized to follow up with parents. Megan reflected that having one campus and restricting split grades could help with a lot of the concerns.
c. PLP/Financial Plan/Excess Funds: Kyle explained the excess funds we have in our account that need to be spent by June 1st. Overview for this year and next year- feels comfortable putting into staffing, kids in intervention, which needs support this year by purchasing the items. Yurt is the biggest item, staff wants paid planning time over the summer. Ask from APC- Kyle will get us a budgetary overview by tomorrow, APC to have a vote by the 8th of May.

New Business:

a. Elections of Officers of FoFA: Mo is retiring this year- VP role open. Big push is fundraising and connection with fireweed community.
b. APC Transitions: Outgoing members- Mo Wilkinson, Jane Beck, Maddie Lightsey, Becky King, Hayley Walters. Staying on- Haley Balog, Anna Raupp and Irene Saxton will stay for the transition to stay long enough to take over positions, Kay Sturm til '27. New members interested- Savannah Paladino, Laura Littrell, Zach Kudla and new staff member will be Lizzy Young. Majority approval. Vote happened with the APC outside of current meeting and all were interested. Joscie Norris is at the meeting as well, and has interest in joining the APC as well. APC will follow up with Joscie later to give her time to think about joining. Officers will be chosen in the fall.
c. FoFA updates: Good year for FoFA. Best year for fundraising- $20K for Harvest Fest. FoFA Acct is $23,068.06. Some money will be spent this year for MayDay but most of the funds were spent already this year that will be. There was a donation by Duncan House to purchase meat for MayDay BBQ and a parent was able to get a discount from US Foods. Still working on community engagement- Fat Olives donated 3 pizzas and community members showed up to help with beautification project last weekend.
d. One Campus Update/School Board Updates: Borough land lease application completed- same as how SPARC got their land- a long lease for a small amount of money. To get the MOA to start raising funds, needs to get a survey done and get insurance. Wants to use some of the funds to complete the survey (FoFA would move forward with this as well as obtain insurance). Consolidation is not happening this year so BFW will stay at West for the next school year. There is a fallback to possibly move into PBE if the lease was not renewed but is not a long term solution.Insurance is $750, Survey is around $3250, timeline is ASAP. Farmer's Market is also wanting to move, so their land could possibly be up for grabs as well. Many Rivers spot fell through.
e. MayDay Celebration: Saturday 1-4. Kim secured Jonny B from 1-2, SeaLegs Stilts as well. Frescos will be ready for performance at 2pm. Open spots on SignUp Genius but not worried as people usually help once they are there. Maygen has started the raffia crowns. Set up will be at 1pm.
f. Admin report/Charter Renewal update: .5 intervention (teacher) is posted and hoping to also get a full time aide. Also looking into turning the .5 into a full time teacher as well. Kay Sturm will be back doing project based learning professional development for the staff in the fall. Clayton Holland has asked the school board to approve non-tenured contracts as the borough mayor has stated he wants to fund to $62 million. Maygen, Haley and Lizzy are the ones waiting for contracts. Kyle will be across the bay for the 6th grade field trip and will also be at the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair if anyone wants to volunteer with him. Kyle reached out to Michael who runs the other radio stations in town to put the word out that we are enrolling for next fall. PLP- 1:1 meetings with staff have been happening- has met with the majority of the staff so far and is enjoying the time to learn more. Charter Renewal- close to renewing. Wants APC to have a committee to look over the renewal after the school year is finished but before Kyle's contract ends. Enrollment procedure drafted by Sharlyn last year- Kyle went thru the document and modified it to what our process is, including moving the timeline up (before the regular town's kindergarten round-ups) to take applications ahead of time to meet the family. Action item to

look at the renewal so we can approve and he can submit in August. Kay brought up that there needs to be more information on how to address when issues occur, such as lottery for enrollment, etc.

Next meeting to be: August 6th from 3:30-5 at LFW

Agenda items for next time: moving election year to later in the year, Anna will send follow up emails to new APC members.

Motion to adjourn at 5:01pm

APPENDIX E: EVIDENCE OF WRITTEN ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL OR ASSURANCE

BookAdministrative Regulations
Section6000 INSTRUCTION
TitleCharter School Guidelines
CodeAR 6187
StatusActive

Cross References

BP 6187 - Charter Schools Policy

E 6187a - Intent To Develop Charter School Application

E 6187b - Charter School Application/Contract Provisions

E 6187c - Charter School Annual Review Form

E 6187d - Intent To Renew Charter School Application

AdoptedFebruary 6, 2007
Last RevisedMay 5, 2025
Last ReviewedMay 5, 2025
Prior Revised Dates2/6/2007, 11/7/2022

Establishment of Charter Schools

Charter schools that operate within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District are schools established under Alaska Statutes 14.03.250 – 14.03.290.

Charter schools are established upon the approval of an application by the KPBSD Board of Education (KPBSD BOE) and the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development (State Board).

Charter schools will operate under a written contract between the charter school and the KPBSD BOE.

The KPBSD BOE desires to support innovations which improve student learning and views charter schools as an opportunity for parents, teachers, and community members to take responsible risks and create new, innovative, and more flexible ways of educating children. The District administration will work cooperatively with parents/guardians, students, teachers and principals in their efforts to design new schools and alternative approaches to the existing state laws and regulations that govern public schools.

The following guidelines will be used to assist in the establishment of charter schools in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Organization and Operation of a Charter School

A charter school is a public school in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District except that the charter school:

c. is exempt from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District 's textbook adoption, programs, curriculum, and scheduling requirements.

d. the principal is selected by the Academic Policy Committee. The principal selects, appoints, or otherwise supervises employees of the charter school. The principal is exempt from AS 14.14.130(c) Chief School Administrator (Superintendent).
e. operates under an annual program budget as set out in the contract between the KPBSD BOE and the charter school.

2. A charter school administrator (principal), with oversight by the Academic Policy Committee, will:
   a. keep financial records of the charter school.
   b. oversee the operation of the charter school to ensure that the terms of the contract are being met.
   c. meet regularly with parents and with teachers of the charter school to review, evaluate, and improve operations of the charter school.
   d. meet with the Academic Policy Committee at least six times each year to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals.

3. The charter school application serves as a contract proposal to the KPBSD BOE and must address all the items specified in the KPBSD 'Application/Contract Provisions' E 6187 (b) to satisfy stipulations in Alaska Statutes, Alaska Administrative Codes and KPBSD Board Policy.
4. A charter school may be operated in an existing KPBSD facility or in a facility within the Kenai Peninsula Borough that is not currently being used as a public school, if the chief school administrator/Superintendent determines the facility meets requirements for health and safety applicable to public buildings or other public schools in the District. See BP 6187 and AR 6187 section 'Charter Schools Sharing Facilities.'
5. Note: The charter school may be exempt from other KPBSD requirements if the exemption is set out in the contract.

Application Procedure for Establishing a Charter School

The following steps will be followed in making an application for the establishment of a charter school in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

1. **Establish an Academic Policy Committee (APC) Membership**
   a. The Academic Policy Committee will consist of
      i. parents of students attending (or upon initial application plan to attend) the charter school
      ii. teachers at the charter school (or teachers who upon initial application agree to teach at the charter school)
      iii. employees of the charter school (or employees who agree to work at the charter school) other than teachers, and
   b. Include on a separate page the name of the members and specify the position the person will represent.

2. **Notification of Intent: E 6187 (a)**

a. Any Person(s) wishing to establish a charter school are required to notify the Superintendent of their intention by August 1 of the year prior to the date of intended implementation by submitting **Exhibit 6187 (a).**
b. The Superintendent will establish an administrative committee to meet with the charter school applicant(s) to:

   i. review the application procedures,
   ii. discuss the requirements of the application between the charter school and the KPBSD BOE, and
   iii. answer any questions the charter school applicant(s) may have.

c. Following the initial meeting with the administrative committee, the charter school and Academic Policy Committee applicant(s) will prepare the information required for the application.

3. Initial Application:

Applications for charter schools must be submitted to the KPBSD BOE President and Superintendent no later than October 1 of the school year prior to the school year during which the charter school will begin operation. Applications received after the October 1 deadline will not be considered until the next school year. All charter schools must begin operations as agreed with the School Board, but no later than October 1.

<u>Initial Application Process</u>

1. **Charter School Oversight Committee Review**

The initial application will be presented at a Charter School Oversight Committee meeting(s) where the Charter School Oversight Committee will:

a. Make recommendations for clarification purposes and provide feedback to the applicants
b. Use the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Charter School Application and Rating template to evaluate the charter school application
c. Move the application to a work session of the KPBSD BOE to provide recommendations, feedback and evaluation from committee meetings to the full BOE

2. **Board of Education Work Session**

a. Present the initial application and Charter School Oversight Committee recommendations to the BOE in a work session
b. The BOE will further evaluate the initial charter school application
c. The BOE will place the initial application on a meeting agenda where the BOE will take action to approve or deny the application

Charter School Application:

b. The charter school applicant(s) will provide information to the KPBSD BOE as stipulated in E 6187 (b) Charter School Application/Contract Provisions

c. The terms of an initial draft contract must not exceed five years. The terms of renewal contract may be for a period of up to ten years.

d. Note: The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has its own policies and deadlines.

The applicant(s) proposed charter school may be affected by those deadlines.

f. Per BP 6187 "the Board will approve or deny both initial and renewal applications through a voting process."

g. Upon approval or rejection of a charter school application, the KPBSD BOE will submit to the State Board of Education a copy of the charter school application and a report on the action taken by the KPBSD BOE no later than 30 days following the KPBSD BOE action.

h. Upon approval of the charter school by the KPBSD BOE and the State Board, the contract will be signed by the president of the KPBSD BOE and the legally designated representative of the charter school. The Superintendent or designee will serve as a contact person for all communications between the charter school and the District administration.

Annual Review of the Charter School

1. Once approved by both the KPBSD BOE and State Board, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the KPBSD BOE.
2. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report. Form E 6187 (c)
3. Every three years the charter school will make a presentation to the KPBSD BOE and the public. This report will include information on:
    a. the attainment of student performance expectations,
    b. meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school,
    c. descriptions of charter school activities, and
    d. other information of interest to the KPBSD BOE.

Charter School Renewal Process:

Purpose: Steps and deadlines for charter schools seeking renewal of their charter within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD).

1. **Intent to Renew: E 6187 (d)**

Any KPBSD Charter Schools wishing to renew their charter are required to notify the Superintendent or designee of their intention by August 1, of the renewal year by submitting Exhibit 6187 (d).

2. **Renewal Application**

Renewal applicants must submit a completed Renewal Application to the Superintendent or designee by October 1 of the renewal year.

3. **Eligibility Requirements:**

The charter school must be in good standing with the district. Good standing includes:

a. Compliance with state and district policies, including financial and operational requirements
b. Meeting or exceeding academic performance expectations outlined in the charter
c. Submission of required reports, including the previous 3 years of the Charter School Annual Review Forms: E6187 (c), demonstrating the school's compliance and performance

4. **Completion of DEED Renewal Application**

The applicants will complete the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) Charter School Renewal Application as the DEED Charter School Renewal Application and Rating Template will be used in the District's charter school renewal application process.

Note: The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has its own policies and deadlines. The applicant(s) proposed charter school may be affected by those deadlines.

Review and Approval Process:

1. **Charter School Oversight Committee Review**

The renewal application will be presented at a Charter School Oversight Committee meeting(s) where the Charter School Oversight Committee will:

d. Be presented the completed renewal application to review and provide feedback
e. Evaluate the application based on academic performance, financial accountability, operational compliance, and community impact
f. Use the Alaska DEED Charter School Application and Rating Template to evaluate the charter school application
g. Move the application to a work session of the KPBSD BOE to provide recommendations, feedback and evaluation from committee meetings to the full BOE

2. **Board of Education Work Session**
   a. Present the renewal application and Charter School Oversight Committee recommendations to the BOE in a **work session** for discussion and further evaluation
   b. The BOE will review the renewal application for alignment with district goals and state requirements
   c. The BOE will place the renewal application on a meeting agenda where the BOE will take action to approve or deny the renewal application

3. **Final Approval**
   a. Per BP 6187 "the Board will approve or deny both initial and renewal applications through a voting process
   b. Upon approval or rejection of a charter school application the KPBSD BOE will submit to the State Board of Education a copy of the charter school application and report on the action taken by the KPBSD BOE no later than 30 days following the KPBSD BOE action.

Breach of Contract

1. Failure to comply with the provisions of the contract between the charter school and the local School Board is considered a breach of contract and may result in the termination of the charter school.
    a. Examples of breach of contract include but are not limited to:
        i. failure to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the contract,
        ii. failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management
        iii. violating any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.
2. During the charter school's annual review with the KPBSD BOE, compliance with the provisions of the contract will be monitored. If any allegations of noncompliance with the charter school contract (either by the charter school or by the District) are presented either during the annual review or at any other time, the KPBSD BOE will investigate these allegations. Prior to canceling the charter school contract, the KPBSD BOE and the charter school will attempt to remedy any violations of the contract.

3. The contract will be reviewed at the completion of the third year. A portion of that review will be based on a comparison of the Alaska Standards Based Assessment test scores of the school's students to those of the District average of a similar population of the District. If the school does not meet or exceed the District average the school will be placed on a two-year probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will be grounds for denial of a future charter.

Funding for Charter Schools

1. The charter school budget will be calculated by determining the amount of state funds generated by students enrolled in the charter school less administrative costs. Administrative costs will be determined by applying the indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Education and Early Development.
2. The program budget of a charter school is to be used for operating expenses of the educational program of the charter school including purchasing textbooks, classroom materials, and instructional aids.
3. The charter school will provide the financial and accounting information requested by the KPBSD BOE and State Board and will cooperate with the District in complying with the restrictions governing receipt and expenditure of District money.
4. The expense of housing nonresident students who attend the charter school, including room, board, and other reasonable housing expenses, may not be paid for with state money but may be paid for with funds contributed by sources other than the state.

Admission

1. The program of a charter school may be designed to serve students within an age group or grade level; students who will benefit from a particular teaching method or curriculum; or nonresident students, including providing domiciliary services for students who need those services, if approved by the KPBSD BOE.
2. A charter school will enroll all eligible students who submit a timely application, unless the number of those applications exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building. In the event of an excess of those applications, the charter school and the local KPBSD BOE will attempt to accommodate all of those applicants by considering providing additional classroom space and assigning additional teachers from the District to the charter school. If it is not possible to accommodate all

eligible students who submit a timely application, students will be accepted by random drawing. The KPBSD BOE may not require a student to attend a charter school.

3. In addition to other requirements of law, a charter school will be nonsectarian.

Teacher or Employee Agreements

1. A teacher or employee may not be assigned to a charter school unless the teacher or employee consents to the assignment.
2. All provisions of an existing negotiated agreement or collective bargaining agreement applicable to a teacher or employee of the District apply to that teacher or employee if employed at a charter school in the District, unless the district and the bargaining unit representing the teacher or employee agree to an exemption.
3. A teacher in a charter school will be evaluated in an equivalent manner as all other teachers in the District, except that if there is no administrator assigned to the charter school, the KPBSD BOE , with the agreement of the charter school, will designate a District administrator in the District to evaluate a teacher in a charter school.
4. The District assumes no responsibility for employing the charter school administrator after the termination of the charter school contract unless the person is also employed as a teacher.

Sharing a District Facility

1. Charter schools that are housed in a non-school District facility will be recognized under Alaska Statutes 14.03.250-14.30.290.
2. Charter schools proposing to use District facilities which are already in use as public schools, may do so only on the approval by the School Board

Charter Schools Sharing Facilities

1. **Guidelines for Determining Adequate Space for a Shared Facility:**
    a. The KPBSD BOE may allow a charter school to operate within an established KPBSD school if the projected enrollment of the two schools and other District programs (Special Ed, Title 1, Project Grad, etc.) do not exceed 90% of the rated capacity over the life of the charter school contract.
    b. When the charter school is proposing to utilize space in an existing KPBSD school, the Superintendent will determine if the amount of space requested by the charter school can be made available, based on enrollment projections and school capacity.
    c. The charter school application will include the estimated number of students, the number of requested classrooms and the grades taught for each year of the proposed contract.
    d. In a shared facility, the Charter School may request to change the estimated number of students, the number of classrooms or the grades taught for the school year. The request must be submitted by October 1 of the year preceding the requested change. (District projected enrollment date)

Negotiating Shared Facility Agreements:

c. If the Superintendent determines space is available, the Superintendent, the charter school principal and an APC representative of the charter school will negotiate the terms of sharing a facility and make recommendations to the KPBSD BOE. This will be presented during the KPBSD BOE work session with the charter school applicants.
d. The Principal of the established KPBSD school will serve as the Primary principal for the building. The charter school principal will meet with the Primary principal and come to a mutual agreement regarding the charter school's observance of school rules and policies. These mutually agreed upon rules and policies will be included in the charter school application and contract with the KPBSD BOE . Failure to abide by the agreed upon rules and policies will be considered a breach of contract.

Determining Costs in a Shared Facility:

c. Basic charter school funding will be allocated to charter schools by the School Board.
d. Charter schools operating in an established neighborhood school will be responsible for funding their share of education programs in the building.
e. During the administrative meeting, held after the Notification of Intent form is filed, the administrative committee will provide the charter school representatives with an estimation of revenues and operational costs.
f. Following Board approval of the charter school contract, operational costs will be charged by the District to the charter school on a pro rata basis according to the recommended budget.
g. All other services provided by the District to the charter school will be calculated on a cost only basis.
h. At the end of each fiscal year, adjustments will be made to the charter school budgets based on actual revenues and expenditures.
i. Space, personnel and shared resources will be equitably prorated and addressed annually in the charter school contract.

Shared Facility Resources:

c. Charter schools operating in established KPBSD schools will be responsible for funding their education programs. The charter school may decide the use of their remaining available resources through their budget process after accounting for shared costs.
d. If a charter school desires to combine their resources with an established KPBSD educational program and the Primary principal agrees, costs will be pro-rated according to the number of students.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.250 Establishment of charter schools

14.03.255 Organization and operation of a charter school

14.03.260 Funding for charter schools

14.03.265 Admission

14.03.270 Teacher or employee transfers, evaluations, and negotiated agreements

14.03.275 Contracts; duration

14.03.280 Regulations

14.03.290 Definitions

14.14.130 Chief school administrator

APPENDIX E CONTINUED: DISTRICT SIGNED ASSURANCE PAGE

By signing this document, the school district files its assurance that the statements, documents and/or information listed below is in compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations.

The charter school follows all district approved practices to account for receipts and expenditures. AS 14.03255(b)(1)(c)(6), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(14)(B)

The charter school has been successful in ending each year with a zero or positive fund balance. AS 14.03255(b)(1)

All audit reports to date indicate the charter school has met its obligation to ensure the fiscal integrity of the school's financial operation. AS 14.03255(b)(2)(c)(13)

Name of the School District: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Name of the Charter Program: Fireweed Academy

Name of Superintendent: Clayton Holland

Signature of Superintendent: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX F: INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING - ADOPTED CURRICULA

Fireweed Academy has purchased and adopted the following curricula that align with Alaska State Standards:

- Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)
    - Core ELA curriculum
    - Website for curriculum
    - Purchased through 2029
- enVision Mathematics 2020 Common Core
    - Core Math curriculum
    - Website for curriculum information
    - Purchased through 2027
- PBL Teach
    - Supplements Project-Based Learning Curriculum
    - Website for curriculum information
    - Annual subscription
- Everyday Speech
    - Supplements Social Emotion Learning and Pragmatic Speech Language curriculum
    - Website for curriculum information
    - Annual subscription
- Generation Genius
    - Supplemental Math, Science, and ELA curriculum
    - Website for curriculum information
    - Annual subscription

Examples of the paper-based curricula are listed in Appendix Q.

APPENDIX G: BIAS FREE ADMISSION POLICIES

Fireweed Academy Charter School Enrollment and Lottery Procedures

Charter Schools of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District are public schools which comply with all Federal and State Laws, as well as Borough Policies, concerning public education and equal opportunity. The school does not discriminate against anyone with regard to race, gender, national origin, color, disability, or age.

Eligible students are: any student residing in the Homer School Bus District. Students outside of the Homer School Bus District may enroll, but will not be able to utilize district transportation.

(a) Parents or legal Guardians should fill out an application for the upcoming school year. **Applications accepted from the last week in October, until the first Friday in March at 3 PM.** Applications are online and the link can be found in the "Enrollment Info" section of our website.

(b) Currently enrolled students will fill out a Pre-Enrollment form in April. This form will go home with the students and is also available in the "Enrollment" section of our website.

(c) Combined classes will maintain a balance of students in the various grade levels insofar as there are sufficient applicants for each grade. It is anticipated and acceptable that these numbers will fluctuate.

1. If vacancies still exist in a class and there is not a wait list, students will be enrolled without going through the lottery.
2. Currently enrolled students do not have to go through the lottery process.
3. Siblings of students enrolled in the school do not have to go through the lottery and will be accepted into the school as long as there are spots available.
4. In the event that the number of siblings applying to the school exceeds the number of students that can be accommodated by the school, the siblings will be chosen by lottery according to the lottery guidelines.
5. In the event that there are more applicants to Fireweed Academy Charter School than can be accommodated, students will be admitted to the school on the basis of a lottery.

   The applicant pool will consist of students who submit the Admission and Lottery Application to the school on or before the deadline. The deadline occurs the first Friday of March at 3PM.

   The number of openings available in the lottery will depend on the number of available spots in the given classes.

   Lottery drawings will take place the last Monday in March to allow time for the data to be processed. The drawing will be conducted through a

randomized selection process.
The lottery results will be posted the last Monday of March on our website, and parents will be notified via email and/or phone call.
Parents/Guardians will have three days to confirm their acceptance and intent to enroll after being notified of lottery placement.

6. Available vacancies will be filled by lottery students in the order they were drawn.
7. Leftover lottery students will be placed on the lottery wait list.
   Families of students on the lottery waitlist are responsible for keeping their contact information current.
   Students may be dropped from the lottery waitlist if no reply is received within one week after the school has contacted the family regarding waitlist status and potential enrollment.

Lottery Procedures Enrollment and Waiting List:

If the number of applications exceeds the targeted school population during an application period, a random lottery will be used to fill openings and compile a waiting list. To ensure balance and equal opportunity, a separate lottery will be held for the following grade groups; K-2 and 3-6. If a student with siblings is chosen by lottery, siblings will be added to their respective grades before the lottery continues filling spots unless space is unavailable. Those siblings would be placed at the top of the waitlist.

Applications not selected to fill an opening in a lottery, will be placed on a compiled waiting list retaining the order of their selection during the lottery. This waiting list will be used to fill openings as they occur. Any spring enrollment applicants left on the waiting list will be forwarded to the pool of applicants of the subsequent open enrollment period.

Waiting lists may not be carried over to the following year.

Open Enrollment/Registration:

Open enrollment for accepted students begins in April as soon as the forms for the following school year have been published. All forms must be filled out and submitted yearly by all families. All forms are online through the PowerSchool parent portal. Notification will be sent out alerting accepted families that they can proceed with the enrollment process as soon as they become available.

Parents of new to the district students, including Kindergarteners, are required to provide copies of the students birth certificate, and current up to date vaccination records no later than 3 days prior to the start of school.

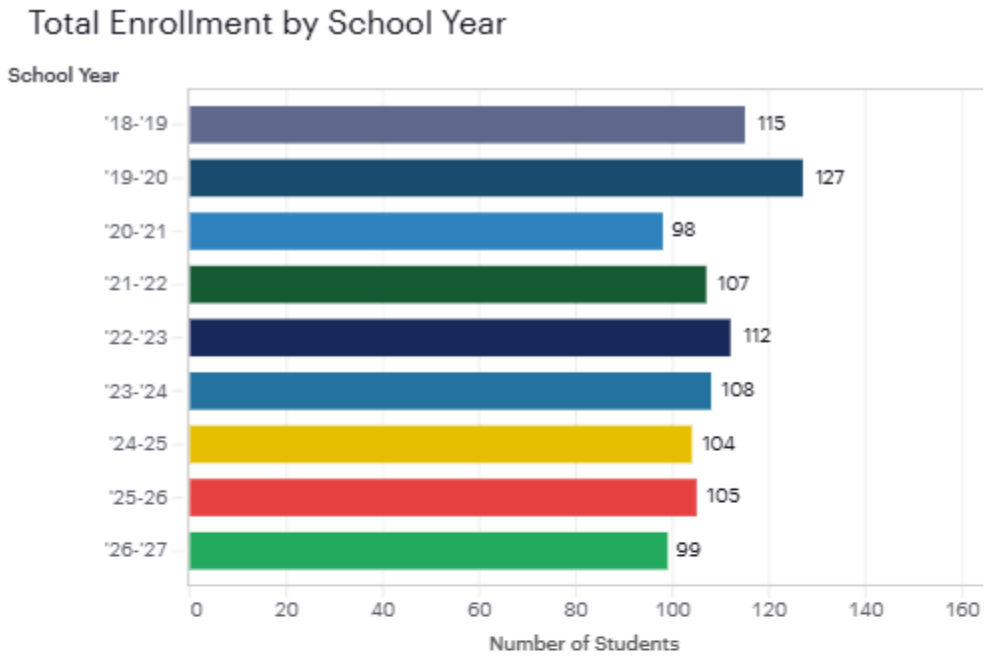
Admissions during the school year:

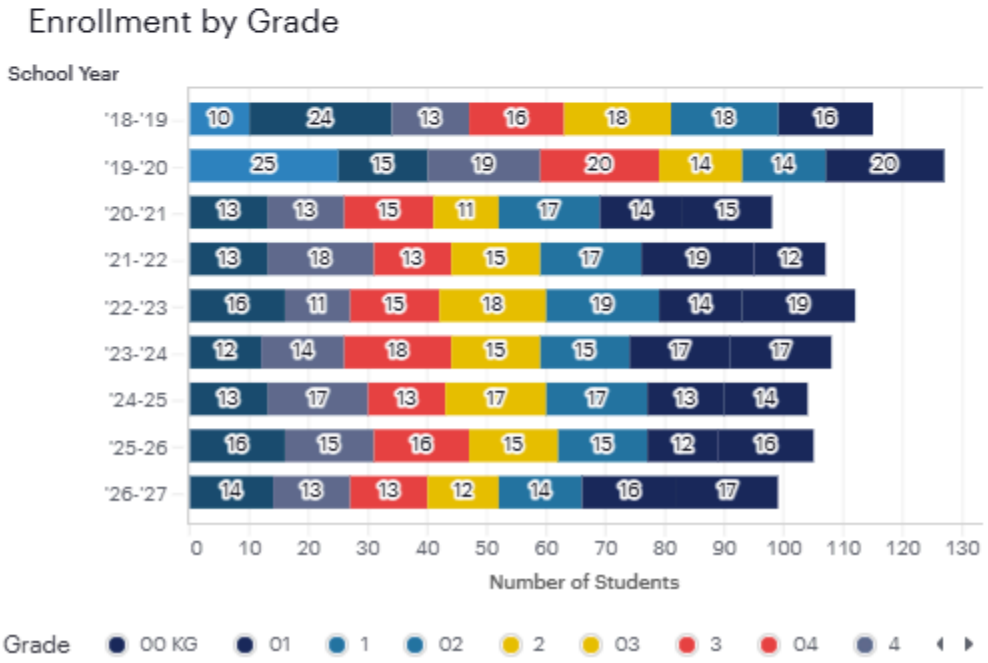
If during the school year the waitlist is empty, enrollment applications will be accepted until the end of the First Quarter. Since our program relies heavily on initial assimilation into an alternative program, students requesting enrollment after the first quarter will be limited. Prior to submitting an application, the parent/guardian and child will be requested to visit the school to ascertain whether it is a good fit for the family. After the visit a meeting may be requested with parent/guardian, principal, teacher(s), and an APC member to discuss the suitability of the school for the prospective student.

Exit Interviews/Surveys

If a student leaves the school during the school year, an exit interview is held. The interview may be conducted by the principal and/or one or more APC member(s) depending on the situation. The interview is conducted in person, via online survey, or by phone depending on the wishes of the exiting parent/guardian. The purpose of the interview is to learn why the student has left the program and how to improve our school. The interviews are used to assist in evaluating our program.

APPENDIX H: CURRENT AND HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT SUMMARY





Our waitlist for specific grades has varied over the years, but primarily consists of students in Kindergarten or 3rd grade since those grades fill faster than others. This year, we do not have a waitlist.

APPENDIX I: BUDGET PROJECTION FY27

KENAI SCHOOL DISTRICT

APC FINANCE REPORT

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09/03/2026
12:55:54 PM

Report Code: BAT_GL_TEMPLATE

BATCH QUEUE ID 483901
FOR BEGINNING BALANCE THRU CLOSING ENTRIES, 2027
LEDGER TYPE : 5 - EXPENDITURES

OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET AMOUNT	ADJUSTED BUDGET	CURRENT ACTIVITY	YTD ACTIVITY	ENCUMBRANCE	REQUISITION	UNENCUMBERED BALANCE	PERCENT ENCMBRD
Fund : 100 - OPERATING FUND									
Location : 68 - FIREWEED ACADEMY									
Function : 4100 - REG INSTRUCTION									
31	CERTIFIED SALARIES	429,532.00	429,532.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	429,532.00	0
32	NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES	59,179.00	59,179.00	915.96	915.96	0.00	0.00	58,263.04	2
35	TOTAL EMPL BENEFITS	221,235.00	221,235.00	1,410.87	1,410.87	0.00	0.00	219,824.13	1
44	PURCHASED SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.00	-0.09	0
45	SUPPLIES	310,101.00	359,996.00	1,706.20	1,706.20	1,159.50	0.00	357,130.30	1
49	OTHER EXPENSES	0.00	182,833.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	182,833.00	0
TOTALS:	Function: 4100 - REG INSTRUCTION	1,020,047.00	1,252,775.00	4,033.12	4,033.12	1,159.50	0.00	1,247,582.38	0
Function : 4200 - SPED INSTRUCTION									
31	CERTIFIED SALARIES	59,115.00	59,115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,115.00	0
32	NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES	65,920.00	65,920.00	1,209.78	1,209.78	0.00	0.00	64,710.22	2
35	TOTAL EMPL BENEFITS	114,185.00	114,185.00	588.76	588.76	0.00	0.00	113,596.24	1
45	SUPPLIES	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0
TOTALS:	Function: 4200 - SPED INSTRUCTION	239,470.00	239,470.00	1,798.54	1,798.54	0.00	0.00	237,671.46	1
Function : 4220 - SPED SUPPT SVCS/STUDENT									
31	CERTIFIED SALARIES	15,426.00	15,426.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,426.00	0
35	TOTAL EMPL BENEFITS	6,881.00	6,881.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,881.00	0
45	SUPPLIES	38.00	38.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.00	0
TOTALS:	Function: 4220 - SPED SUPPT SVCS/STUDENT	22,345.00	22,345.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,345.00	0
Function : 4330 - HEALTH SERVICES									
32	NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES	44,714.00	44,714.00	1,103.78	1,103.78	0.00	0.00	43,610.22	2
35	TOTAL EMPL BENEFITS	32,138.00	32,138.00	327.29	327.29	0.00	0.00	31,810.71	1
44	PURCHASED SERVICES	0.00	111.42	111.42	111.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
TOTALS:	Function: 4330 - HEALTH SERVICES	76,852.00	76,963.42	1,542.49	1,542.49	0.00	0.00	75,420.93	2

KENAI SCHOOL DISTRICT

APC FINANCE REPORT

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09/03/2026
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Report Code: BAT_GL_TEMPLATE

BATCH QUEUE ID 483901

FOR BEGINNING BALANCE THRU CLOSING ENTRIES, 2027

LEDGER TYPE : 5 - EXPENDITURES

OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET AMOUNT	ADJUSTED BUDGET	CURRENT ACTIVITY	YTD ACTIVITY	ENCUMBRANCE	REQUISITION	UNENCUMBERED BALANCE	PERCENT ENCMBRD
Function : 4400 - SCHOOL ADMINSTRATION									
31	CERTIFIED SALARIES	118,500.00	118,500.00	9,875.00	9,875.00	0.00	0.00	108,625.00	8
35	TOTAL EMPL BENEFITS	48,111.00	48,111.00	1,379.86	1,379.86	0.00	0.00	46,731.14	3
42	STAFF TRAVEL	0.00	0.00	253.92	253.92	0.00	0.00	-253.92	0
45	SUPPLIES	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0
TOTALS:	Function: 4400 - SCHOOL ADMINSTRATION	166,861.00	166,861.00	11,508.78	11,508.78	0.00	0.00	155,352.22	7
Function : 4450 - SCH ADMIN - SUPPORT									
32	NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES	41,105.00	41,105.00	1,652.48	1,652.48	0.00	0.00	39,452.52	4
35	TOTAL EMPL BENEFITS	43,465.00	43,465.00	489.96	489.96	0.00	0.00	42,975.04	1
43	UTILITY SERVICES	0.00	0.00	282.29	282.29	0.00	0.00	-282.29	0
44	PURCHASED SERVICES	0.00	0.00	20.02	20.02	0.00	0.00	-20.02	0
45	SUPPLIES	0.00	2,150.00	0.00	0.00	2,150.00	0.00	0.00	100
TOTALS:	Function: 4450 - SCH ADMIN - SUPPORT	84,570.00	86,720.00	2,444.75	2,444.75	2,150.00	0.00	82,125.25	5
Function : 4557 - INDIRECT COST POOL									
49	OTHER EXPENSES	62,434.00	62,434.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62,434.00	0
TOTALS:	Function: 4557 - INDIRECT COST POOL	62,434.00	62,434.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62,434.00	0
Function : 4600 - OPERATION OF PLANT									
32	NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES	11,284.00	11,284.00	533.50	533.50	0.00	0.00	10,750.50	5
35	TOTAL EMPL BENEFITS	12,924.00	12,924.00	40.82	40.82	0.00	0.00	12,883.18	0
43	UTILITY SERVICES	0.00	0.00	1,297.61	1,297.61	0.00	0.00	-1,297.61	0
44	PURCHASED SERVICES	217,001.00	217,071.00	15,259.91	15,259.91	315.00	0.00	201,496.09	7
51	EQUIPMENT	0.00	29,549.36	14,774.67	14,774.67	14,774.69	0.00	0.00	100
TOTALS:	Function: 4600 - OPERATION OF PLANT	241,209.00	270,828.36	31,906.51	31,906.51	15,089.69	0.00	223,832.16	17
TOTALS:	Location: 68 - FIREWEED ACADEMY	1,913,788.00	2,178,396.78	53,234.19	53,234.19	18,399.19	0.00	2,106,763.40	3
TOTALS:	Fund: 100 - OPERATING FUND	1,913,788.00	2,178,396.78	53,234.19	53,234.19	18,399.19	0.00	2,106,763.40	3
TOTALS:	Ledger Type: 5 - Expenditures	1,913,788.00	2,178,396.78	53,234.19	53,234.19	18,399.19	0.00	2,106,763.40	3

KENAI SCHOOL DISTRICT

APC FINANCE REPORT

Page: 3 of 4
09/03/2026
12:55:54 PM

Report Code: BAT_GL_TEMPLATE

BATCH QUEUE ID 483901

	BUDGET AMOUNT	ADJUSTED BUDGET	CURRENT ACTIVITY	YTD ACTIVITY	ENCUMBRANCE	REQUISITION	UNENCUMBERED BALANCE	PERCENT ENCMBRD
GRAND TOTAL:	1,913,788.00	2,178,396.78	53,234.19	53,234.19	18,399.19	0.00	2,106,763.40	3

APPENDIX J: TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Book	Policy Manual
Section	3000 BUSINESS & INSTRUCTION SUPPORT OPERATIONS
Title	Transportation
Code	BP 3540
Status	Active
Cross References	BP 3313 - Contracts, Leases and Agreements BP 3541 - Transportation Routes and Services BP 3541.1 - School Related Trips BP 6182 - Secondary Boarding Program
Last Revised	February 1, 2016
Last Reviewed	November 3, 2025

The Board desires to provide transportation for eligible students in accordance with state and federal law.

The goals of the transportation service are:

1. To provide maximum safety for students while being transported between home and school and on school-sponsored trips.
2. To promote desirable student behavior and respect for traffic safety.
3. To provide assistance and transportation for students with disabilities.
4. To provide transportation for field trips.

KPBSD will provide transportation services to students attending KPBSD charter schools as follows:

1. Charter school students living within the attendance area of the neighborhood school where the charter school is housed will be provided transportation services on the same basis as all students in the district who reside within the attendance area of the neighborhood school they attend.

2. Charter school students living outside the attendance area of the charter school they attend will be provided transportation services on a space available basis along the regular routes that the students attending schools in an attendance area in the district are currently being transported.

3. If a charter school declines pupil transportation services, no funding allocation will be made by the district.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES
14.09.010 Transportation of pupils
14.09.030School buses
14.30.347 Transportation of exceptional children

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 09.050 Secondary Boarding Programs

APPENDIX K: THREE YEARS OF ANNUAL CHARTER SCHOOL REPORTS

Charter School Annual Review Form

Charter School: Fireweed Academy **Year: 2024**

Purpose of this Form: Pursuant to the State of Alaska Charter School law (AS 14.03.255(b) (4)), the Academic Policy Committee shall meet with administration at least six times annually to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals in accordance with Kenai Peninsula Borough School District AR 6187. Pursuant to Kenai Peninsula School Board Policy 6187: this report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, and other information of interest to the local School Board.

Use of this Form: This form should be filled out first by the Charter School's Academic Policy Committee during their annual review meeting. This form will then be signed by the APC chair and the administrator and sent to the KPBSD Board President, the Superintendent and the KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair.

Once signed by the KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair, a copy will be provided to the Charter School Administrator, Board President, and Superintendent. All Charter School Annual Review Forms submitted by KPBSD Charter Schools will be provided to the Board as a general information packet item.

Section 1: Breach of Contract

Examples of breach of contract include but are not limited to:

- failure to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the contract,
- failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management
- violating any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

Describe any possible Breach of Contract Concerns that have been brought forward this school year: {Describe any concerns that were brought to the attention of the APC or the KPBSD School Board.} None

Remedies for the possible Breach of Contracts described above: None

Section 2: Charter School Review by APC

Meeting Dates

APC Meeting Dates this school year: {List all APC meeting dates for the year.}

8/24/23, 9/7/23, 10/5/23, 11/2/23, 12/7/23, 1/11/24, 2/1/24, 3/7/24, 4/4/24, 5/2/24

Policies and Goals

Reflections on the committee's policies and goals: School Development Plan, identifying growth areas from year 1 with principal, creating messaging for APC vs PTO.

Recommendations for next year: {During the course of the year did the APC identify any policies or goals that they want to take a look at next year.}

Next year's priorities are: 1.) Fireweed Policy Manual 2.) Revised Charter in preparation for 2027 renewal 3.) Strategic Plan Outline

Budget: KPBSD Charter school budgets are developed using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school entered into the State of Alaska foundation formula to determine that amount of funding. The Finance department reviews all finance transactions. The Charter schools budgets are developed during the preliminary budget process based on projected enrollment and then adjusted after the 20 day student count that takes place in the Fall of each year.

Any Budget Concerns from APC: {Any budget areas that the APC is concerned about that occurred this fiscal year or possible future concerns.} None

Enrollment:

Enrollment this Year: 107.35

Enrollment Concerns:

None

Curricula:

Curriculum Concerns: {Did the school/APC identify any concerns that should be looked at in the future?} Adopted CKLA, Adopted SEL curriculum, still using Envision Math, entertaining an intervention curriculum (UFLI)

Activities

Co-Curricular Activities: {Activities offered by the school and possibly any activities students participated in at other schools; like joining KMS soccer.}

Reflections on Activities: BFW - Collaborated with WHE for Japanese Club, X-Country Skiing, Girls on the Run, LFW - collaborated with HCOA to provide Maker's Space which will expand next year into 4 days per week.

Academic Performance

Review of Academic Performance: Data overview shared with APC members after Benchmark assessments and AK Star results. Staff had data days multiple times throughout the year. {What data was reviewed by the staff or APC and when did that take place? Did the staff have data days? Etc...}

List Academic Performance Concerns: No concerns

Stakeholder Feedback

Review of Feedback: {What feedback did the APC receive and review from stakeholders? How was the feedback received; by using Survey Monkey, paper surveys, Hanover, etc....}

We surveyed our parent community last fall using google forms. Feedback was positive and indicated improvement in several areas since the prior year. The climate survey finding will come out in the fall.

Other Areas of Discussion: None.

Date: 5/6/24

APC Chair Signature:

Date: 5/15/24

Charter School Administrator Signature

Date: _____

KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair Signature:

6-3-24

E 6187 c

Charter School Annual Review Form

Charter School: Fireweed Academy **Year: 2024-2025**

Purpose of this Form: Pursuant to the State of Alaska Charter School law (AS 14.03.255(b) (4)), the Academic Policy Committee shall meet with administration at least six times annually to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals in accordance with Kenai Peninsula Bourgh School District AR 6187. Pursuant to Kenai Peninsula School Board Policy 6187: this report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, and other information of interest to the local School Board.

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Section 1: Breach of Contract

Examples of breach of contract include but are not limited to:

- failure to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the contract,
- failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management
- violating any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

Describe any possible Breach of Contract Concerns that have been brought forward this school year: {Describe any concerns that were brought to the attention of the APC or the KPBSD School Board.} **None.**

Remedies for the possible Breach of Contracts described above: {Write 'None' if no remedies where described by the district or if none where needed.} **None.**

Section 2: Charter School Review by APC

Meeting Dates

APC Meeting Dates this school year:

September 5th

October 3rd

November 7th

E 6187 c

December 5th

January 9th

February 6th

March 6th

April 3rd

May 1st

Policies and Goals

Reflections on the committee's policies and goals: **This year our APC adopted a technology policy, revised our bylaws, and made work strides towards our charter renewal process in FY27. There was also significant work done by the One Campus Dream committee, which will soon be taken over by the Friends of Fireweed Academy (FoFA) nonprofit.**

Recommendations for next year: **Next year's primary focus will be on the charter renewal process.**

Budget: KPBSD Charter school budgets are developed using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school entered into the State of Alaska foundation formula to determine that amount of funding. The Finance department reviews all finance transactions. The Charter schools budgets are developed during the preliminary budget process based on projected enrollment and then adjusted after the 20 day student count that takes place in the Fall of each year.

Any Budget Concerns from APC: **None**

Enrollment:

Enrollment this Year: **107**

Enrollment Concerns: **While there are no specific concerns, we would like to see enrollment at or above 105 for next school year**

Curricula:

Curriculum Concerns: **None**

Activities

Co-Curricular Activities: **K-2 MakerSpace afterschool art program in**

E 6187 c

Stakeholder Feedback

Review of Feedback: {What feedback did the APC receive and review from stakeholders? How was the feedback received; by using Survey Monkey, paper surveys, Hanover, etc....} Open meetings, monthly 'Coffee w/APC' sessions, Surveys via Google Forms or printed, 'Fireweed Feedback' Google Form.

Other Areas of Discussion:

Tessa Sullivan
APC Chair Signature:

Date: 4/17/25

Charter School Administrator Signature

Date: 4/17/25

KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair Signature:

Date: 6/2/25

E 6187 c

Charter School Annual Review Form

Charter School: Fireweed Academy **Year: 2025-26**

Purpose of this Form: Pursuant to the State of Alaska Charter School law (AS 14.03.255(b) (4)), the Academic Policy Committee shall meet with administration at least six times annually to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals in accordance with Kenai Peninsula Bourgh School District AR 6187. Pursuant to Kenai Peninsula School Board Policy 6187: this report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, and other information of interest to the local School Board.

Use of this Form: This form should be filled out first by the Charter School's Academic Policy Committee during their annual review meeting. This form will then be signed by the APC chair and the administrator and sent to the KPBSD Board President, the Superintendent and the KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair.

Once signed by the KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair, a copy will be provided to the Charter School Administrator, Board President, and Superintendent. All Charter School Annual Review Forms submitted by KPBSD Charter Schools will be provided to the Board as a general information packet item.

Section 1: Breach of Contract

Examples of breach of contract include but are not limited to:

- failure to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the contract,
- failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management
- violating any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

Describe any possible Breach of Contract Concerns that have been brought forward this school year: **None.**

Remedies for the possible Breach of Contracts described above: None.

Section 2: Charter School Review by APC

Meeting Dates

APC Meeting Dates this school year: Fireweed Academy APC meets on the first Thursday of each month at 3:30pm at Big Fireweed. The dates this year were August 7th, September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th, January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, and April 2nd

Special Meetings were held on August 18th, April 21st, April 30th (Annual

E 6187 c

Meeting combined with Friends of Fireweed Academy).

Policies and Goals

Reflections on the committee's policies and goals: Continue work towards the APC's Strategic Plan, evaluate principal, oversee development and implementation of the Principal Leadership Plan, Gain feedback from community that will inform the charter renewal process.

Recommendations for next year: Continue oversight of Principal Leadership Plan implementation, support Principal through Charter Renewal submission, and update strategic plan.

Budget: KPBSD Charter school budgets are developed using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school entered into the State of Alaska foundation formula to determine that amount of funding. The Finance department reviews all finance transactions. The Charter schools budgets are developed during the preliminary budget process based on projected enrollment and then adjusted after the 20 day student count that takes place in the Fall of each year.

Any Budget Concerns from APC: None.

Enrollment:

Enrollment this Year: 102

Enrollment Concerns: Increasing enrollment, especially at K-2.

Curricula:

Curriculum Concerns: Identified need for Project-Based-Learning curriculum to support teachers during Themes. Purchased curriculum to solve this problem with mid-year rollout and additional training next year.

Activities

Co-Curricular Activities: Afterschool programming alongside other local schools (Paul Banks and West Homer), Yearbook Club, STEAM club, Chess Club, various sports.

Reflections on Activities: Our school will continue to support programming around Homer through our involvement, advocacy, and staffing.

Academic Performance

Review of Academic Performance: Staff had data days after each benchmark, collaboration days every month which included data review of benchmark as well as progress monitoring data. Fireweed ended the year in the 1st quadrant for MAPs assessments in both Reading and Math (High growth, high achievement), and in the

E 6187 c

High Achievement Low Growth quadrant for Language Usage.

List Academic Performance Concerns:
None.

Stakeholder Feedback

Review of Feedback: APC held multiple feedback focus groups for community members, staff, and students. APC and PTO sent out surveys to each stakeholder group to collect data about staff, school, and principal. This feedback was used to inform our charter renewal and scheduling for next year. Our school also engaged in the Hanover Survey this year and look forward to seeing results when they come out.

Other Areas of Discussion:
Our review of our community data continues to point towards the need for one campus as a major priority in the coming years. All stakeholder groups see this is the largest need for the school.

APC Chair Signature: Date: 5/12/26

Charter School Administrator Signature Date: 5/12/26

KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair Signature: Date: 6/1/26

APPENDIX L: SCHOOL SUCCESS REPORT

EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

An excellent education for every student every day.

System for School Success Overview

Alaska's education accountability system, System for School Success, includes each student group individually, creating a holistic vision of a school through two lenses: the performance of all students and that of their student group populations.

The Compass

A Guide to Alaska's Public Schools

Alaska recently launched **The Compass**, a website designed to help parents access important data about public schools in Alaska. The Compass features a wealth of meaningful information on schools and districts so that parents and guardians can participate in decisions to improve their student's learning.

education.alaska.gov/compass

System for School Success

2024-2025 School Report

Fireweed Academy, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Title I School: Yes

School Designation: Universal Support - 2025

Overall School Index Value: 61.02

Academic Achievement

	English Language Arts Percentage of students that were proficient on the state summative assessment.	Mathematics Percentage of students that were proficient on the state summative assessment.
All Students	62.5 %	51.79 %

English Learner Progress

	English Learner Progress Percentage of English Learners that met or exceeded their growth target on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.
All Students	n/a

Academic Growth

	English Language Arts Percentage of students that demonstrated growth on the state summative assessment.	Mathematics Percentage of students that demonstrated growth on the state summative assessment.
All Students	81.58 %	52.63 %

Graduation Rates

	Graduation Rate The rate of students that graduated from high school within four or five years of enrolling as ninth graders.
Four-Year	n/a
Five-Year	n/a

School Quality/Success

	Chronic Absenteeism Percentage of students who missed less than 10% of the days enrolled at the school.	Grade 3 ELA Percentage of Grade 3 students that were proficient on the state summative assessment in ELA.
All Students	47.52 %	56.25 %

Student Group Performance

	Student Group Performance If school is ATSI or CSI-TSI, identified student groups are shown below.
Student Groups	n/a

n/a - there were less than 10 students represented or the indicator is not relevant to the school.

System for School Success

2023-2024 School Report

Fireweed Academy, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Title I School: Yes

School Designation: Universal Support - 2024

Overall School Index Value: 50.05

An excellent education for every student every day.

System for School Success Overview

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education.alaska.gov/compass

Academic Achievement

	English Language Arts Percentage of students that were proficient on the state summative assessment.	Mathematics Percentage of students that were proficient on the state summative assessment.
All Students	55.36%	47.27%

Growth

	English Language Arts Percentage of students who improved one year to the next on the state summative assessment.	Mathematics Percentage of students who improved one year to the next on the state summative assessment.
All Students	51.28%	53.85%

School Quality/Success

	Chronic Absenteeism Percentage of students who missed less than 10% of the days enrolled at the school.	Grade 3 ELA Percentage of Grade 3 students that were proficient on the state summative assessment in ELA.
All Students	31.43%	71.43%

n/a - there were less than 10 students represented or the indicator is not relevant to the school.

English Learner Progress

	English Learner Progress Percentage of English Learners that met or exceeded their growth target on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.
All Students	n/a

Graduation Rates

	Graduation Rate The rate of students that graduated from high school within four or five years of enrolling as ninth graders.
Four-Year	n/a
Five-Year	n/a

Student Group Performance

	Student Group Performance If school is ATSI or CSI-TSI, identified student groups are shown below.
Student Groups	n/a

EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

An excellent education for every student every day.

System for School Success

2022-2023 School Report

Fireweed Academy, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Title I School: Yes

School Designation: Universal Support - 2023

Overall School Index Value: 42.07

System for School Success Overview

Alaska's education accountability system, System for School Success, includes each student group individually, creating a holistic vision of a school through two lenses: the performance of all students and that of their student group populations.

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education.alaska.gov/compass

Academic Achievement

	English Language Arts Percentage of students that were proficient on the state summative assessment.	Mathematics Percentage of students that were proficient on the state summative assessment.
All Students	53.57%	44.64%

English Learner Progress

	English Learner Progress Percentage of English Learners that met or exceeded their growth target on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.
All Students	n/a

Academic Growth

Not Part of 2022-23 Accountability

Because of the change to AKSTAR cut scores in the spring of 2023, two years of data for comparison are not available to calculate this indicator. For more information about changes to AKSTAR cut scores see: https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/AKSTAR_ResultsFlyer2023_final.pdf

Graduation Rates

	Graduation Rate The rate of students that graduated from high school within four or five years of enrolling as ninth graders.
Four-Year	n/a
Five-Year	n/a

School Quality/Success

	Chronic Absenteeism Percentage of students who missed less than 10% of the days enrolled at the school.	Grade 3 ELA Percentage of Grade 3 students that were proficient on the state summative assessment in ELA.
All Students	26.67%	41.18%

Student Group Performance

	Student Group Performance If school is ATSI or CSI-TSI, identified student groups are shown below.
Student Groups	n/a

n/a - there were less than 10 students represented or the indicator is not relevant to the school.

System for School Success

2021-2022 School Report

Fireweed Academy, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Title I School: Yes

School Designation: Universal Support

Overall School Index Value: 48.67

EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

An excellent education for every student every day.

System for School Success Overview

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The Compass

A Guide to Alaska's Public Schools

Alaska recently launched **The Compass**, a website designed to help parents access important data about public schools in Alaska. The Compass features a wealth of meaningful information on schools and districts so that parents and guardians can participate in decisions to improve their student's learning.

education.alaska.gov/compass

Academic Achievement

	English Language Arts Percentage of students that were proficient on the state summative assessment.	Mathematics Percentage of students that were proficient on the state summative assessment.
All Students	59.18%	46.94%

English Learner Progress

	English Learner Progress Percentage of English Learners that met or exceeded their growth target on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.
All Students	n/a

Academic Growth

Not Part of 2021-22 Accountability

Because of the introduction of AKSTAR in the spring of 2022, two years of data for comparison are not available to calculate this indicator. For more information to changes to this year's Accountability system please see: https://education.alaska.gov/akessa/stateplan/21-22-Addendum-Template%20final%20accessible.pdf

Graduation Rates

	Graduation Rate The rate of students that graduated from high school within four or five years of enrolling as ninth graders.
Four-Year	n/a
Five-Year	n/a

School Quality/Success

	Chronic Absenteeism Percentage of students who missed less than 10% of the days enrolled at the school.	Grade 3 ELA Percentage of Grade 3 students that were proficient on the state summative assessment in ELA.
All Students	18.27%	61.54%

Student Group Performance

	Student Group Performance If school is Targeted or Additional Targeted Support, identified student groups are shown below.
Student Groups	n/a

n/a - there were less than 10 students represented or the indicator is not relevant to the school.

APPENDIX M: FIREWEED ACADEMY TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Fireweed Academy Technology Policy

KPBSD Standards:

Education Technology Standards:
https://kpbsd.org/departments/assistant-superintendent/instructional-services/curriculum/education-technology curriculum/

Common Sense Media Curriculum:
https://kpbsd.org/departments/assistant-superintendent/instructional-services/curriculum/common-sense-media -lessons-and-materials/

KPBSD Language Arts Standards (writing standards include typing/research standards):
https://kpbsd.org/departments/assistant-superintendent/instructional-services/curriculum/language-arts-curricul um/

1. Purpose of the Technology Policy

The purpose of this Technology Policy is to outline the rationale for use of technology, ensure the responsible, mindful, and balanced use of digital devices and screens by students at Fireweed Academy. This policy aims to promote healthy screen habits, safeguard students' well-being, and optimize educational opportunities using technology in a thoughtful and structured manner. We recognize that rapidly advancing technology and use of digital screens can have both positive and negative impacts on children's brain development, learning, and well-being. While technology offers opportunities for educational growth and skill-building, excessive use of screen time can hinder attention, creativity, social interactions. Therefore, it is essential to establish a balanced and thoughtful approach to technology use that supports the developmental needs of learners, promotes healthy habits, and enhances the educational experience while minimizing potential risks.

2. Fireweed Philosophy on Technology

Fireweed Academy chooses curriculum and activities that emphasize hands-on and interactive learning experiences to engage students with the world and people around them. Fireweed educators balance this priority with meeting Digital Literacy standards and teaching students responsible and mindful use of technology. Technology is a tool that is used to enhance, simplify, and/or differentiate instruction.

3. Rationale for use of Technology

- Integrating technology into the classroom at Fireweed Academy enhances, simplifies and differentiate learning in ways that traditional methods may not always accomplish. Through multimedia resources, interactive apps, and virtual field trips, technology can make subjects more engaging, accessible, and tailored to individual learning needs. Adaptive platforms adjust content based on student progress, ensuring that each learner receives appropriate support and challenge.

- Technology also streamlines educational processes, making it more efficient to track assignments, conduct assessments, and provide instant feedback, which contributes positively to the learning environment. This approach is aligned with state Digital Literacy standards and complies with district and state assessment requirements.
- Furthermore, technology improves accessibility for students with disabilities and addresses a variety of learning styles. Interactive, self-paced apps allow students to learn at their own level, apply feedback immediately, and experience concepts through visuals and collaborative tools. Educators at Fireweed Academy may supplement traditional methods with digital tools when they determine it will benefit students, helping to reduce barriers to learning and increase motivation.

4. Guiding Questions

- Does the use of digital technology consider the health and safety of our students?

- Does the use of digital technology enhance and simplify learning for our students?

- Does the use of digital technology outweigh the value gained through social, collaborative interactions? Or, Does it promote these interactions?

- Will the use of digital technology go above and beyond what can be achieved with more traditional methods of learning?

5. Appropriate Use Guidelines

- **Educational Use Only:** During school hours, digital devices (e.g., tablets, laptops, computers) and screens should only be used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher.
- **Age-Appropriate Content:** Teachers must ensure that all digital resources and activities are age-appropriate and align with the school's educational values. Because technology is used differently in each grade level, please communicate with your child's teacher to learn more specifics about how it is used in their classroom.
- **Monitoring and Supervision:** Teachers (or assisting staff members) are responsible for teaching appropriate screen use, keeping students on-task, ensuring devices are used for intended purposes only in accordance with district policy.
- **Inappropriate Use:** Any misuse of digital devices (e.g., accessing unauthorized content, cyberbullying, or using devices without permission) will result in a loss of screen privileges and may lead to further disciplinary action as outlined in the school's disciplinary policy.
- **School-Owned Devices:** Personal devices are not addressed in this policy, as all devices used in the classroom will be school-provided and used for educational purposes only. Students are responsible for the care of these devices. Any damage must be reported immediately.
- **Personal Devices:** Students will keep their device(s) in their backpack, at home, or give to a staff member to keep safe during the day. Wearable devices are to be left in "schooltime" or airplane mode.

6. Digital Citizenship

- **Respectful Use:** Students must practice respectful, responsible behavior when using digital devices and interacting online. Cyberbullying, inappropriate content, or misuse of technology will not be tolerated.
- **Privacy and Security:** Students should not share personal information online, and passwords should be kept private. Any concerns about privacy or safety should be reported to school staff immediately.

APPENDIX N: LEASE AND MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENTS

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
Sharing a Facility 2017-2018
Fireweed Academy-West Homer Elementary

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and Fireweed Academy Charter School Academic Policy Committee agree to this Memorandum of Agreement regarding sharing facility space for the 2017-2018 school year, renewable through the 2026-2027 school year.

Room Usage and Operational Costs

The District will provide 4 classrooms at West Homer Elementary School.

The District will provide Room 214 for an office area/library at West Homer Elementary School for the school year.

Fireweed Academy will pay the District each year for In-Kind Services and Rent, determined in the following manner: Fireweed will pay for a proportional share of In-Kind Services costs determined by dividing the school's Adjusted Average Daily Membership (AADM) by the total KPBSD AADM and multiplying by the cost of appropriate In-Kind Services. Rent will be charged for use of Fireweed's share of the West Homer Elementary building at the rental rate times the AADM. (In FY17, the rental rate was $600 per AADM). To provide for continuity in budgeting, estimated costs will be booked in the accounting system in the current year, based on the prior fiscal year actual expenditures. The following fiscal year, an adjustment to "true-up" the actual costs will be posted. This will allow Fireweed Academy to rely on budget estimates and at year-end when calculating possible carry-over of funds.

Fireweed Academy will pay the District each year for approximately $50,100 to cover the pro-rated operational cost associated with sharing a district facility each school year (utilities, shared staff, shared supplies, etc.) The estimate below is based on the FY16 actual expenditures.

4330 Nursing	$12,700
4600 Custodial	13,000
4600 Building	25,400
	$50,100

To provide for continuity in budgeting, estimated costs will be booked in the accounting system in the current year, based on the prior fiscal year actual expenditures. The following fiscal year, an adjustment to "true-up" the actual costs will be posted. This will allow Fireweed Academy to

Emergency and safety plans: The building principal will be responsible for emergency and safety training; the charter school is responsible to be present during training.

Equipment and Supplies

Fireweed Academy will purchase their own supplies and equipment needed for operation of their program, or will share in rental costs on an as-needed basis. Staff from Fireweed Academy will share in the responsibility of care and maintenance of shared equipment, supplies and common spaces.

District Policy, State Statute, and Federal Requirement Accountability

Fireweed Academy Charter School will comply with District Charter School policies, State statutes and Federal requirements during the duration of the charter. The charter school will meet all educational achievement goals and State standards as measured by the benchmark tests, CBM, DIBELS and the other prescribed or required assessments.

This Memorandum of Agreement is for a one-year period, beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, with the option to renew each year for the period through June 30, 2027 as long as the charter school is in good standing with the state and the school district.

_____ _____

Todd Hindman, Fireweed Academy Principal Date

_____ _____

Dave Jones, KPBSD Assistant Superintendent Date

COMMERCIAL LEASE AGREEMENT

This lease agreement is made this 7th day of May 2010, by and between Lessor, Ritchie Community Property Trust, and Lessee, Fireweed Academy Charter School, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

LESSOR
Ritchie Community Property Trust
P.O. Box 939
Homer, AK 99603-0939
907-235-6948
907-399-1741
warmbrez@xyz.net

LESSEE
Fireweed Academy Charter School
PO Box 474
Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-9728

kabrahamson@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

1. Description of Leased Property.

This agreement concerns the following described real property, hereinafter referred to as "the subject property."

Lot 1 and Lot 2, Carl A. Sholin 1965 Addition, Tract "D" Owens Acres Subdivision, Plat 87-34, Homer Recording District, S.M., Alaska.

2. Use of the Premises.

The premises will be used as a charter school, operating under charter from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Lessee may not use the property for any other purpose without first obtaining the written consent of Lessor.

Lessee agrees to equip the school facility with classroom equipment, supplies, and teaching staff, and to operate a public education program within the school facility. This may include the on-site addition of computer and telephone wiring along with computers and telephones as necessary. All such equipment shall remain the property of Lessee.

Lessee agrees to install and maintain a suitable fenced playground for its use. All such playground equipment and fencing shall remain the property of Lessee.

3. Term.

The subject property is leased for the term of three years from the date the lease was entered as set forth above. Lessee has the right to 3 additional lease periods of five years each as the charter is renewed by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board.
A six month notice is required if Fireweed Academy decides not to renew the lease for any of the additional five year periods. If no such notice is received, lease will automatically renew for the next term.

4. Rent

Lessee shall pay the following monthly amounts for rent during this term:

Lot 1:
Term 1 June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2013 $4,200/month, sales tax exempt

Lot 2:
Term 1 June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2013 $10/month, sales tax exempt

The rent is due by the 1st day of each month, by electronic funds transfer into account designated by Lessor. If the rent is paid after the 5th day of any month, there is an additional $100 late fee due, plus

JK RL

$10 for every day after the 5th until the rent is paid in full.

After the initial three year lease, the monthly rental rate shall be adjusted annually with the June payment based on the average percentage change in inflation over the immediately preceding year as measured by the consumer price index for Anchorage, Alaska. Except, the monthly rent adjustment for the first year of the first renewal will be based on the average Consumer Price Index of the three prior years.

5. Leasehold Improvements.

The premises are being leased to Lessee in 'as in" condition. A premise condition statement accompanies this lease. Lessee shall make leasehold improvements to the property required to meet codes, regulations, and specific needs of the Fireweed Academy Charter School and will include but not be limited to the following improvements. Lessee will pay the contractors directly for the services and materials related to these improvements and provide adequate supervision to ensure that all work is done in a competent manner and meets all code requirements.

Sprinkler system including water line
Manual pull station Fire alarm system
Carpentry to build one ADA compliant bathroom
and two additional stall bathrooms and five
new windows (4'x4' openers) on south end of
building
Plumbing for bathrooms, water fountain, and
art/laundry sink
Electrical as needed for these changes
Drafting fees
Permits and Fire Marshal change of use permit
Miscellaneous construction expenses
(dumpster, toilet, etc.)

Once completed, the above leasehold
improvements become part of the property and
shall revert to Lessor at lease termination.

6. Utilities and Related Services.

Utility and related service accounts shall be in the name of Lessee. Lessee will pay the following expenses: electricity, fuel oil for heating, water and sewer, driveway and parking lot plowing and sanding and salting as needed, sidewalk shoveling, telephone/internet, and refuse removal.

Lessee shall maintain the grounds and landscaping in front of and on the west side of the leased building, including watering and fertilizing as necessary. Lessee will replace any plants, shrubs, or trees which may be damaged by lessee's use of the property.

7. Sublet.

Lessee may not assign this agreement or sublet the subject property without the prior written approval of Lessor.

8. Security Deposit.

Lessee will pay Lessor a security deposit in the amount of $5,000. This security deposit will be returned in full only when:

A. Lessee has fully performed all obligations under this lease agreement;

B. Lessee occupies the premises for the entire term of this lease, unless a sublease or assignment is approved by Lessor;

C. Lessee is current in all rent, late charges, and other fees owed Lessor at the time of the lease termination; and

D. Lessee has cleaned, repaired, and restored the premises to its original condition, except for ordinary wear and tear.

Lessor may deduct from the security deposit the following charges:

A. Repairs for damages to the premises or grounds, except repairs resulting from ordinary wear and tear;

B. Expenses related to replacing locks or keys if Lessee does not provide keys to all locks at the end of the lease;

C. Lease payments, late charges, or other fees still due the Lessor; and

D. Attorney fees and other reasonable charges for costs expended on evicting the Lessee based on an uncured default.

9. Real Property Taxes.

Lessor will be responsible for the payment of all real property taxes and any other assessments assessed against the subject property during the term of this lease.

10. Insurance.

Lessee shall not be required to carry fire, casualty, or property insurance on the facility and has no obligation or liability to indemnify Lessor for any loss, damage, or casualty to the facility, except as provided in paragraph 14. Lessor may provide such insurance as it deems appropriate to protect its interests in the building and property. Lessee shall carry general commercial liability insurance for injury or damage to persons or property arising from its operation of a school on the property. Lessee's insurance will in no way insure Lessor against loss or liability of any type.

11. Lessee's Obligations.

A. To keep the building, grounds, and parking areas clean and in good repair and to generally take good care of the property.

B. To comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and to refrain from using the premises in any manner inconsistent with said laws.

C. To refrain from keeping any inoperable motor vehicles or any part thereof on the subject property.

D. To properly dispose of all rubbish, garbage, and waste in a clean and sanitary manner in reasonable and regular intervals and to assume all costs of extermination and fumigation for infestation caused by Lessee's actions.

E. To properly use, operate and maintain all electrical, heating, plumbing, and any other fixtures and appliances. Lessee will be responsible for minor repairs to these systems. Minor repairs

involve no alteration, construction, or relocation of the building structure and will not exceed $1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) per single occurrence. Repairs required for any single occurrence exceeding $1,000 shall be the responsibility of lessor.

F. To refrain from engaging in any activity which could result in civil liability to Lessor.

G. To maintain to Alaska state requirements the emergency exit signs and emergency lighting and to comply with requirements of the State of Alaska Fire Marshal, as shown by their inspections, if any.

H. To keep the subject property free from any liens and encumbrances resulting from Lessee's actions. Lessee agrees to pay for all work performed on the subject property in a timely fashion and in such a way to keep the subject property free and clear of related liens and encumbrances.

I. To remove snow and ice from sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas and to maintain the grounds in a safe, sanitary, and neat manner.

J. Lessee will maintain proper drainage of all grounds and any changes to established drainage are subject to approval by Lessor before changes are made.

K. Lessee will fence off the fuel tank and keep both fence and tank locked.

12. Lessor's Obligations.

A. Lessor shall provide Lessee occupancy and quiet enjoyment of the subject property during the lease term.

B. Lessor will maintain and repair the roof, exterior walls, and foundation. Major repairs to the heating, plumbing, and electrical systems exceeding $1,000.00 per occurrence shall be the responsibility of the Lessor.

C. Lessor will keep the property free from liens or judgments that would interfere with Lessee's leasehold.

13. Repairs and Improvements.

A. Any alterations to the subject property to accommodate Lessee must be done with Lessor's written consent and will be at the sole expense of Lessee.

B. Routine maintenance, interior painting, and exterior and interior cleaning will be the responsibility of Lessee.

C. Minor repairs as defined in Section 11 (E) are the responsibility of the Lessee. Major repairs as determined by Section 11(E) are the responsibility of the Lessor.

At the termination of the lease, Lessor will have the option of either accepting Lessee's improvements or requiring that Lessee return the premises to the original condition.

14. Damage to the Premises.

Lessee is responsible for any damage to the subject property if this damage was caused by the Lessee, Lessee's employees, students, or any others allowed into the property by the Lessee.

15. Indemnification and Hold Harmless.

A. Lessee agrees to release Lessor, its agents, employees, and representatives and to indemnify and hold such persons and entities harmless from any claims for damages for injury to Lessee, Lessee's employees, students, and any other persons on the subject property with Lessee's permission by reason of any condition of the subject property within the control and responsibility of Lessee, or arising from Lessee's activities conducted on the subject property.

B. Lessor agrees to release Lessee, its agents, employees, and representatives and to indemnify and hold such persons and entities harmless from any claims for damages for injury to Lessor, Lessor's employees, students, and any other persons on the subject property with Lessor's permission by reason of any condition of the subject property within the control and responsibility of Lessor, or arising from Lessor's activities conducted on the subject property.

16. Events Constituting Default.

A. Lessee's right to occupy the property will, at Lessor's discretion and option, cease should Lessee allow any of the following to occur on the subject property:
   1) Failure to comply with any material term of this agreement, including payment of the rent;
   2) Commit waste of the property, beyond normal wear and tear and to fail to cure such waste. Waste occurs when the owner of a possessory estate engages in unreasonable conduct that results in physical damage to the land and substantial diminution in the value of estates owned by others in the same land; and
   3) Abandon the property by permanently leaving the subject property or by allowing any utility to be shut off.

B. In the event of a default, by Lessee, Lessor shall give Lessee written notice of the default and a ten day opportunity in which to cure. If the default is not cured by this deadline, this agreement shall terminate and Lessor may immediately take possession of the subject property. In addition to other damages permitted by law, Lessor may recover future rent due under this agreement, adjusted to account for Lessor's obligation to reasonably mitigate its losses.

C. If Lessor violates any material provision of this agreement the Lessee may give written notice of the violation and of Lessee's intent to terminate the lease. If Lessor fails to correct the violation within ten days after receipt of written notice Lessee may terminate the lease and shall be prorated any rents paid as of the first date of the violation of the lease provision(s) by Lessor.

17. Access.

Lessor and Lessor's agents and employees have the right to enter the subject property for the following purposes:

to inspect the property,
to make necessary repairs, additions, or alternations if appropriate, or
to control emergency situations and to protect the property.

Absent an emergency situation, Lessor may enter the subject property only after giving up to 48 hours' advance notice to Lessee.

18. Destruction or Condemnation of the Leased Property.

In the event the subject property is destroyed or made unusable by fire or natural causes, or is the subject of a condemnation proceeding by any government authority, this agreement will terminate at the option of either party. Lessee will bear the risk of any resulting loss of Lessee's personal property and the loss of right to possession. A pro rata reimbursement of any prepaid rent will be made to account for the early termination of the lease period.

19. Complete Agreement and Applicable Law.

Upon execution, this agreement shall become binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns. This agreement and the documents referred to herein shall be deemed to contain all the terms and conditions agreed upon, it being agreed that there are no outside conditions, representations, warranties, or other agreements, written or oral. Any additions or modifications to this agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties. This agreement will be interpreted according to the laws of the State of Alaska. The prevailing party in any litigation arising under this agreement shall be entitled to its actual, reasonable costs and attorney's fees. The venue of any litigation will be in the Third Judicial District at Homer, State of Alaska.

20. Time.

Time is of the essence for each and every provision in this agreement.

21. Notice.

A. Whenever notice is required in this agreement it shall be in writing and delivered either in person, by prepaid first class mail, or by fax to the following parties, and at the following addresses or fax numbers if mailed or faxed:

David and Trudy Ritchie P.O. Box 939 Homer, AK 99603 Fax: No fax	Fireweed Academy Charter School PO Box 474 Homer, AK 99603 Fax: 907-235-8561	Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Assistant Superintendent Soldotna, AK 99669 Fax: 907-262-5867

B. Courtesy email notice may also be provided, but will not negate the necessity of also providing service as specified in 21 (A) of this lease agreement.

David and Trudy Ritchie warmbrez@xyz.net	Fireweed Academy Charter School kabrahamson@kpbsd.k12.ak.us	KPB School District djones2@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

22. Warranty of signature authority.

Each party to this contract by their signature on this agreement warrants that they have the authority to do so pursuant to state and borough law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Commercial Lease Agreement by and through their duly authorized officers.

FIREWEED ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

By: Christine (Kiki) Abrahamson

Its: Administrator

By: Rachel A. Lingth

Its: President

RITCHIE COMMUNITY PROPERTY TRUST

Ritchie as POA for David Ritchie

David Ritchie

Ritchie

Trudy Ritchie

23. Amendment. This instrument reflects the entire agreement between the parties. There are no other side agreements, understandings or verbal assurances. Any amendment to this instrument shall be in writing and signed by both parties.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss.
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 30 day of April 2010 by Christine (Ali) Abraham, Administrator of Fireweed Academy Charter School .

Notary Public
SHARON KAYE
State of Alaska
My Commission Expires Apr 14, 2014

Notary Public, State of Alaska
My commission expires: 4/14/14

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss.
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 5 day of May 2010 by Rachel Livingston ,President of Fireweed Academy Charter School Academic Policy Committee.

STATE OF ALASKA
NOTARY PUBLIC
R. LYNN MONROE
My Commission Expires Oct. 17, 2012

R. Lynn Monroe
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My commission expires: 10-17-12

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss.
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 7th day of May 2010 by David Ritchie, Trustee of Ritchie Community Property Trust.

DANIEL WESTERBURG NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF ALASKA

Notary Public, State of Alaska
My commission expires: 7/12/11

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss.
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 7th day of May 2010 by Trudy Ritchie, Trustee of Ritchie Community Property Trust.

DANIEL WESTERBURG NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF ALASKA

Notary Public, State of Alaska
My commission expires: 7/12/11

Lease Extension Agreement

This lease extension agreement was created on August 12, 2025 between Ritchie Community Property Trust (herein the Lessor), and Fireweed Academy Charter School (hereinafter the Lessee), for the property located at 813 East End Road in Homer, Alaska 99603, Lot 1 and 2, Carl A. Sholin 1965 Addition, Tract "D" Owens Acres Subdivision, Plat 87-43. Homer Recording District, S.M., Alaska

The agreement certifies that the parties agree to extend the lease agreement for an additional time period of one year starting on June 1, 2025 and ending on May 31, 2026 or when a new lease is agreed upon before that date.

This document binds the lessor and the lessee to the terms and conditions of the original lease. This lease extension agreement, along with the attached original lease, is the entire agreement between both parties.

Lessor

Printed Name DAVID W. RITCHIE Title OWNER

Signature David W. Ritchie Date 08/12/2025

Lessee

Printed Name KYLE DARBONNE Title PRINCIPAL

Signature Date 8/12/25

APPENDIX O: FIREWEED ACADEMY'S WE BELIEVE STATEMENTS

Fireweed Academy

We believe that students learn best through hands-on experience and reflecting on those experiences.

- ✓ We spark curiosity and ignite critical thinking through engaging projects and theme studies.
- ✓ Knowledge is founded on a process of observation, investigation, and collaboration.
- ✓ We seize learning opportunities when they arise; no timeframe is too short!

We believe that music, arts, and creative self-expression nurture strong learners and responsible citizens.

- ✓ The arts are integrated throughout subject areas.
- ✓ Fireweed Frescoes provides group violin instruction to grades K–2, further enriching academic and social learning.
- ✓ Partnerships with local artists and organizations expand opportunities for creative expression, movement, and community connection.

We believe in nurturing a compassionate learning community.

- ✓ Students develop social and academic skills in small classes through cooperative learning, multi-age groups, and mentoring opportunities.
- ✓ Students learn individual responsibility, conflict resolution, and compassion through restorative practices.
- ✓ Celebrating learning is at heart of what we do.

We believe that the natural and cultural community of Kachemak Bay is fertile grounds for learning.

- ✓ Fireweed prioritizes outdoor play, exploration, and discovery beyond school walls.
- ✓ Students build a sense of belonging as they become stewards of our community.
- ✓ Place-based education helps our students learn about themselves, each other, and the world around them.

We believe in building skills for engaged and responsible citizenship.

- ✓ Fireweed helps the whole child grow by fostering leadership, character development and civic responsibility.
- ✓ Social and emotional skills are developed through coaching, modeling, and practice.
- ✓ We teach media literacy and critical thinking skills to help young people navigate a changing world.

We believe developing a mindful and responsible relationship to technology is critical to equip our children for today's world.

- ✓ Our classrooms use screens deliberately and sparingly, particularly in the youngest grades.
- ✓ We emphasize outdoor time and steer our kids toward learning that is direct and hands-on.
- ✓ We foster regular opportunities for families, staff, and educators to engage in dialogue on technology and its effects on our families.
- ✓ We teach our children about internet safety and encourage them to understand the pros and cons and ethics of technology in their lives.

We believe engaged families make for a better school, a better future for our kids and a better community.

- ✓ Volunteering in the classroom, helping with fundraisers and school trips and getting involved with the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the Academic Policy Committee (APC) are all important avenues for engagement.
- ✓ Our goal is to give our kids the best opportunities for success by making our school and community stronger through family involvement.

APPENDIX P: SCHOOL CALENDAR AND DAILY SCHEDULE

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
2026-27 District Wide Calendar

C School Closes	O School Opens
E End of Quarter	CI PT Conference/Inservice
H Legal Holiday	V/M Vacation/Make Up Day
IW Inservice/Work	ER Early Release Day

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3 H	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# of Inservice Days:
# of Student Days:
# of Teacher Days:

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 IW	13 IW	14 IW	15
16	17 IW	18 IW	19 o	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# of Inservice Days: 5
# of Student Days: 9
# of Teacher Days: 14

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 H	8	9	10	11 ER	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

# of Inservice Days: 0
# of Student Days: 21
# of Teacher Days: 22

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 IW/E	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 ER	24
25	26	27	28	29 CI	30 CI	31

# of Inservice Days: 3
# of Student Days: 19
# of Teacher Days: 22

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 ER	21
22	23	24	25	26 H	27 H	28
29	30					

# of Inservice Days: 0
# of Student Days: 19
# of Teacher Days: 21

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 ER	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 V	22 V	23 V	24 V	25 H	26
27	28 V	29 V	30 V	31 V		

# of Inservice Days: 0
# of Student Days: 14
# of Teacher Days: 15

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 H	2
3	4 IW/E	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 ER	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# of Inservice Days: 1
# of Student Days: 19
# of Teacher Days: 21

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5 ER	6
7	8	9	10	11 CI	12 CI	13
14	15 M	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

# of Inservice Days: 2
# of Student Days: 17
# of Teacher Days: 19

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 ER	12 IW/E	13
14	15 V	16 V	17 V	18 V	19 V	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 M	27
28	29	30	31			

# of Inservice Days: 1
# of Student Days: 16
# of Teacher Days: 17

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

# of Inservice Days: 0
# of Student Days: 22
# of Teacher Days: 22

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	7
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 c	21 W	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 H					

# of Inservice Days: 1
# of Student Days: 14
# of Teacher Days: 15

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

# of Inservice Days:
# of Student Days:
# of Teacher Days:

End of Quarter

1st Quarter	41	days
2nd Quarter	41	days
3rd Quarter	45	days
4th Quarter	43	days
	170	days

Approved: (01/09/2023)
Dept of Ed. Approved: 11/14/2025

Teacher First	August 12
Teacher Last	May 21
Student First	August 19
Student Last	May 20

PT Conference/IS Days

Oct 29 & 30
Feb 11 & 12

Inservice Dates

August 12, 13, 14, 17, 18
October 16
Jan 4
March 12
May 21

Legal Holidays & Vacation Days

Independence Day	July 3
Labor Day	September 7
Thanksgiving	November 26-27
Winter Break	Dec 21-Jan 1
Spring Break	March 15-19
Vacation/Make Up Day	Feb 15 & Mar 26
Memorial Day	May 31

Little Fireweed Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-7:50	Bus drop off		Breakfast		
7:50-8:10	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
8:10-9:45	ELA - Skills	ELA - Skills	ELA - Skills	ELA - Skills	ELA - Skills
9:45-10:00	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
10:00-10:30	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
10:30-11:30	Math Block	Math Block	Math Block	Math Block	Math Block
11:30-12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:00-12:30	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
12:30-1	ELA - Knowledge	ELA - Knowledge	ELA - Knowledge	ELA - Knowledge	Field Trips, Celebrations, Community Council, Themes
12:40-1:10	Kinder violin	ELA - Knowledge	Kinder violin	ELA - Knowledge	
1:10-1:40	1st Grade violin	ELA - Knowledge	1st Grade violin	ELA - Knowledge	
1:40-2:10	2nd Grade violin	Specials/Themes	2nd Grade violin	Specials/Themes	
2:25	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

Big Fireweed Schedule

	5th/6th Homeroom	4th/5th Homeroom	3rd/4th Homeroom
8-8:15	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:15-9:15	Block 1 Math 5/6	Block 1 Math 4/5	Block 1 Math 3/4
9:15-9:25	SNACK	SNACK	SNACK
9:30-9:45	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS
9:50-10:20	Block 2 Language Arts 5/6	Block 2 Language Arts 4/5	Block 2 Language Arts 3/4
10:20-11:20	Art 5/6	Language Arts 4/5	Language Arts 3/4
11:20-12:20	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
12:25-1:20	Art 3/4	Language Arts 5/6	Themes 4/5
1:25-1:40	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS
1:45-2:35	Art 4/5	Themes 5/6	Themes 3/4
2:40-2:50	Homeroom/Dismiss	Homeroom/Dismiss	Homeroom Dismiss

APPENDIX Q: EXAMPLES OF CURRICULUM USED

Core Knowledge Language Arts - example taken from Grade 4 Unit 3 - Poetry on Langston Hughes

Activity Page

5.2

Biography

Learning more about a poem's author and subject can sometimes help readers understand the poem more clearly. The "About the Poet" sections of the Poet's Journal provide short biographies of the poets whose work you are reading in this unit.

Read the "About the Poet" section for Langston Hughes, then answer the following questions. You may consult the Poet's Journal and the video from this lesson if you need additional help.

1. In what years did Langston Hughes live?

_____

2. In addition to poetry, what other kinds of literature did Hughes write?

3. What was the main theme of Hughes's poetry?

NOTE TO STUDENT
Did you know? If you are writing about an author you have never met, you should not use their first name! Instead, write formally and either use both the first and last name, as question 1 does above (Langston Hughes), or use only the last name, as the other questions do.

Grade 4 Lesson 5 | Poet's Journal

Activity Page

5.2

4. What is the literal description of Harlem?

5. What connection did Hughes have to Harlem?

enVision Math - example taken from Unit 14 Lesson 7 on Algebra: Generate and Analyze Patterns

Visual Learning A-Z Glossary

Essential Question

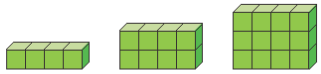
How Can I Look For and Make Use of Structure?

Visual Learning Bridge

A

Alisa made three walls with cubes. She recorded her pattern. If she continues the pattern, how many cubes will be in a 10-layer wall? a 100-layer wall?

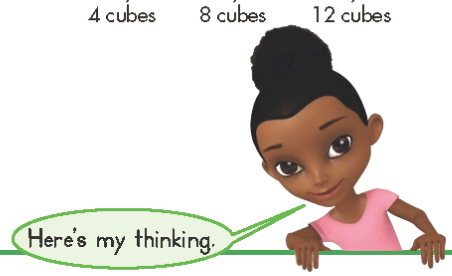
Rule: Each layer has 4 cubes.



1 layer 4 cubes | 2 layers 8 cubes | 3 layers 12 cubes

What do you need to do to find the number of cubes in a 10-layer and 100-layer wall?

I need to continue the pattern using the rule and analyze the pattern to find features not stated in the rule itself.



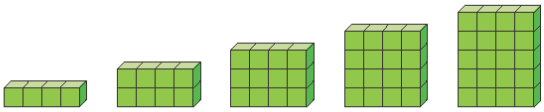
B **How can I make use of structure to solve this problem?**

I can

- look for and describe patterns in three-dimensional shapes.
- use the rule that describes how objects or values in a pattern are related.
- use features of the pattern not stated in the rule to generate or extend the pattern.

C Make a table and look for patterns.

Number of Layers	1	2	3	4	5
Number of Cubes	4	8	12	16	20



1 layer 4 cubes | 2 layers 8 cubes | 3 layers 12 cubes | 4 layers 16 cubes | 5 layers 20 cubes

There are 4 cubes in each layer. Multiply the number of layers by 4 to calculate the number of cubes.

A 10-layer wall contains $10 \times 4 = 40$ cubes.

A 100-layer wall contains $100 \times 4 = 400$ cubes.

Convince Me! **Look for Relationships** How could you use multiples to describe Alisa's pattern?

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Name _____

Practice Tools Assessment

Guided Practice

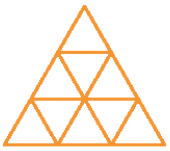
Use Structure

Leah arranged triangular tiles in a pattern like the one shown. She used the rule "Multiply the number of rows by itself to get the number of small triangles." How many small triangles would be in the pattern if there were 10 rows?

1 row
$1 \times 1 = 1$

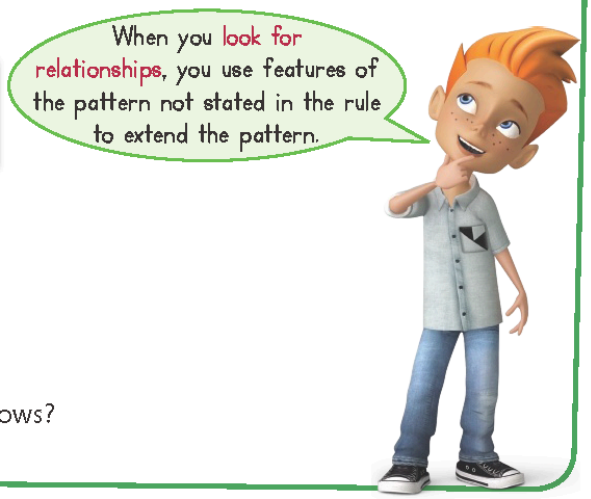
2 rows
$2 \times 2 = 4$

3 rows
$3 \times 3 = 9$



1. Complete the table to help describe the pattern.

Number of Rows	1	2	3	4	5
Number of Small Triangles	1	4	9		



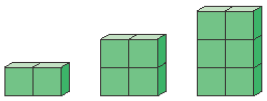
2. Describe the pattern another way.

3. How many triangles would be in 10 rows?

Independent Practice

Look for Relationships

Alan built the towers shown using the rule "Each story has 2 blocks." How many blocks will a 10-story tower have? Use Exercises 4–6 to answer the question.



4. Complete the table to help describe the pattern.

Number of Stories	1	2	3	4	5
Number of Blocks	2	4	6		

5. What is another way to describe the pattern that is not described by the rule?

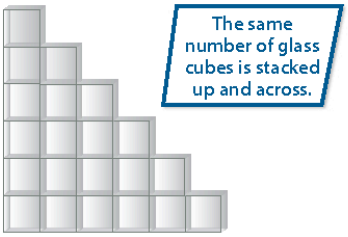
6. How many blocks are in a 10-story tower? Explain.

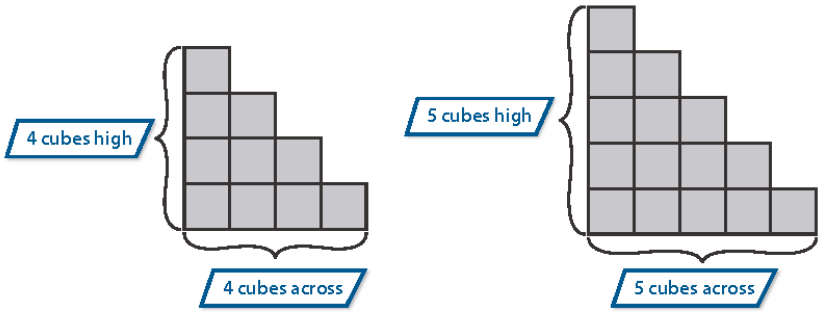
Problem Solving

Performance Task

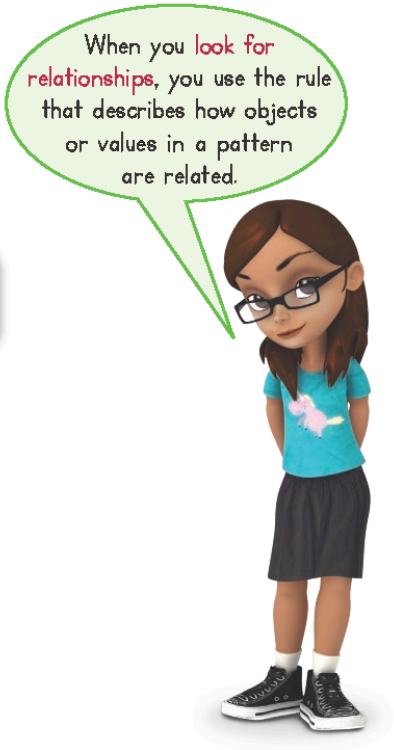
Glass Stairs

An art gallery staircase is built using glass cubes. The diagram below shows 4 steps are 4 cubes high and 4 cubes across. Five steps are 5 cubes high and 5 cubes across. How many glass cubes are used to make 7 steps? Use Exercises 7–10 to answer the question.





7. **Make Sense and Persevere** What do you know, and what do you need to find?



8. **Reasoning** Complete the table.

Cubes Up or Across	2	3	4	5	6
Total Cubes Needed	3	6			

9. **Look For Relationships** What pattern can you determine from the table?

10. **Reasoning** How many cubes are needed for 7 steps? Write and solve an equation.

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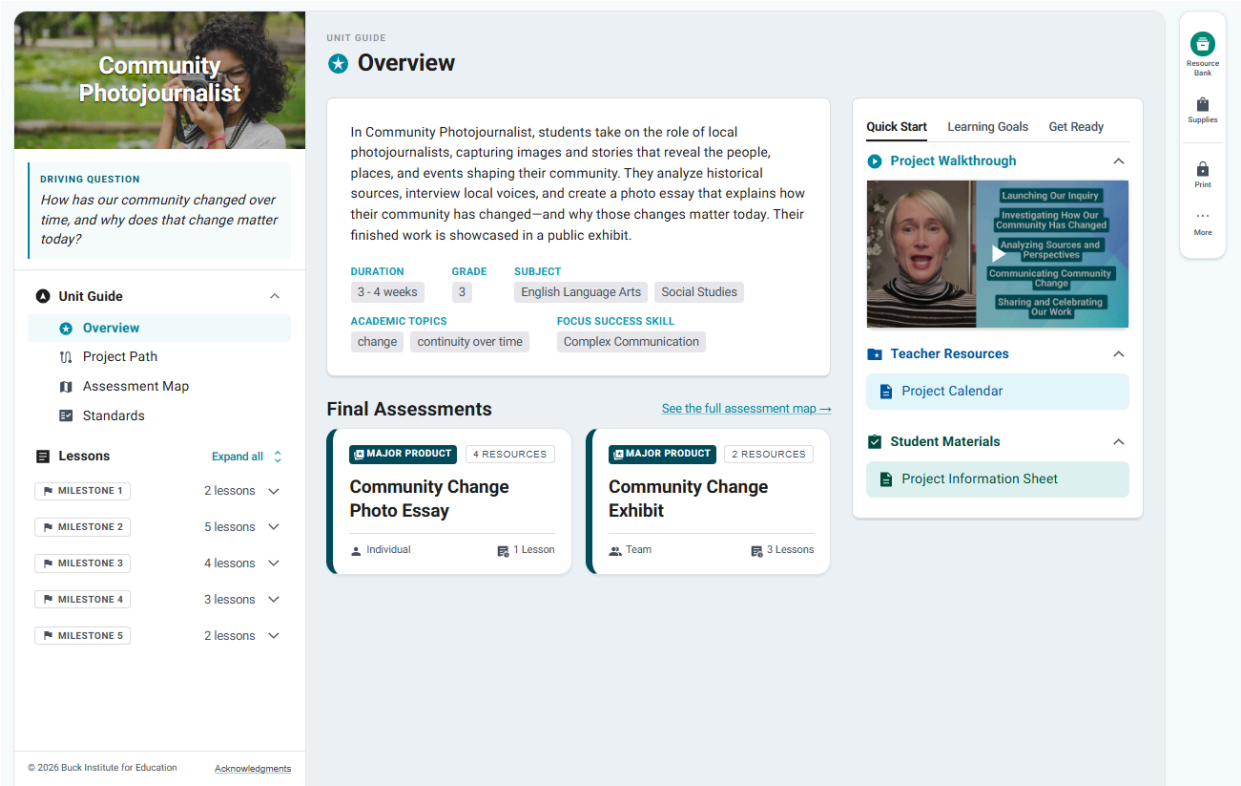
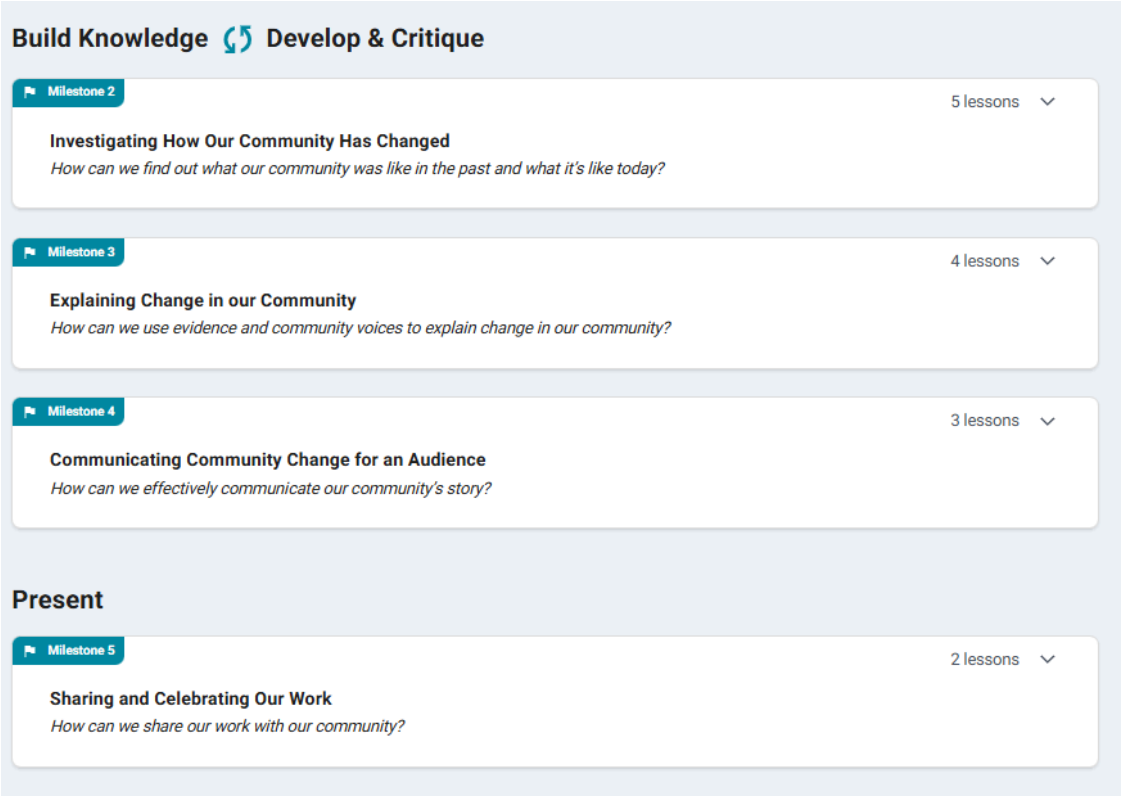
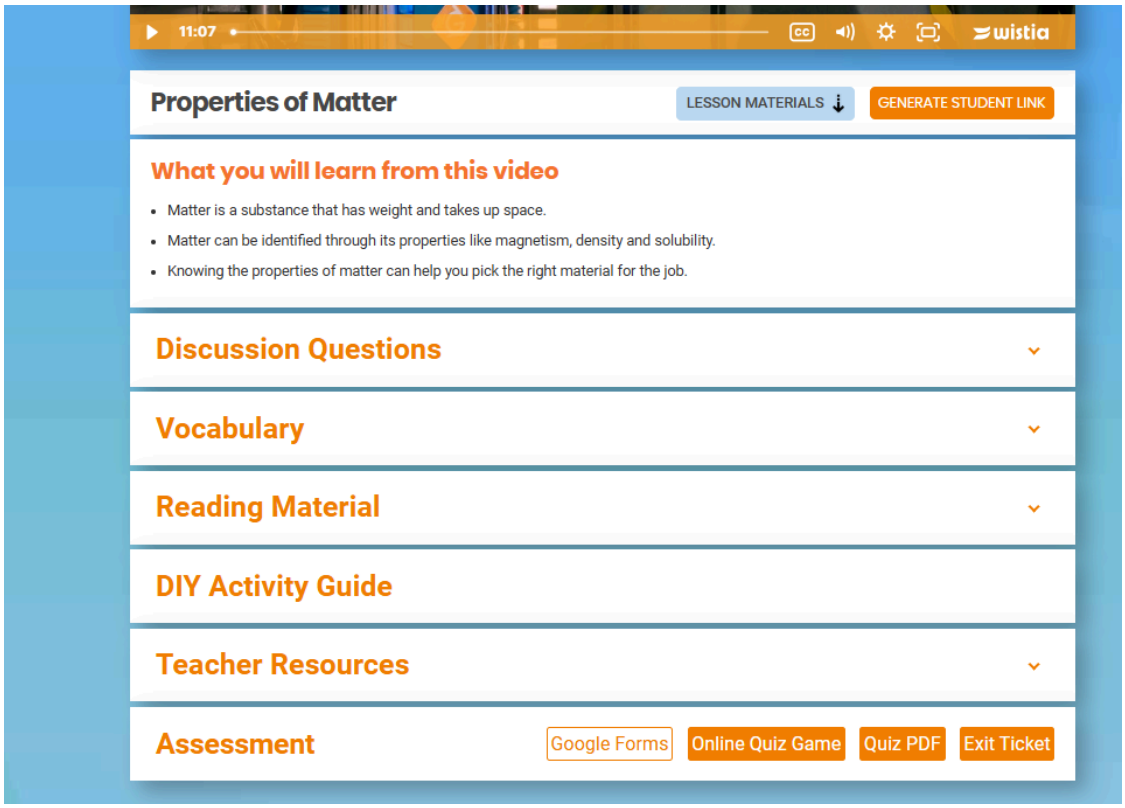
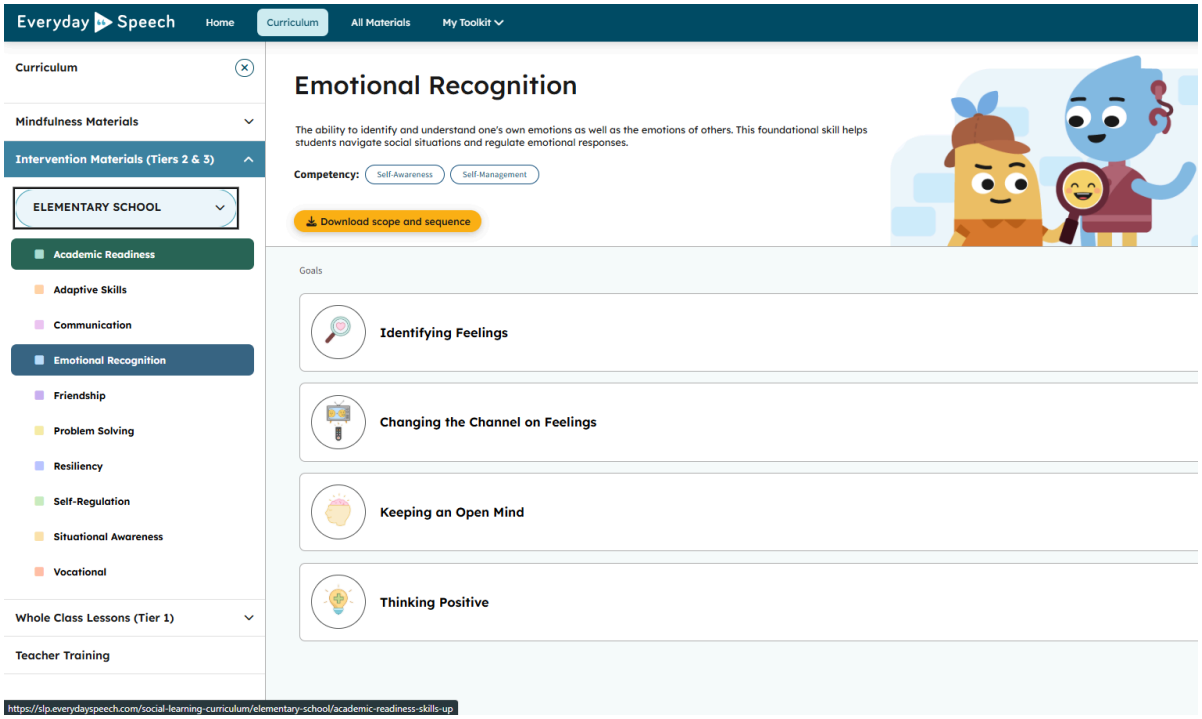
Project Based Learning: PBL TEACH - Example taken from Photojournalism project





Generation Genius - Example taken from Grade 3-5 Science - Properties of Matter



Everyday Speech (SEL) - Example from Elementary Emotional Regulation