

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: August 28, 2026

NUMBER:

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report

Attendance – Attendance information will be provided as updated data becomes available.

Enrollment – as of August 22, 2026. Pre-K–12 enrollment is currently 1,871 students, with K–12 enrollment at 1,801 students. This reflects an increase of 85 K–12 students since the June report, when Pre-K–12 enrollment was 1,828 and K–12 enrollment was 1,716. Enrollment will continue to fluctuate during the opening weeks of the school year as families finalize registration and student counts stabilize.

Introducing new leadership – The district is welcoming three new principals this year in Kotzebue, long term substitute, Kerry Saylors; in Kivalina, Daniel Grimes; and in Ambler, Aimee Webb. Jeremy Millard has signed on to serve as the Kotzebue principal and will arrive September 28, 2026 to fill this role.

I would also like to welcome Aeriale Johnson, Director of Curriculum; Savio Dias, Director of Technology; and Donavon Watkins, Director of Property Services. Two of these Directors are not new to NWABSD and bring valuable institutional knowledge and experience to their roles. We are fortunate to have a team committed to serving our students, staff, and communities.

Fall Staff In-Service will be held September 8-11, 2026 – The agenda includes mandatory staff trainings and focused professional learning to support implementation of the district's core curriculum. In addition to strengthening instructional alignment across schools, this year's priority is to build positive relationships with students, families, and communities and incorporate local knowledge, culture, and experiences into classroom instruction. These efforts support more meaningful, relevant, and engaging learning experiences for students while advancing the district's academic achievement goals.

Travel Report - Iqaluit, Nunavut Canada. The Alaska Delegation members of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) invited me as a guest speaker to present on our District's Cultural Language, Immersion and Curriculum Initiatives. Please enjoy the short video below of the presentation.

ERATE – The Federal government is looking to drastically reduce funding to the Erate program. The district wrote a letter to our federal delegates to protect and strengthen the E-Rate program because it is essential to maintaining affordable, reliable internet access and network infrastructure for the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. The letter emphasizes that reducing E-Rate funding would shift significant costs to local taxpayers and could force difficult tradeoffs that affect staffing, instructional programs, and student services, especially in rural and low-income communities. The summary also notes that E-Rate supports the secure infrastructure needed for student safety tools, filtering, monitoring, and cybersecurity protections. Overall, the district supports reasonable child-safety measures but asks that federal requirements for Erate remain practical, funded, privacy-conscious, and respectful of local decision-making.

NWALT – NWALT met July 16, 2026 on a number of topics. In education, an update was given on the Washington DC lobbying trip. We continue to focus on the changes needed with the Breakfast and lunch Program and Impact Aide.

Breakfast and lunch program – The district has asked USDA to clarify whether its authority for setting reimbursement rates in outlying areas could allow differentiated rates within Alaska based on regional transportation and delivery costs. The request also seeks information on USDA's timeline and process for reviewing the data, including opportunities for consultation with Alaska school districts and conducting a cost differential survey on Alaska communities. Requests for support in this issue has been sent to Federal delegation staff.

Impact aide – We are still working to determine which lots qualify to determine how we want to move forward with suggested changes to the Impact aide qualifications.

Quyaanna,

Terri Walker, Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education

DATE: August 28, 2026

NUMBER: 27-005

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of
Superintendent Travel

ABSTRACT:

Superintendent's out-of-district travel requires Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the Superintendent's request for out-of-district travel as presented.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

Personal Days September 8 – 18, 2026. (Not district funded)

National Indian Education Association annual conference October 7-10, 2026 at Buffalo, New York
Each year, this gathering brings together Native educators, students, Tribal leaders, and advocates from across the country to connect, learn, and move Native education forward together. The 2026 theme, "Strength in Community: Building the Future Together," reflects the collective responsibility we carry to support one another, uplift our students, and shape education systems that honor sovereignty, language, and identity.

AASB 73rd Annual Conference November 5-8, 2026 at Anchorage

As the state's largest gathering of education policymakers, this conference provides school board members with a valuable opportunity to learn from their peers, engage with education experts, and strengthen collaboration within their board-superintendent teams. Sessions are designed to equip school boards with content knowledge, practical tips, and tools to energize them, inspire change, and advance student achievement.

FUNDING SOURCE:

General Funds: budgeted for FY27; Grants

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Superintendent's request for out-of-district travel as presented.
2. Do not approve the Superintendent's request for out-of-district travel as presented.
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the Superintendent's request for out-of-district travel as presented.