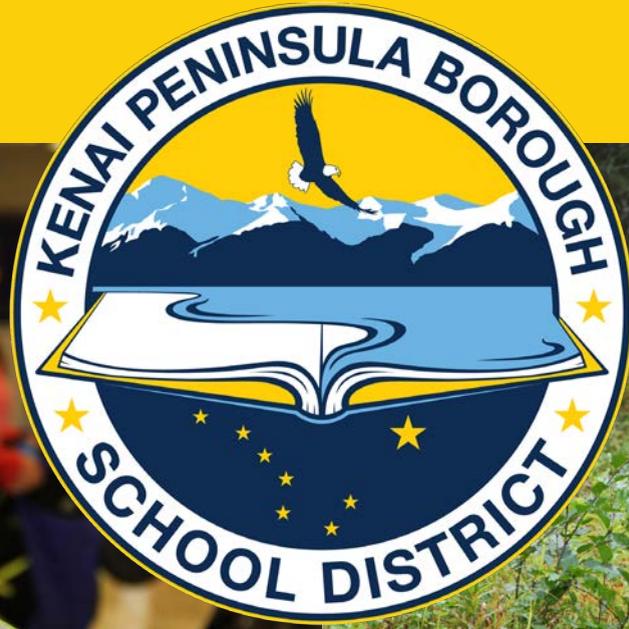


2014

2015



ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Deliver relevant, rigorous, standards-based curriculum in conjunction with alternative pathways and a flexible approach to ensure that every KPBSD student stays engaged, reaches high levels of achievement, and graduates.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Evolve KPBSD as a highly reliable, world-class organization that fosters a culture of innovation, attracts and retains the best-of-the-best employees, and supports an infrastructure that promotes a fluid academic environment.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

All KPBSD schools reach out to parents and communities to promote shared value and responsibility for the process of education.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision KPBSD students who engage in their learning, participate in their community, reach high levels of achievement, and graduate prepared for their future.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE FROM FY15

This past year, we continued our efforts to increase student achievement through collaboration, and increase student engagement through effective instructional practices. Our staff continues to devote time to analyze student data and make appropriate instructional adjustments to meet the personalized needs of every student.

Collaborative efforts have allowed us to focus on key areas within our instructional model. We continue to build internal capacity to help students develop into life-long learners. KPBSD is committed to assist staff to improve their skills as we all work together to prepare thousands of young people for their future.

We have already seen a graduation rate increase and anticipate continuous improvement in other student achievement areas. A comprehensive report of district assessment results will be released to the school board in September as part of the annual Assessment Report.





AVERAGE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH KPBSD

Teachers **10 YEARS**
 Support staff **9 YEARS**



STAFFING RATIOS Type of School and Pupil-Teacher Ratio

20.5:1 Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students: **KINDERGARTEN**

22.5:1 Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students: **GRADES 1-3**

24.5:1 Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students: **GRADES 4-6**

24.5:1 MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

17.5:1 Small schools with less than 200 enrolled students: **GRADES K-6**



HOMELESS

On May 20, 2015, **246** KPBSD students were identified as homeless and receiving services through our Students In Transition program.



STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Every school day, more than **2,325** students are transported a total of nearly **7,728** miles on school buses throughout the district.



STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES (SNS)

During 2014-2015 SNS served:

Lunches **518,764**
 Breakfasts **179,502**
 After School Snacks **1,140**
 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snacks **133,980**
 Total meals and snacks served **833,386**



2014-2015 ENROLLMENT

Preschool **197**
 Kindergarten-6th grades **4,732**
 7th-8th grades **1,332**
 9th-12th grades **2,713**
 Total actual enrollment for 2014-2015 school year **8,974**



DISTRICT SIZE

The school district has a total of **44** schools and at **25,600** square miles covers a land area roughly the size of West Virginia.



PERSONNEL

District administration **20**
 Building administration **44**
 Certified staff **673**
 Support staff **501**
 Total **1,238**



ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP (APS)

Two hundred students in the Class of 2015 qualified for one or both of the APS awards which helps fund college or career training in Alaska!

166 COLLEGIATE AWARDS

76 at Level 1 (\$4755 per year)
 53 at Level 2 (\$3566 per year)
 37 at Level 3 (\$2378 per year)

200 CAREER AWARDS

138 at Level 1 (\$4755 per year)
 44 at Level 2 (\$3566 per year)
 18 at Level 3 (\$2378 per year)



<http://bit.ly/AlaskaPerformanceScholarships>



MESSAGE FROM SEAN DUSEK SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

We are pleased to present KPBSD's 2014-2015 Annual Report. This publication is our opportunity to step back and review accomplishments and highlights, celebrate areas of excellence including students, staff and graduates, and share what we are planning for the new school year.

As this report indicates, we are committed to meet the learning needs of all students. This is at the heart of what we do. Each school day more than 1,000 dedicated employees work hard to meet this challenge. While our district and schools have made good progress, we believe in continuous improvement. We must do all that we can to ensure that a student's ethnicity, disability, language proficiency, or economic status does not predict his or her academic performance. Additionally, we will offer continual opportunities for all of our students through Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, distance-delivery options, and enrichment opportunities. As a way to do this, we will continue to work hard to improve instruction that is driven by the need to prepare our students for their future.

We strive to expand our culture of continuous improvement, and we will work to sustain effective partnerships that include strong family and community involvement. Together we can help every student take another step toward graduation.

I am honored to serve as KPBSD's superintendent and look forward to working with you in the coming year to do all that we can to make our students' experience at school as good as it can be.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)

In an effort to tell the whole story on school performance, our district adopted several indicators to monitor. These variables are research based components we use to measure success. The key points of measurement from grades three to twelve will allow us to move beyond the dependence to simply share test scores; we will be able to more comprehensively summarize our progress. A snapshot of the district will include measuring our students' social and emotional well-being that is, of course, such a critical piece of students having a positive school experience.

KPBSD KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Proficient in reading and math at the end of third grade
- Proficient in reading and math at the end of fifth grade
- Strong social and emotional well-being at the end of fifth grade
- Percent of eighth grade students taking algebra I
- Percent of students finishing ninth grade with six credits
- Strong social and emotional well-being at the end of tenth grade
- Percent of seniors qualifying for APS
- Percent of graduates with at least one of the following: college credit, AP class with three or higher on end of course exam, industry certification

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

Our district is working to gather stakeholder input on a variety of programs and district direction. These committees include more than one hundred of our staff as members. We are proud that so many of our teachers have put in the time to make a direct contribution to the district's instructional model and accountability system. We utilize staff voice in regards to teacher evaluation, professional development, curriculum development, standards reporting, technology integration, and many other aspects of district operations. By having so many teachers and support staff involved with decision making, the district has a complete picture of what will work in our schools and how to provide support in our efforts to improve.



<http://bit.ly/committeesKPBSD>



MESSAGE FROM JOE ARNESS PRESIDENT, KPBSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Once again, the school district finds itself closing out a successful school and fiscal year while looking forward to the next one. This past year we were fortunate enough to have executed a search for a new Superintendent of Schools and have established Mr. Dusek as our primary administrator for the foreseeable future. As we all now know, the State of Alaska has been experiencing serious financial setbacks which have, and assumingly will continue to, negatively impact our operations. We are sincerely dedicated to anticipating what those issues will mean to our district and will plan accordingly in order to minimize the negative impacts upon our students.

As the vast majority of our staff takes a well-earned breather this summer to prepare for next fall, the district continues to prepare for the first day of what should be an exciting and productive new school year!



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

July 6, 2015	April 4, 2016
August 3, 2015	May 2, 2016 (Seward)
September 8, 2015	June 6, 2016
October 5, 2015	June 7, 2016 (Board Planning Session)
November 2, 2015	
December 7, 2015	
January 11, 2016	
February 1, 2016	
March 7, 2016	
March 21, 2016	

In addition to the business meetings listed above, the Board will hold quarterly worksessions (dates to be determined.)

KPBSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Joe Arness, *President*, [District 3, Nikiski](#)
- Marty Anderson, [District 5, Sterling/Funny River](#)
- Dan Castimore, *Treasurer*, [District 1, Kalifornsky](#)
- Liz Downing, [District 8, Homer](#)
- Sunni Hilts, *Vice President*, [District 9, South Peninsula](#)
- Lynn Hohl, [District 6, Seward/East Peninsula](#)
- Bill Holt, [District 7, Kasilof/Central](#)
- Tim Navarre, [District 2, Kenai](#)
- Penny Vadla, *Clerk*, [District 4, Soldotna](#)
- Maria Kulikov, *Student Representative*



GOALS 2015-2016

FUNDING PUBLIC EDUCATION

Develop strategies to respond to economic realities

PROMOTE A SHARED VALUE AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROCESS OF EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

KALEIDOSCOPE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE STUDENTS PLAY WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION





PREPARING OUR KIDS FOR THEIR FUTURE

STUDENT GROWTH MAP (SGM) PILOT

A team of over 100 teachers and administrators piloted a tool for measuring an educator's impact on student learning called Student Growth Maps. SGMs engage educators to use assessments of student learning that are closely related to the content or skills teachers are teaching, and that show the growth students make from the start to the end of a school year, course, or unit of instruction. While including student growth as a part of educator evaluations is required by the State of Alaska beginning in 2016, the KPBSD is working to develop tools to meet the requirement that are also meaningful for students and teachers.

STUDENTS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL (CTE) CLASSES HAVE HIGHER GRADUATION RATES!

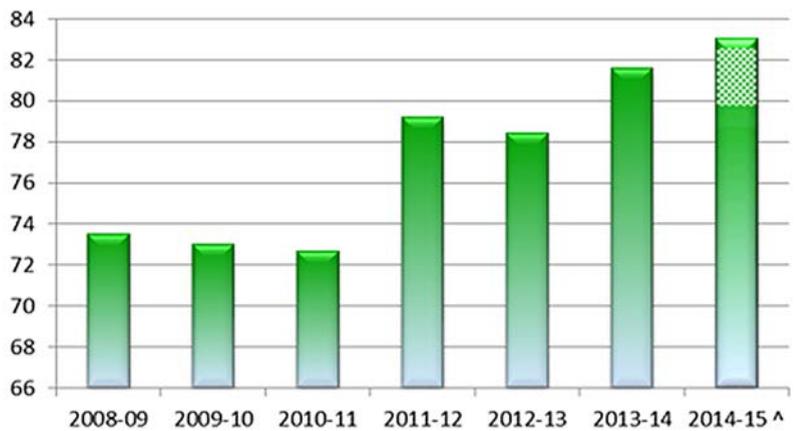
Statistics from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) show that during the 2014-2015 school year KPBSD students who took four or more semester CTE credits achieved a 95 percent graduation rate. Students who did not take a CTE class had a graduation rate of 79 percent. These figures quantify what many CTE advocates have been promoting for years:

- Student involvement in CTE courses increases high school graduation
- Students receive valuable Technical Skills Assessments (TSA) that increase opportunities for success after high school. TSAs include: Food Worker cards; National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certificates; Hazwoper 40 training; Cook Inlet Training Standards (CITS) certifications; CPR-First Aid certificates; Certified Nursing Assistant certificates; Personal Care Assistant certificates; Emergency Trauma Technician certificates; and Pharmacy Technician certifications.



<http://bit.ly/CTEclasses>

KPBSD Graduation Rate 2009-2015



^ Preliminary data



DIGITAL LEARNING ON THE KENAI

KPBSD is progressing on many fronts toward increasing digital learning opportunities for students. For several years, the distance learning program has offered a variety of classes including all core academic classes and several electives. During the 2014-2015 school year, approximately one-fourth of the district's high school students were enrolled in at least one online class with the distance learning program.

In the spring of 2014, KPBSD was awarded a three-year Digital Teaching Initiative (DTi) grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED). The primary grant goal is to expand digital learning opportunities for KPBSD students, and students in our partner districts of Cordova and Bristol Bay. The Kenai Quality Blended Learning Initiative focused on three primary strategies:

- Strengthen the district's video conferencing infrastructure
- Support the distance learning program efforts to improve and grow
- Focus on building teachers' capacity to use blended learning techniques in the classroom

In this first year of the grant a cohort of 15 teachers received professional development on topics such as desktop video creation and publishing, flipped classroom strategies, and other educational technology issues. All members of the cohort attended the Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) conference which is the largest educational technology professional development event in Alaska. Grant funding also made it possible for some members of the cohort, along with a few administrators and online teachers, to attend the iNACOL Blended and Online Learning Symposium. This conference focuses on the latest national and international ideas, practices, and trends in the field of online and blended learning. KPBSD continues to innovate and is committed to provide increased learning opportunities for our students.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

"I'm glad I skipped the gym today, said no one ever!" is a common attitude at Skyview Middle School, which became the first middle school in the state to implement district curriculum through the use of the CrossFit Kids program.

CrossFit Kids is a method for teaching CrossFit to students based on the principle of mechanics, consistency, and intensity. Consistent good mechanics translates to physical literacy, enhanced sports performance, and fewer sports injuries. A vast body of research indicates that exercise is beneficial to cognitive function, which means the program can have a positive impact on children's academic achievement. Most students complete a workout with either bodyweight or fifteen pounds of weight, and focus on form. The most weight even the strongest student will lift is the equivalent of a bag of dog food. The beauty of CrossFit Kids is every workout is scalable to the ability of the individual student, allowing all students to be successful. Students reflect:

"I love this class and it has helped me develop my inner strength. I can do things now that I thought I would never get to accomplish."

"I absolutely love CrossFit. It has helped me to gain some weight and muscle and it's so much easier to carry all of those textbooks up the stairs now. I used to hate gym as a seventh grader because it made me feel uncomfortable, socially awkward, and I thought it to be boring. I have a lot more confidence than I used to because of it."

"This year, I ran a full mile without stopping in 11 minutes. That may seem pretty slow for some people, but for me, that's really fast. If I didn't do the CrossFit class, I probably wouldn't exercise much at all because to tell the truth, I'm lazy."

ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM (ANSEP)

Partnering with the University of Alaska ANSEP program for the first time this year, we recruited qualified students from 27 of our schools to attend the ANSEP Middle School Academy. Of the 1,014 identified native students in the district, 245 attend middle school (6-8 grade), with 143 of the students meeting the requirement of being on track for success in grade 8 algebra.



KPBSD sent 48 students and eight chaperones to the 10 day Middle School Academy. Students experienced high quality, upper level science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) problem-solving activities taught by college staff while on the University of Alaska campus. KPBSD is committed to continue this recruitment effort in 2015-2016. Successful academy completers are not allowed to participate in future academies that occur during the school year but are invited to apply for ANSEP's follow-up summer academy. Twenty-two of the 48 students followed the complicated application process and were accepted to the 2015 summer academy for continued guidance and learning.







EARLY RELEASE DAYS FOR STUDENTS, MAXIMUM DAY FOR TEACHERS

For the second year, we implemented six high quality professional development (PD) opportunities for teachers through a student early release program. The focus for many of these opportunities was to review student data. Teachers spent time reviewing the data, planning interventions and enrichment opportunities for students, and developing lessons to address fundamental shifts in instruction to meet the personalized needs of our students. Many teachers viewed this time as productive and beneficial. As we continue with this PD time, schools will work together electronically to expand best practices implementation and meet the needs of all our students.



<http://bit.ly/KPBSDEarlyRelease>

ALASKA MEASURES OF PROGRESS (AMP)

More testing is now happening online. Five years ago the WorkKeys career assessment, required for all eleventh grade students, shifted online and away from a paper and pencil test. In the spring, Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) launched online and replaces the familiar paper-pencil Standard Based Assessment (SBA). AMP is a new assessment to meet federal requirements in math and language arts, and is given to students in grades three through 10. AMP does not collect any new information, and no individual student data or group data for groups smaller than five is reported. Sensitive information such as physical addresses, mailing addresses or social security numbers are not collected by the Department of Education, and never have been. Student data is not provided to private parties. All data is protected under FERPA, which is the federal law that governs student data and what can be collected and reported.

The AMP is designed to be a comprehensive system of assessment. Testlets are being built as short eight to 10 question quizzes (formative assessments) targeting specific content

standards that students should learn by grade level throughout the year. These can be given throughout the year to determine which students know the standards, which do not, and allow teachers to review the results without spending precious time grading because the test is online.

Moving forward into the 21st century, English Language Learner (ELL) testing and the ACT will begin online in 2015-2016, and in 2016-2017 the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will move online.

KPBSD statistics reveal that during the FY15 school year, 190 students are on track to receive college credit in 295 courses through the JumpStart program. College credits earned through the Tech Prep program during the FY14 school year totaled 286 credits by 108 students. College and Career Ready Assessments were taken by 761 KPBSD students with 422 students choosing to take the ACT or SAT and 339 choosing to take the WorkKeys assessment. Student eligibility for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) reached its highest level during the FY14 school year with 33.6 percent of graduates qualifying for an award.

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS (FASD)

FASD is an issue that impacts all of Alaska. In a bold move to significantly change the lives of those affected by FASD and to prevent future students from being impacted by FASD, KPBSD has taken the courageous step of addressing the challenge of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. In the course of the last three years KPBSD has formed a parent support group in Homer and Soldotna, trained over 400 staff members to recognize and understand the impact of FASD, trained district health teachers on the impact of FASD, and formed a FASD think tank tasked with developing a systematic capacity to address FASD. Through continued efforts like this, KPBSD continues to make the Kenai Peninsula the healthiest place to live and learn in all of Alaska.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN (PRE-K) CLASSES

Title I funds are provided on an annual basis by the federal government to qualifying districts in order to ensure that eligible children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. There are multiple ways that Title I funds can support that goal. KPBSD uses Title I funds to provide targeted assistance Pre-K programs, recognizing early intervention is the best way to promote success for children who are at risk of struggling in school. During the 2014-2015 school year, approximately 160 children were enrolled in Pre-K programs at 10 sites serving nine separate communities.

Increasing the likelihood of later success, the focus of the KPBSD Pre-K program is to provide an enriched and positive environment with the goal of preparing four year olds for kindergarten. Fine motor skills, gross motor skills, self-help skills, social skills, transitioning, attending to tasks, and being persistent when faced with a challenge are just a few of the critical skills assessed and addressed through activities in the Pre-K program. In the fall of 2014, only 19 percent of enrolled Title I Pre-K students were able to cooperate with their peers in a small and large group setting at the start of the year. After a year of participation in our Pre-K program, more than 90 percent of students mastered this skill. This is one of many examples of the ways the Title I Pre-K program helps prepare students for later success in school and life.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)

School-wide PBIS is a framework schools use to define behavioral expectations for all students in a school, teach those behaviors to students, and positively acknowledge students who are using correct behaviors. By teaching behaviors and acknowledging students, PBIS helps to impact the climate of a school, and increase connectedness between staff and students. Fewer problem behaviors have been found to promote increased academic and engaged learning time for students, increase school attendance rates, and decrease incidents of bullying. Data is used regularly in schools to assess student behavior and to design and implement behavioral interventions.

The School-wide Evaluation Tool (SET) is designed to assess and evaluate whether the critical features of PBIS are in place in a school. It is conducted annually, and involves a school visit from an outside evaluator. SET evaluators review the School Improvement Plan, school handbook, discipline forms and procedures, and conduct interviews with administrators, staff members, and students. The 11 schools in the district implementing PBIS reached the following implementation averages for the 2014-2015 school year: Homer Flex 75 percent; K-Beach Elementary 85 percent; Nikiski North Star Elementary 90 percent; Nikolaevsk 98 percent; Ninilchik 98 percent; Redoubt Elementary 100 percent; Soldotna Elementary 98 percent; Sterling Elementary 96 percent; and first year implementing schools: Razdolna 77 percent; Voznesenka 89 percent; and West Homer Elementary 81 percent.

At the schools implementing PBIS this year, there was a combined total of 101 fewer office discipline referrals than last school year. This equates to an estimated gain of 4,545 minutes of academic engaged time for students in the schools, the equivalent of 75.75 hours or roughly 12.6 days of learning. PBIS impacts behavior and learning!

KPBSD strives to meet the individual needs of every child who comes through our doors.





L-R, BACK ROW: J. P. CONNELLY; SEAN DUSEK; JAKE DOTH; JAMES HARRIS
FRONT: SHANNON ADAIR DWYER; MATTHEW WIDAMAN; JUDY GONSALVES

2015 KENAI BP TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE

Five Kenai Peninsula Borough School District teachers are among the 32 Alaska teachers honored in 2015 as a BP Teacher of Excellence.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BP TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS FROM KPBSD

“We are thrilled to recognize those teachers who make a lasting impact on the next generation of Alaskans by educating our children and who make our communities better places to live,” said Janet Weiss, BP Alaska Regional President.

■ **JAKE DOTH** teaches physical science and biology at **NIKISKI MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL**. He prides himself on building relationships with students that provide life lessons. His leadership outside of the classroom through the Lego club, as a sports coach, and as a tutor reinforces those relationships. “My teaching style is based upon building relationships and connecting with students on a personal level that makes them feel safe in a learning environment. I strongly believe in differentiation, which involves creating learning experiences that fit many different styles of cognition,” said Doth.

■ **SHANNON ADAIR DWYER** teaches seventh and eighth grades at **SKYVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL**. Her subjects include language arts and physical education. Dwyer encourages kids to become active outside of the classroom and coaches the cross country running and track teams. “My students show up ready to

work and try all of the team sports I teach,” said Dwyer. “Some kids in class even feel free to dance when they hear music. I may love that the most. We acknowledge each day’s motivation may be different for a lot of reasons—and that working out and play can overcome the stress we carry around.”

■ **JUDY GONSALVES** is the speech and language therapist for grades third through sixth at **WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**. With 30 years of teaching experience, Gonsalves enjoys the successes of her past students. She is also active in the community, through the Homer Council on the Arts, Homer Friends of the Library and the KBBI public radio station. “My teaching style is all about engaging students and making connections, sprinkled with heavy doses of respect, compassion and humor,” said Gonsalves. “I asked myself early in my career—what if I were the student? How would I want to learn this? How could it be fun?”

■ **JAMES HARRIS** teaches English and advance college placement English, at **SOLDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL**. He is motivated to share knowledge with his students. Harris hosts an after school writing center where students work on not only academics, but on their college applications. He also volunteers his time as a coach for the Kenai Peninsula Hockey Association.

“Throughout my career, I have learned that no approach to teaching can be based upon rigid absolutes,” said Harris. “I place my core teaching values on adaptation and flexibility to meet student needs, while allowing a class to develop its own discourse. One of the things I’ve noticed is that an environment where a student can feel comfortable being wrong can contribute just as strongly to his or her development as whatever lesson plan I’ve spent hours agonizing over. If students are able to be wrong, then discussion begins, and we may collaboratively conquer topics we cannot on our own.”

■ **MATTHEW WIDAMAN** teaches career and technical training at **KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**. He strives to teach workforce skills to students ninth through twelfth grade. He incorporates the use of a 3D printer, industry standard software and the ability to earn college credits into his classroom. He also leads high school academies for construction and welding. After school, Widaman coaches Boys and Girls Club basketball, soccer, and USA wrestling. “I believe that what a student learns should be relevant to their world after high-school—so that they will transfer and utilize what’s learned in their classes to continued education, business, or industry,” said Widaman.



<http://bit.ly/BPteachersOfExcellence>



NATALIE KANT 2014 COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Skyview Middle School (SMS) counselor Natalie Kant received top acknowledgment from the State of Alaska for her “exceptional leadership skills, work ethic, enthusiasm for the profession, and care for students.” Sarge Truesdell, principal of SMS said, “There is this old saying in schools that the head secretary and head custodian run a school building. Here at SMS, Mrs. Natalie runs the building. She outworks us all, is a leader amongst her colleagues, is innovative, original, competent, and continually striving to learn and improve. She loves what she does!”

“I am very humbled to receive this incredible award for something that I love to do,” said Natalie Kant. “I am honored to be an employee of the KPBSD and absolutely love being a school counselor. My students, their parents, my colleagues and friends, my family and my school district have inspired me to always be involved and have motivated me to do my best. I love working with all students. Thank you for encouraging and challenging me to be the person I am today. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your life. I am very grateful for the influence you have had in my life. Thank You!”



MATTHEW WIDAMAN, 2015 KENAI PENINSULA BP TEACHER OF THE YEAR

“The best reward for this teacher is when students send him a letter or email, or come by to tell him that they are working in a career related field and that they are grateful for the solid foundation his classes have given them. These are the moments for which he is most proud,” said J. P. Connelly, Regional Director for BP Alaska. “He has exposed his students to the 21st century skills needed for success in our current workforce,” said Dan Carstens, Nikiski Middle-High School principal. “His students are proficient in the use of 3D printers, CNC plasma machines, the most up-to-date welding equipment and the latest version of AutoCad, which is the most widely used Drafting program in the nation. Most of all, he is a master at building relationships with his students and members of the staff. He uses these relationships daily to have a positive influence on the lives of those around him.”



HEALTHY KIDS

Nurse Yolanda “Yoly” Ifflander is committed to health and wellness for all the students she serves in Seward, Cooper Landing, Hope, and Moose Pass schools. Through her efforts, Seward Middle School was one of only five schools nationwide to win a \$10,000 grant from NutriBullet. Designed to help children learn the benefits of healthy eating and how nutrition affects them as individuals, the 90-day grant project involved nearly 40 students. A highlight of the program was making fresh fruit and vegetable smoothies at school on a daily basis. Preliminary health assessments revealed a reduction in total cholesterol numbers for students, and healthier lifestyle choices.

CLASS OF 2015

"This year, we certainly made pivotal choices. We asked ourselves, "Should I join the military?" "Should I become a psychologist?" "Where do I go from here?" It's a scary walk. I see that now. But if there's anything I learned this year, it's that there is a lot to appreciate on the way once we realize that maybe—just maybe—there is nothing to be afraid of." – Ajiel Mae Basmayor, Ninilchik School, Class of 2015

Congratulations to all of our KPBSD scholarship awardees, especially Malia Acovak [Seward High School] and Tiffany Lopez [Nikiski Middle-High School], who are the first two KPBSD students to be awarded the prestigious 2015 Gates Millennium Scholarship!

TIP

Read graduate profile stories from the Class of 2015, and also discover what graduates from the past are doing today when you connect with KPBSD online through social media, school Facebook pages, and our website: www.KPBSD.org!

Make certain to read highlights about two graduates who are public school advocates and continue to make a difference for KPBSD and the Kenai Peninsula: Borough Mayor Mike Navarre [Kenai Central High School, Class of 1974] and House Speaker Mike Chenault [Kenai Central High School, Class of 1975].



NIKISKI MIDDLE-HIGH STUDENTS RAISE \$3,000 FOR STUDENTS IN KPBSD SIT PROGRAM

STUDENTS IN TRANSITION (SIT) PROGRAM

The SIT program provides support and services to hundreds of KPBSD students who are without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Community members and students in our schools are becoming advocates for both educating each other, and creatively raising thousands of dollars to supplement our SIT program.

Two hundred forty-six KPBSD students were identified as experiencing homelessness at some point during the 2014-2015 school year. The SIT Program focus is access to kindergarten through high school graduation for students who are homeless. School can be challenging for all students, but students living in unstable situations face many additional challenges. Our goal is to ensure that homeless students have the same educational opportunities as their peers in permanent housing; that they have the ability to attend school and focus on learning.



<http://bit.ly/TransitionsKPBSD>



KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ADVOCATE AND HOLD SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS IN KPBSD



CARING FOR THE KENAI TOP 12 WINNERS

CARING FOR THE KENAI

Nine KPBSD high schools incorporate the Caring for the Kenai (CFK) essay prompt, “What can I do, invent, or create to better care for the environment of the Kenai Peninsula or improve the area’s preparedness for a natural disaster?” as a part of state standards curriculum. More than 400 students responded with an innovative project or idea in the twenty-fifth year of the competition. In addition to \$8,000 in cash awards for the finalists, \$25,000 was awarded to the departments of schools that participated in CFK 2015. Plus, more than twenty students received special recognition awards from local businesses and individuals.

Congratulations to the 2015 top twelve winners: Keira Stroh, Kenai Central High School (KCHS); Daniel Wiest, Homer High School (HHS); Shania Johnson of Cook Inlet Academy (CIA); Kasey Paxton, KCHS; Jacob Roberts, Ninilchik School; Lisa Krol, KCHS; Leah Johnson, KCHS; Madison Akers, HHS; Kelina Polushkin and Ustina Chernishoff, Voznesenka; Matthew Bartolowits, Ninilchik; Maddy Carey and Bre DeLon, CIA; and Robert McGinnis, Ninilchik.



<http://bit.ly/CaringForTheKenai2015>



KPBSD awarded
644 high school
diplomas in 2014-2015!

KPBSD KEY COMMUNICATORS

A network of people interested in our schools formed to cultivate positive relationships with the school district and in our diverse communities. Key Communicators help their local communities learn more about KPBSD, and assist the school district to learn and understand more about what people think, feel, and know. The concept is about a continuing exchange. Key Communicators—representing each school—are informed about school district initiatives, issues, legislative advocacy, and celebrations through conversations, e-mail, and media releases. Three interactive meet and greets with Superintendent Dusek took place in 2015, and we look forward to more engagement in the coming year.



<http://bit.ly/KeyCommunicators>



**2014-2015 GOLDEN
APPLE AWARDEES**

Central Peninsula Hospital, Community Partner
David Kalugin, Community Member
Kelly King, Homeless Liason
James Reinseth, Educator
Nadejda Reutov, Custodian
Lisa Whip, Librarian



<http://bit.ly/GoldenApple>

ALASKA SPORTS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (ASAA)

KPBSD teams and students score during their state level competitions! We celebrate all of our athletes, coaches, families, fans, volunteers, and community partners who contribute to the success of our co-curricular programs.

BASKETBALL

1A Boys State Tournament

Seldovia–State Champions; All-Tournament team: Calem Collier, Aiden Philpot

1A Girls State Tournament

Nikolaevsk–All-Tournament team: Serafima Kalugin

3A Girls State Tournament

Homer–Academic Award (3.75 GPA); Aurora Waclawski, Bump Champion; All-Tournament: Madison Akers
Nikiski–Rachel Thompson, 3 Point Champion; All-Tournament: Rachel Thompson

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

1-2-3A Girls State Championship

Homer–State Champion

4A Girls State Championship

Kenai–Allie Ostrander, Top Finisher; Academic Award (4.0)

FOOTBALL

Small-Schools Championship

Nikiski–Academic Award (3.18); Player of the game: Christian Riddall

Medium-Schools Championship

Soldotna–State Champion; Outstanding Kicker: Bailey Jones

Kenai–Sportsmanship Award; Academic Award (3.01)

Players of the game: Soldotna: Brooks Furlong; Kenai: Chase Logan

HOCKEY

4A State Tournament

Soldotna–All-Tournament team: Cody Harvey

NORDIC SKIING

Kenai–Travis Cooper, Classic Top Finisher

SOFTBALL

Small School Championship

Homer–All-Tournament team: Maggie LaRue



ALASKA TRACK AND FIELD STATE CHAMPIONS

TRACK AND FIELD

1-2-3A Girls

Homer–State Champions: 4 x 100 Relay, 4 x 200 Relay, 4 x 400 Relay; Academic Award (3.83)

1-2-3A Boys

Seward–Howie Hubbard, State Champion Shot Put

4A Girls

Kenai–Allie Ostrander, State Champion 800 Meter Run, 1600 Meter Run, 3200 Meter Run; Outstanding Competitor: Allie Ostrander

Soldotna–State Champion 4 x 800 Relay; Sportsmanship Award

4A Boys

Kenai–Josh Jackman, State Champion Long Jump; Academic Award (3.72)

Soldotna–Tim Duke, State Champion 300 Meter Hurdles

VOLLEYBALL

3A Tournament

Skyview–third place; All-Tournament team
Nikiski–Sportsmanship Award;

Outstanding Performers; Rachel Thompson, Setting

Homer–Academic Award (3.84)

All-Tournament Team: Kyla Pitzman, Rachel Thompson, Jane Rohr

Mixed 6 Tournament

Nikolaevsk–All-Tournament team: Jonah Fefelov, Serafima Kalugin; Felemon Molodih, Outstanding Defensive Specialist

WRESTLING

1-2-3A State Championship

Homer–Heather Harrington, State Champion 220

Nikiski–Nathan Carstens, State Champion, 160; Luke Johnson, State Champion 220

4A State Championship

Kenai–Paul Steffensen, State Champion 145; Ellery Steffensen, State Champion 152

Soldotna–Austin Craig, State Champion 113; Seth Hutchison, State Champion 120; Outstanding Wrestler:

Seth Hutchison

DRAMA, DEBATE AND FORENSICS

Homer—Evan Boyer, Jonas Noomah, first place Duo Interpretation; Academic Award (3.78 GPA)

Nikiski—Sportsmanship

Seward—Drama Sweepstakes 1-2-3A;

Emily Brockman, first place Original

Oration; Emily Brockman, Hunter

Doan, Robin McKnight, Josephine

Braun, first place Readers' Theatre;

Robin McKnight, Student of the Year;

Overall Sweepstakes 1-2-3A

ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Homer—Vocal Solo: Falcom Greear

Kenai—Tenor II: Raymon Machen-Gray;

Alto Sax: Raleigh Van Natta

Soldotna—Soprano 1: Taryn McCubbins;

Academic Award (3.77 GPA)



KPBSD MOBILE APP

Have you downloaded our free KPBSD mobile app? You can access district and specific school news, receive critical incident alerts, make online payments for activity fees and food services, view school and district calendars (and add events to your phone), access a KPBSD staff directory, view sports, lunch menus, PowerSchool, and much more. Additional features will continue to be incorporated in the coming year. Download the official Kenai Peninsula Borough SD app today!



<http://bit.ly/MobileAppKPBSD>



ONLINE PAYMENTS NOW AN OPTION!

Many people prefer to use credit or debit cards to make purchases, rather than carrying cash or keeping track of a checkbook. In April 2015 KPBSD started taking online payments—the implementation went very smoothly. There is a 3.61 percent processing fee calculated on all payments. This is the actual cost of the processing fee from RevTrak, and is not a source of revenue for the district.

FOOD SERVICE PAYMENTS

Online payment for food services is now available for all KPBSD schools and are processed in real time. Funds from a payment made in the morning will be available for the student at lunchtime the same day.

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES

Kenai Central High School and Ninilchik School piloted the receipt of online payments for student activities. Additional schools are being set up as they are ready.

TO MAKE A PAYMENT

- Use the PowerSchool [parent portal](#)
- Go to the KPBSD website [online payments](#) link on the [Students-Parents tab](#)
- Click online payments icon on the [KPBSD mobile app](#)



<http://bit.ly/KPBSDOnlinePayments>



SCHOOL SAFETY

After extensive research and study of historical and recent school safety incidents, the U.S. Department of Education issued a document with new guidelines for school safety entitled “Guide For Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans.” One of the major findings was that the lone option to lockdown was no longer enough. It was stressed that “as the situation develops, it is possible that students and staff will need to use more than one option.” In order to give our staff and students more options to protect themselves, KPBSD has adopted the A.L.I.C.E. protocols. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for:

ALERT Get the word out! Notify authorities and those in harm’s way of the danger at hand. Clear, concise, and accurate information is conveyed throughout the incident to keep everyone informed and up to date.

LOCKDOWN Locking down and barricading entry points may still be the best option in some situations. Recent updates to this response are included during training.

INFORM Communicate real-time updates throughout the incident to those involved. This can be accomplished through the use of video surveillance equipment, public address systems, or electronic updates. Updates during an incident allow those involved to make sound decisions about how to react and what steps, if any, to take next.

COUNTER This protocol is used only as a “last resort” if those involved have not been able to find a secured area, or their secure area has been breached. Staff and students are trained in skills to distract, confuse, and gain control through age appropriate tactics.

EVACUATE The goal here is to safely put as much time and distance between the threat and our staff and students as possible. The decision to evacuate can be made at any time during the incident based upon information that becomes available.

It is important to understand that these protocols are age appropriate, not sequential, and those involved have the ability to change protocols as an incident progresses.

KPBSD’s change to the use of A.L.I.C.E. protocols has been done in conjunction with our local law enforcement agencies and those agencies also participate in the training of staff and students.



ABOVE: ALICE TRAINING WITH KPBSD ADMINISTRATORS



COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Certificated staff employed by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) are represented by the Kenai Peninsula Education Association (KPEA), and support employees are represented by the Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association (KPESA). Both KPEA and KPESA have existing Collective Bargaining Agreements with KPBSD that determine the terms and conditions of employment, and both agreements expired on June 30, 2015. Copies of the agreements can be found at the district website.



<http://bit.ly/CollectiveBargainingAgreements>

On February 9, 2015, KPBSD, KPEA, and KPESA began meeting to negotiate successor agreements. The negotiations process will continue in the fall when teachers and support employees return from their summer break. Although the current agreements expired June 30, 2015, the terms and conditions of the expiring agreements will remain in place and be maintained as long as negotiations continue.



<http://bit.ly/CollectiveBargaining2015>

KPBSD SCHOOL CHOICES

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District includes forty-four diverse public schools. Sean Dusek, superintendent, explains, “In my opinion our diversity is an asset that all of us should embrace. While this diversity makes the management of our district challenging, it is the best thing to offer for our nearly 9,000 students.” Alaskan families can choose to send their students to these KPBSD public schools:

- Free neighborhood schools that offer the KPBSD adopted curriculum choices
- Free school district optional and alternative high school programs
- Free local charter schools that offer an alternative curriculum choice
- Free performance-based school
- Free school district homeschool program



<http://bit.ly/SchoolChoicesKPBSD>



ALASKA 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

In April 2014, the 28th Legislature passed House Bill 278, which included a three year plan of increased funding for school districts in Alaska. The plan affected the 2015, 2016, and 2017 school years and included one-time funding outside of the foundation formula as well as planned increases to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) within the formula.

When the 29th Legislature convened in January 2015, the state was facing a distinctly different economic outlook than a year prior, due to the rapid decline in world-wide oil prices during the fall and winter of 2014. Early in the session, Governor Walker proposed eliminating the one-time funding previously passed in HB 278 and his proposal was adopted by the Legislature. The result was a reduction in planned funding of \$2,262,989 for KPBSD in FY16. The Senate subsequently proposed reducing the amount of BSA funding, and that could have resulted in as much as \$4 million in additional cuts to KPBSD. Fortunately for schools across the Kenai Peninsula and Alaska, the legislative session concluded without the further cut the Senate had proposed for FY16. With continued low oil prices predicted, many legislators are warning of additional and more severe funding cuts for FY17. Because of our General Fund reserves and the Kenai Peninsula Borough funding the maximum allowable contribution, KPBSD was able to offer contracts to our tenured and non-tenured staff.



<http://bit.ly/LegislatureAndKPBSD>

KPBSD SWIMMING POOLS

The school board directed a review of district-wide pool operations, including costs, hours, staffing, and so forth. A report was provided in December, followed by community meetings in Soldotna, Seward, and Homer in January 2015. The pool deficit is approximately \$769,000 per year. All pools will remain open for the 2015-2016 year, with operations being consolidated, overall staffing reduced and resources shared, and centralized oversight from district office. We anticipate this will reduce overall costs and optimize pool schedules; however we will continuously evaluate and make changes as necessary to meet instructional and public use needs.



STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN USDA SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

Hungry students have trouble learning, and access to USDA school meal programs increase success in the classroom. Categorical student participation included 2,503 enrolled students participating as free, and 602 enrolled students participating as reduced fee. District wide for KPBSD, this is a 40.5 percent student participation in USDA school meal programs as categorically free or reduced priced meals.

In support of National School Breakfast Programs, National School Lunch Programs, USDA After School Snack Programs, and USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack programs, nearly one million meals and snacks were provided to eager KPBSD students.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

APPRECIATION AND THANK YOU

"Every year our district loses staff to retirement. It is bittersweet in that staff who retire definitely deserve this opportunity, but losing such quality people with vast experience is very difficult to replace. All of our staff choosing to retire will be missed and I wish all of them the best as they embark on their next adventure. Thanks to all our retirees for their great efforts and the positive difference they made with our students."

– Sean Dusek, Superintendent

FINANCE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Historically, over 70 percent of the General Fund budget has been spent on salaries and benefits. Since FY08, the State of Alaska has made payments to pay part of the unfunded liability in the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) accounts on behalf of employers. To comply with accounting requirements, the portion of this On-Behalf payment designated for KPBSD must be reflected on the school district financial statements as both revenue and expenditure.

In 2014, the legislature and governor authorized a \$3 billion lump sum payment to the retirement accounts to pay down a larger portion of the unfunded liability. This payment was recorded in FY15. While TRS and PERS On-Behalf payments are made by the state for all participants in the programs and are scheduled to continue for twenty years, this large increase in the payment for FY15 makes comparison of figures from one year to the next more complicated.

In order to provide year-to-year comparisons that make more sense and help promote a better understanding, the district has removed the On-Behalf amounts from some reports. For example, if the On-Behalf payment is included in the total budget, the percentage of the budget dedicated to salaries and benefits is about 88 percent of the total budget; when On-Behalf is not included, salaries and benefits is about 77 percent of the total budget.

The State of Alaska requires that 70 percent of funding for education be spent on instructional functions. KPBSD has not had a problem meeting the 70 percent requirement. With the big payment into On-Behalf being counted as part of benefits for FY15, that requirement will be easily met.

Support from the Kenai Peninsula Borough comes in two forms: appropriation of funds, and In-Kind Services. While the monetary appropriation is recorded as revenue in the school district financial statement, accounting rules require that In-Kind Services are reported as both revenues and expenditures on the school district financial statements. The In-Kind payments comprise seven percent of the expenditure budget (not including On-Behalf) and the biggest share is for maintenance on school buildings owned by the borough. Other parts of In-Kind Services are insurance payments (Property, Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance) and audit services, as well as custodial services and utilities at the district office.

Of the remaining budget (not including On-Behalf), about five percent is dedicated to utility payments for schools and departments, including electricity, water and sewer, fuel for heating and natural or bottled gas. That leaves about 10 percent for supplies, software, contract services, phone, postage, travel and other discretionary accounts.



<http://bit.ly/FinanceKPBSD>

2015-2016 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sean Dusek, Superintendent

John O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Support

Julie Cisco, Director Planning and Operations

Christine Ermold, Director Elementary Education
and Professional Development

Clayton Holland, Director Pupil Services

Laurie Olson, Director Finance

John Pothast, Director Secondary Education and Student Activities

Joann Riener, Director Human Resources

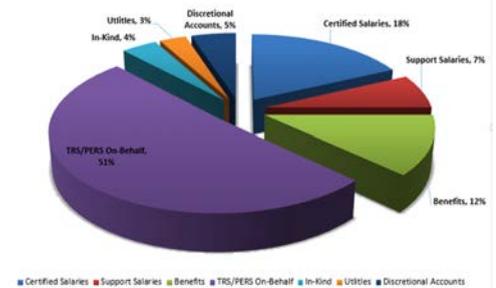
Tim Vlasak, Director K-12 Schools, Assessment and Federal Programs

Jim White, Director Information Services

Pegge Erkeneff, Communications Liaison



FY15 Expenditures with On-Behalf



DOLLARS AND CENTS WITH ON-BEHALF

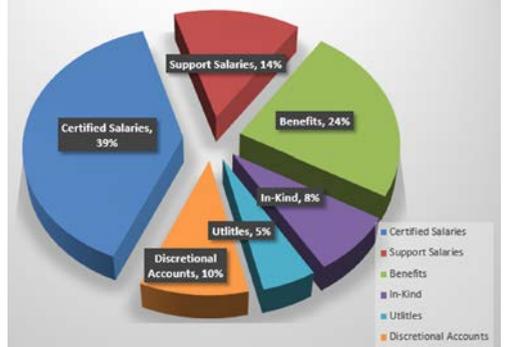
\$0.37 Salaries and benefits
 \$0.51 TRS and PERS On-Behalf
 \$0.05 Discretionary accounts
 \$0.04 In-kind services
 \$0.03 Utilities
 = \$1.00 from 2014-2015 General Fund (FY15)



DOLLARS AND CENTS WITHOUT ON-BEHALF

\$0.77 Salaries and benefits
 \$0.10 Discretionary accounts
 \$0.08 In-kind services
 \$0.05 Utilities
 = \$1.00 from 2014-2015 General Fund (FY15)

Expenditures without On-Behalf



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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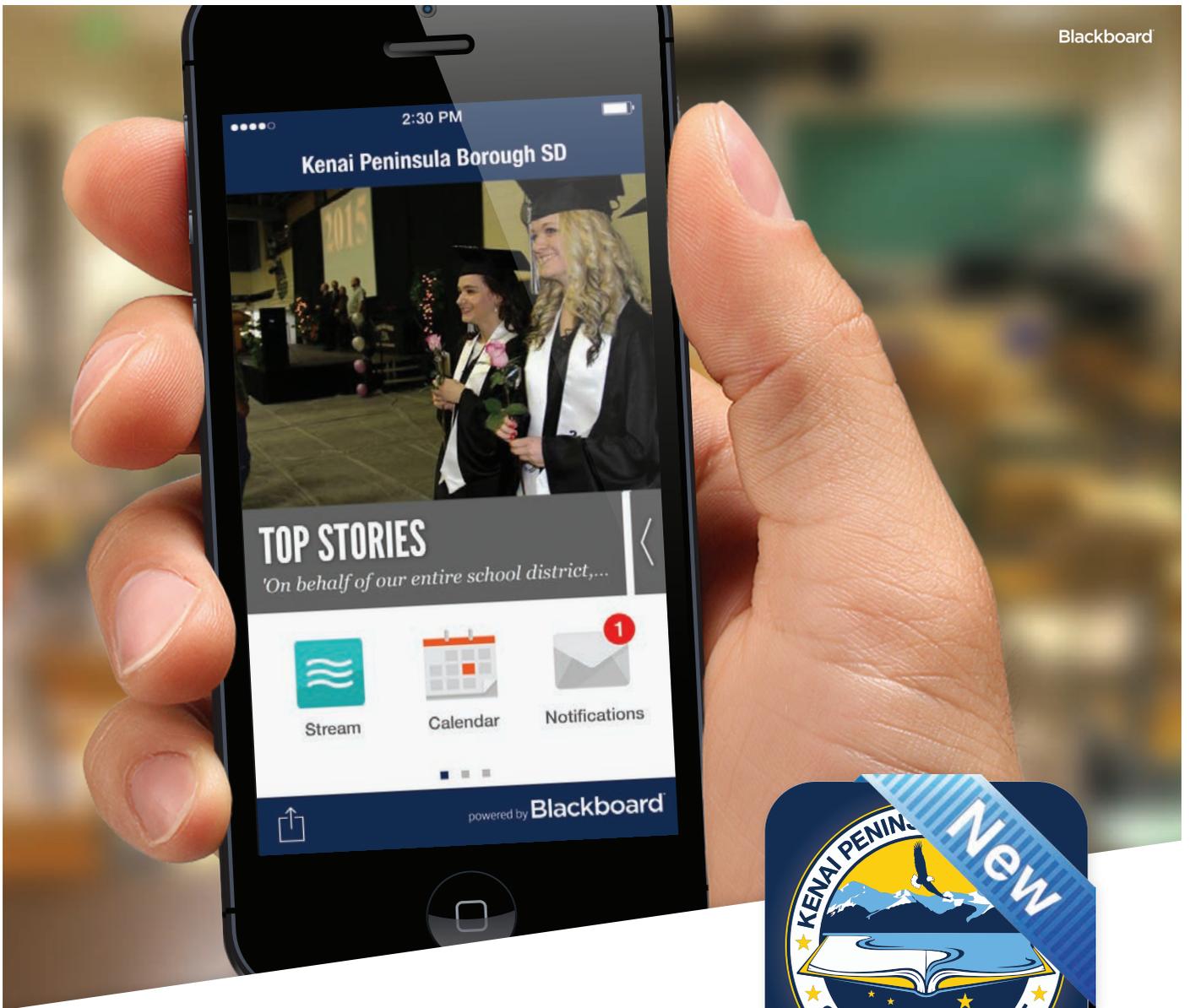
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www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us



You can find

 Kenai Peninsula Borough SD

in the app store.

