

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education Members **DATE:** August, 28, 2026
NUMBER: Worksession #
FR: Office of the Superintendent **SUBJECT:** State & Federal Programs Report

Joy Cogburn-Smith, Director of State & Federal Programs, reports on the following:

State of Alaska Grants

Title Grant Consolidated application, which includes Title I, Title II, Migrant Education, and Title IV, is still in revision, awaiting final allocations and rollover funding. Once those funds are finalized and loaded into the GMS, we will complete the final application and budgets and submit them to the state for approval. All grants were substantially approved as required by June 30th

Grant Management

The FY27 Grants Overview report will be presented at the next board meeting after reallocations and the Alaska Department of Education finalizes carryover amounts, providing a better picture of available funding.

Action Items

Alaska Humanities Forum MOA

Alaska Humanities Forum (AKHF) will continue to facilitate and oversee major components of the New Alaska Native Education Ilisautri Project, including managing the cultural Immersion (Culture Camp/Orientation) for new teachers, 2 gatherings in Kotzebue for C3 educators each year of the grant, and Partnership Meetings. This includes arranging and paying for travel costs associated with these activities. The total cost of these services, including partial salary/benefits for the AKHF C3 Program Director, Manager, and Coordinator, is \$1,028,386.62 for the remainder of the grant program ending 07/31/2027. MOA total includes unspent funding from Years 1 & 2 of the grant.,

Fully funded by grant fund 365 ANE C3 Ilisautri Project

National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) MOA

Year 2 of a five-year partnership with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to deliver comprehensive professional learning, leadership training, and instructional coaching across the district, with a total cost of \$144,000 for FY27

Overview of Services

- Ongoing District Systems Support: On-site and virtual coaching with NIET specialists to implement best practices in instructional excellence, leadership, curriculum alignment, and teacher leadership.
- Strategic Consulting: Development of a district-wide literacy plan with guidance from senior NIET leaders, tailored to district needs.
- Teacher & Leader Training: Sessions on analyzing student work to inform instruction, strengthening school-based instructional leadership teams, and designing effective professional learning structures to support NWABSD's Multi-Tiered System of Supports System (MTSS)
- Embedded School Support: Multi-day, on-site coaching for each school to integrate NIET training into daily teaching and leadership practices.

Funding: Comprehensive State Literacy Grant (CLSD) Fund 305

Redgrave Education LLC Addendum (Crystal Redgrave)

We seek to amend the current MOA to add \$13,000 for additional project work and increased travel costs. Redgrave Education LLC will continue to support coordination and oversee project activities to refine the Inupiaq place-based science curriculum.

Total MOA \$171,000, with a not-to-exceed total of \$188,100 (10% buffer)

Funded by grant fund 360, Indian Education, TIIP Grant Fund 366

Karen McCain of McCain Services Addendum

Karen McCain of McCain Services serves as Project Evaluator for the District's Federal Grants. In addition to finding grant opportunities and helping the district write grant proposals, her duties include evaluating and overseeing existing federal grant projects, entering data, and completing all required Federal Performance Reports. The amended MOA, which includes travel, is for a total of \$213,293.92

Funding: The general fund (\$15,000 for grant writing services) and the remainder are fully funded through grants for her services as an outside evaluator.

Last Fiscal Year, her MOA total was \$220,791.17, with her billing totaling \$121,979.33.

Approval of Addendum to MOA 2026-2027 Aqqaluk Trust

The District issued an initial MOA to Aqqaluk Trust in July. Aqqaluk Trust will collaborate with the school district on project activities related to creating, refining, and organizing Iñupiaq-language and cultural instructional and curricular materials.

The contractor will assist in providing access to Knowledge Bearers, Native Language Speakers and cultural activities that support the use of the Iñupiaq language and traditional practices in schools and classrooms throughout the Northwest Arctic Borough School District.

This action amends the current agreement to a not to exceed total of \$144,750 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Funded by grant fund 366, The Iñupiatun Ilisaqta Project (TIIP)

Approval of Purchase IXL Learning INC

The district seeks to renew IXL All-Access for students in grades PK-12 and the purchase of teacher professional development through June 2028.

IXL is an online personalized learning program that provides standards-aligned practice for students in grades PK–12. The platform adjusts activities to each student's skill level, provides immediate feedback, and gives teachers real-time diagnostic and progress data. Districtwide access will support classroom instruction, intervention, enrichment, and identifying individual learning gaps.

Total purchase: \$72,075

Funding: Title 1 Grant: Fund 262

Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) Purchase of Services

Each school year, middle school students across the district participate in the Middle School Academy through the University of Alaska Anchorage's Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP). The cost includes salaries, benefits, services, airfare, and supplies, totaling \$370,000 for 95 students.

Acceleration Academy for up to 20 students; Acceleration Academy (Full-Time) is a full-day opportunity during the academic year. Students in grades 9 through 12 take free University courses and earn three years of college credits towards any degree by high school graduation. The cost includes tuition and fees for up to 20 students for \$75,000.

ANSEP STEM Ready Academy engages our fifth-grade students with hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) career exploration projects. These sessions are school district-specific. The cost includes salaries, benefits, services, and supplies for up to 30 students for \$30,000.

Funding: Native Youth in Action (NYIA) Fund 354

2026 Educators Rising National Conference Report by James Taylor

The 2026 Educators Rising National Conference was held in Portland, Oregon. Ten students participated in the conference in various capacities, including two students who competed in the middle school division. MacArthur Tickett earned fourth place in Public Speaking, and Honey Savok earned fifth place in Children's Literature Pre-K. Both students showed courage, preparation, and professionalism as they presented independently before panels of judges and answered questions about their speeches and projects.

Schools from 38 states participated in more than 30 competitive categories across the middle school, junior varsity, and high school divisions. Having two students finish among the top five in their respective categories was an outstanding accomplishment, particularly during the district's first year of participation.

Students also attended breakout sessions covering a wide range of educational topics. Sessions included presentations on establishing an Educators Rising chapter and creative approaches to classroom instruction. Students selected sessions based on their interests, allowing them to learn from educators and peers while exploring the many career opportunities available in education.

Conference general sessions featured guest speakers and two keynote presentations focused on the speakers' professional journeys and passion for teaching. Students also had opportunities to meet and network with participants from across the country. These experiences broadened their perspectives and strengthened their enthusiasm for future participation.

While in Portland, students explored the city and experienced shops, restaurants, and cultural opportunities not available in their home communities. This exposure was an important part of the trip, helping students expand their understanding of the world beyond their villages.

Overall, the Educators Rising trip was a resounding success. The students' strong competitive results established an impressive benchmark and a solid foundation for the program's future. More importantly, the conference helped students recognize that careers in education can be both rewarding and fulfilling. We look forward to expanding participation, supporting continued student growth, and encouraging these students to become future colleagues and leaders in education.