

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education Members

Date: September 29, 2026

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Alaska Technical Center
& STAR of the NW

Joe Groves, Director of ATC/STAR, reports on the following:

ATC Short Course Update

Currently, 46 individuals have applied and been accepted into the Heavy Equipment Operator, CDL, Toyo Repair, Boiler Repair, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, and Hair Cut, Color & Style programs. The first short courses will begin the week of September 28, with Heavy Equipment Operator and Hair Cut, Color & Style being the first courses offered, followed by Toyo Repair and Coast Guard 6-Pack certification.

Additionally, 21 individuals have taken and passed their driver's license road test, administered by ATC staff. Of those who passed, 17 were adults, and 4 are current high school students.

We would also like to recognize Norma Jones and her daughter, Josephine Ballot! Norma chaperoned Josephine into Kotzebue so she could take her GED test. Norma returned home with her driver's license, while Josephine returned as a GED graduate! Congratulations to both of you on these wonderful accomplishments! We are proud to celebrate your hard work and success.



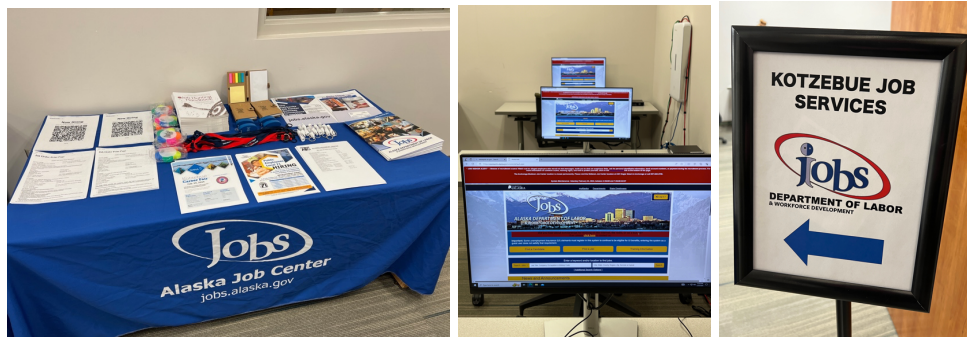
ATC High School Schedule

There are 44 High School students taking Culinary Arts, Design & Fabrication, Business Software, and Construction Trades Technology. The Construction Trades Technology gave the coffee shop a facelift with a new counter and backsplash. Below is a picture of the crew.



Alaska Job Center

The Kotzebue satellite office of the Alaska Job Center is open during the last week of each month. The next scheduled date is September 28th.



STAR of the Northwest Magnet School:

We have 14 full-time STAR students in the dorms. Students are from Kobuk, Noorvik, Kiana, Deering, Buckland, Fairbanks, and Anchorage.

Highlights from STAR:

- Several students are active in district leadership
- Students continue to receive regular physical and mental healthcare
- Students have a scheduled open gym at KMHS and JNES during the week

- Regular weekly activities include Roller-skating, Volleyball, Weight Room, and Basketball
- Other weekly activities include Smoothie making, Spa Day (nails, homemade facial scrubs, lotions, etc.), baking food, and movie nights.
- Bi-Monthly after-school socials with games and special snacks
- Pumpkin Carving contest upcoming
- Fall Berry Picking
- Native Food Processing and Meal Prep
- A Monthly Newsletter is distributed to Parents and Students to keep everyone updated



26-27 RediSTAR Schedule:



2026-2027 SCHEDULE



September 15-25, 2026	ORV/IAN RS1
September 29-Oct 8, 2026	WLK RS1
October 13-24, 2026	KVL/WTk RS1
October 21-24, 2026	NWABSD EXPLORATORY READISTAR
November 3-12, 2026	BKC/DRG RS1
December 1-11	ABL/SHG/OBU RS1
RediSTAR Semester 2	RediSTAR Semester 2
January 18-27, 2027	WLK RS2
February 2-11, 2027	ORV/IAN RS2
February 16-25, 2027	WTK/KVL RS2
March 2-11, 2027	BKC RS2
March 30-April 8, 2027	DRG RS2
April 20-29, 2027	ABL/SHG/OBU RS2

Hewlett Foundation Grant

The Northwest Arctic Borough School District received a two-year, \$400,000 grant to support workforce development in renewable energy. A battery storage training unit is expected to arrive on the last barge, while curriculum development is also underway. The district plans to offer its first renewable energy training class in spring 2027.

ATC Advisory Partners Committee

ATC will host an Advisory Partner Committee Meeting in October. Currently, 20 individuals will be invited to represent the following organizations: NWABSD, Ambler Metals, Aqqaluk Trust, NANA Construction, NWAB, Maniilaq, NMS, NANA, Teck, NIT, and the City of Kotzebue.

The meeting will give Alaska Technical Center and industry partners an opportunity to come together, share updates, discuss workforce needs, and strengthen partnerships that support training and employment opportunities across the region.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Ilisautri Grant
September Update

HIGHLIGHTS

Participants in Education Preparation Programs

- **37 current participants**
 - 7 community members
 - 12 NWABSD staff
 - 18 students this year (Dual Credit)
 - 9 communities

Tuition Reimbursement/Stipend

- **12 current recipients**
- 3 graduated
 - 2 employed with NWABSD
- 2 new students enrolled for fall

Apprenticeships

- **5 current apprentices** - Arctic Resource Community Foundation.
- 2 apprentices received OEC

Dual Credit Class

- WRTG-111
 - Students from Kivalina, Kiana, Noorvik, Selawik, Kotzebue, Homeschool, ANSEP (18 total)
- MATH068 - virtual
- EDEC105 - UAA virtual

Educators Rising

- Currently selecting Teacher Leaders to recruit students and begin another year of preparation!



GED Program at ATC

School Year 2026-27

Enrollment in 2026-27

- 24 students are enrolled in the GED program.
 - 14 are in the Reading for the GED course to build up their reading skills.
 - 10 are fast-tracked to tutoring and testing.
- 2 GED graduates have enrolled in ATC training programs.
- 25 individuals have requested information about the GED program but haven't signed up yet.

Village Outreach

- A site visit was held in Deering on August 19th. Two students attended.
- A site visit was held in Ambler September 8-9. Two students attended.
- A site visit will be held in Noatak on October 5th.
- Students are located in Deering, Noatak, Ambler, Selawik, Shungnak, Kivalina and Buckland.

For the first time we have more village students than Kotzebue students!

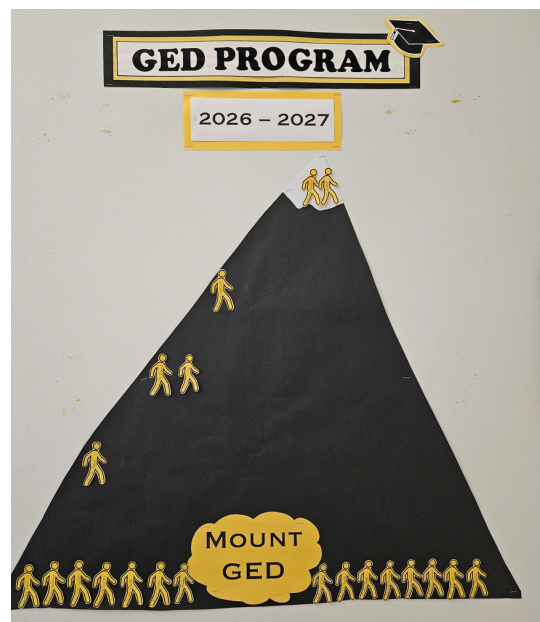


Josephine Ballot passed her GED tests in just three days!

GED Graduates of 2026-27

Josephine Ballot of Selawik
Joseph Ballot of Selawik

more to come!



Mount GED student display outside the GED classroom.