

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: June 23, 2026

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Deborah Lancaster, Director of Curriculum and Instruction reports on the following:

Professional Development

In response to the professional development needs identified by principals, a variety of support options were provided to educators on April 6. Teachers were given an update regarding behavior expectations aligned with the *Safe and Civil Foundations* framework. In addition, each department participated in professional development planning sessions focused on next year's instructional priorities.

NIET facilitated instructional professional development for all schools during the spring. DEED literacy representatives also assisted schools in reflecting on current IRIP implementation and in establishing instructional goals for the upcoming school year. Recommendations for improvement, based on feedback and observations from the training process, have been incorporated into future planning efforts. Approximately 50 NWABSD educators attended the Alaska Science of Reading Symposium held May 1–3.

Student Learning

Two schools agreed to pilot the new UAF Energy unit in science next year. Several members of the 13-student cohort will also complete summer coursework while attending the Educators Rising National Conference in Portland this summer.

Iñupiaq Science Curriculum Task Force Team

The Curriculum Department collaborated with the Iñupiaq Programs Department Director and Task Force Project Lead, Dr. Crystal Redgrave, on the continued development of the Iñupiaq Science Curriculum. Four science teachers met May 4–5 to work on seasonal lesson development. In addition, three to four schools will pilot the Iñupiaq Physical Science course during the upcoming school year.

Resources

Instructional materials and subscriptions were ordered from Northwest Book Depository (NWBD) in April and are scheduled to arrive by barge in late July or early August. Orders will be packaged by NWBD according to individual campus needs to support efficient transfer from the barge to the airline. Pending normal travel and transfer schedules, materials are expected to arrive on campuses prior to the start of the school year. Subsequent smaller orders were placed this month and should arrive well before the beginning of school.