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**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# LEGISLATIVE FLYIN PACKET

## AASB: FEBRUARY 8-11, 2020

Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB)  
Legislative & Leadership Fly-In & Youth Advocacy Institute, February 8-11, 2020  
Juneau, Alaska | <https://aasb.org/2020-legislative-fly-in-youth-advocacy-institute/>

### **KPBSD Board of Education packet for legislators**

#### **Contents:**

- Pre-K and Literacy in KPBSD\*
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in KPBSD\*
- Strategic Plan 2017-2022
- Key Performance Indicators (KPI)
- FY21 Budget 101\*
- Fiscal Reality: Budget Reductions (FY15-FY20)
- School Bond 2020\*
- School Bond 2020 (this list will be updated)\*
- Health Care Costs Increase
- Blank page
- FY21 Education Funding Calendar (KPBSD, KP Borough, State of Alaska)
- BOE letter to Governor Dunleavy, December 3, 2019
- 2020 State Legislative Priorities
- 2020 Federal Legislative Priorities
- KPBSD Board of Education
- FY19 Annual Report

**\*These documents were created in February 2020, and will be refined and updated throughout the session and as new information becomes available.**

**KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-TWO DIVERSE SCHOOLS**

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.  
ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM  
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

**FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 7, 2020**

**###**

**1 OF 1**



# Literacy Pre-K

#KenaiPeninsulaReads  
#AKreads

## 2019-2020 Title I funded Pre-K programs

1. Chapman School
2. Mountain View Elementary
3. Nikiski North Star
4. Ninilchik School
5. Paul Banks Elementary
6. Redoubt Elementary
7. Seward Elementary
8. Soldotna Elementary
9. Tustumena Elementary
10. Sterling Elementary
11. Voznesenka School

"I am an advocate for legislation to create a statewide **comprehensive K-3 reading** policy aimed to improve education outcomes for our students.

All students in our state deserve **high quality Pre-K**, and a **curriculum and instruction based on the science of reading**.

Now is the time for our state to come together on this critical issue."

—Superintendent John O'Brien



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District  
One district, 42 diverse schools  
148 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna, AK 99660  
[www.KPBSD.org](http://www.KPBSD.org) | 907.714.8888

# Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

“Healthy students and positive school culture are paramount to student achievement. We strive to meet the needs of our students in this crucial area.”  
 --Superintendent O'Brien

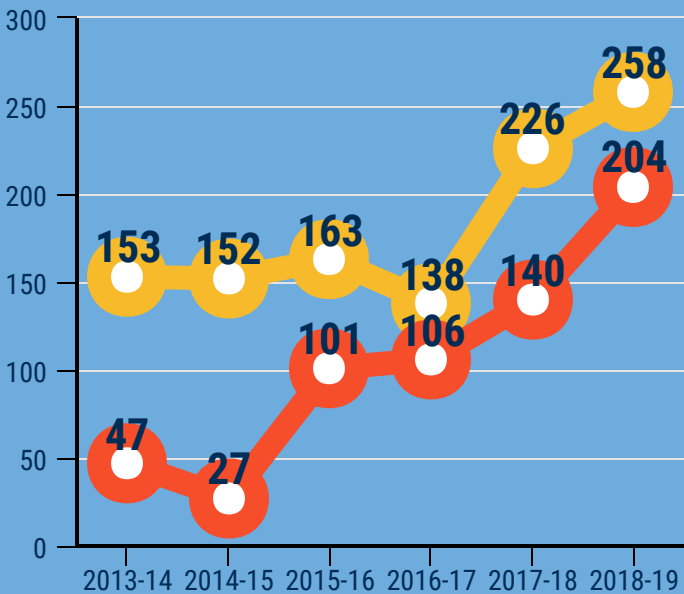


## Supports provided by the school district

- Nurses
- School Counselors
- School Psychologists
- Homeless Liaisons
- Professional Development for staff
- Interventionists, RTI, PBIS
- Special Education Behavioral Programs
- Competitive Grant funding**
- Sources of Strength, MindUp pilot, Restorative Practices, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Trauma Informed Educators ...



**ACES** : An adverse childhood experience (ACE) describes a traumatic experience in a person's life occurring before the age of 18 that the person remembers as an adult.



## KPBSD Student Suicide Risk Assessments and Office of Children's Service (OCS) Referrals

● OCS Referrals  
● Suicide Risk Assessments

2019-2020 year to date data, as of January 6, 2020:  
 OCS referrals: 130  
 Suicide Risk Assessments: 103



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 - 2022

## OUR MISSION

Empower all learners to positively shape their futures.

## OUR VISION

KPBSD will inspire all learners to pursue their dreams in a rigorous, relevant and responsive environment.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Every KPBSD student will graduate prepared for their future.

A strong, positive relationship with all students is the foundation of a quality education in KPBSD.

A KPBSD diploma guarantees a student is ready for life, college, and career.



## READY

- ◆ **Life:** KPBSD students will demonstrate life readiness skills by possessing resiliency, grit, and perseverance to achieve their goals with a growth mindset that empowers them to approach their future with confidence.
- ◆ **College:** KPBSD students will demonstrate college readiness by meeting rigorous academic indicators and, or post-secondary assessment scores.
- ◆ **Career:** KPBSD students will demonstrate career readiness by identifying a career interest and meeting employability or experiential benchmarks.

## RIGOR *All Students will achieve high levels of academic growth*

- ◆ Students will learn in a performance-based instructional model.
- ◆ Student growth and success will be determined through multiple measures of learning.
- ◆ Students will have “accessible anywhere” curriculum without dependencies on particular technologies.

## RELEVANCE *Experience a personalized learning system*

- ◆ Students will learn in a flexible instructional model that is fluid and developmentally appropriate for all.
- ◆ Students will experience varied instructional strategies that target individual strengths and interests of each learner.
- ◆ Students will develop a personalized learner profile as demonstrated in their portfolio.
- ◆ Students will be given opportunities to develop healthy lifestyles and make healthy choices.
- ◆ Students will be provided instructional opportunities in partnership with parents and community that extend growth, exploration and learning beyond the classroom.

## RESPONSIVE *Be immersed in a high quality instructional environment*

- ◆ Prioritize strong, positive relationships with all students to support their social and emotional needs.
- ◆ Teachers will utilize a repertoire of high-yield instructional strategies that are research-based, high quality instructional strategies, within the instructional environment.
- ◆ Develop a culture of continuous innovation within all schools across the district.
- ◆ Professional learning is embedded and ongoing, resulting in continuous growth and innovation.
- ◆ Develop a highly reliable and efficient organization through online and concurrent collaboration tools.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

148 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 | 907.714.8888 | [www.KPBSD.org](http://www.KPBSD.org)

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 - 2022**

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)**



KPBSD students should be able to demonstrate their readiness in multiple ways beyond a standardized test score. While test scores are one key readiness indicator often used in schools, they do not always show the whole picture.

KPBSD KPI's are not intended to be used as a "checklist." Certain indicators may or may not apply to each student's personalized life, career and, or college pathway choice. Rather, the KPI indicators are a wide variety of snapshots intended to give a general view of a student's preparedness for life, career and, or college choices. Research indicates that the more indicators students attain, the more chance they may have to be successful citizens in an ever-changing world.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% attendance rate</li> <li>• Proficiency on the content standards (Report Card)</li> <li>• Proficiency on math and reading academic assessments (i.e. PEAKS, AimsWeb, PerformanceSeries)</li> <li>• Student Social-Emotional wellbeing                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community &amp; Connectedness</li> <li>○ School Climate</li> <li>○ Social-Emotional Learning</li> <li>○ Growth Mindset; Grit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community Service Awareness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% attendance rate</li> <li>• No F's</li> <li>• Proficiency on math and reading academic assessments (i.e. PEAKS, PerformanceSeries)</li> <li>• Student Social-Emotional wellbeing                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community &amp; Connectedness</li> <li>○ School Climate</li> <li>○ Social-Emotional Learning</li> <li>○ Growth Mindset; Grit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community Service Hours</li> <li>• Participation in two or more organized Co-Curricular Activities</li> <li>• GPA of 2.8 or higher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% attendance rate</li> <li>• No F's</li> <li>• Proficiency on math and reading academic assessments (i.e. PEAKS, PerformanceSeries)</li> <li>• Earns a high school diploma</li> <li>• Student Social-Emotional wellbeing                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community &amp; Connectedness</li> <li>○ School Climate</li> <li>○ Social-Emotional Learning</li> <li>○ Growth Mindset; Grit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Participation in two or more organized Co-Curricular Activities</li> <li>• GPA of 2.8 or higher</li> <li>• "On track" credit acquisition for a High School Diploma within 4 years</li> <li>• 25+ hours of Community Service by 12<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>• Workplace/Experiential Learning Experiences</li> <li>• Earn Industry Credential</li> <li>• Career Pathway/Concentrator</li> <li>• Advanced Placement; Exam (3+ and/or grade of C (or higher)</li> <li>• Dual college/high school credit with grade of C or higher</li> <li>• Algebra II or beyond with grade of C or higher</li> <li>• SAT Exam: Math (530+) / Reading and Writing (480+)</li> <li>• ACT Exam: Math (22+) / Reading (22+) / English (18+) / Science (23+)</li> </ul>

**The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.**

[www.KPBSD.org](http://www.KPBSD.org)



# KPBSD FY21 Budget 101



## Where does revenue come from?

KPBSD receives funding from three sources:

1. Borough, or "local" funding (\$ linked to state funding)
2. State funding (this is a constitutional mandate)
3. Federal and Grant funds (designated expenditure categories that are non-transferable to other expenses)

*A school district does not have authority to raise its own revenue.*

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS NEED A  
RELIABLE FISCAL PLAN.**

## What is an expenditure?

Primary expenses are staff and classroom instruction. Like a business, planning and operations, information systems, utilities, etc. are also included

### 2020-2021 BUDGET

**Current planning in progress:  
Status Quo Flat Funding Revenue  
from the State of Alaska and maximum  
allowable from the Kenai Peninsula Borough**

**FY21 projected deficit:**

**\$2,255,900**

The FY21 projected expenditure budget is \$144,776,830

## How-to balance the budget:

- ◆ Align revenues and expenditures
- ◆ Request that the state legislature adequately fund education
- ◆ If available, use General Fund reserves (savings account) to fund deficit, in order to avoid staff reductions and increased class sizes

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Kenai Peninsula Borough School District [www.KPBSD.org](http://www.KPBSD.org)  
148 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 907.714.8888

### YOUR GO-TO SCHOOL FINANCE RESOURCES:

**KPBSD [Finance](#)  
[webpage](#)**

[http://bit.ly/  
KPBSDfinance](http://bit.ly/KPBSDfinance)

**Budget & funding  
[videos](#)**

[http://bit.ly/  
KPBSDfinanceVideos](http://bit.ly/KPBSDfinanceVideos)

**[KPBSD and the  
Legislature](#)**

[https://bit.ly/  
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ure](https://bit.ly/KPBSDandTheLegislat)

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announcements**  
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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## OUR CHALLENGE

“A long term state fiscal plan and forward funding of K-12 education will provide predictability for school districts, and is necessary for positive student outcomes.”—Superintendent John O’Brien, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District



## Fiscal Reality : Department, School, and Staff Reductions

### REDUCTIONS:

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, budget reductions have come through efficiencies, Pupil to Teacher Ratio (PTR) increases, and reduction of staff. Plus, General Fund Balance reserves have been used to balance the school district budget.

*The effects of these cuts have been kept as far away from the classroom as possible and most of the public do not realize these reductions are already in effect.*

FY15 Budget Reductions	(\$1,254,000)
FY16 Budget Reductions	(1,375,000)
FY17 Budget Reductions	(3,436,829)
FY18 Budget Reductions	(1,869,308)
FY19 Budget Reductions	( 522,787)
FY20 Budget Reductions	(2,633,124)

**Total Budget Reduction (\$ 11,091,048)**

### FY15 TO FY20 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

# \$11,091,048

### FY15: \$1,254,000

District Office 2.0 FTE Reduction  
Certified 3.0 FTE reduction due to PTR increase  
Technology, Supplies, Software, Utilities, Travel

### FY16: \$1,375,000

District Office 2.0 FTE reduction  
Certified 4.38 FTE reduction due to PTR increase  
Curriculum, Utilities, Travel

### FY17: \$3,436,829

District Office 5.26 FTE reduction  
School Administration 2.0 FTE, Counseling 1.0 FTE  
Food service, Supplies, Travel, Pro-Tech, Equipment

### FY18: \$1,869,308

District Office 2.0 FTE reduction  
Unallocated Staff 5.0 FTE reduction; Support Staff reductions (Custodians and Tutors position reductions, Student Nutrition hours reductions)

### FY19: \$522,787

Reduction in travel (district office, administrators, state tournament, extra-curricular); Connections supplies; Extra Curricular Safety Equipment; Art Specialist; Purchasing Supervisor; Extra-Curricular Stipend

### FY20: \$2,633,124

Increase high school PTR by +.5 (15 FTE)  
Consolidate Soldotna Prep and Soldotna High School  
Regional administrator adjustments; Extra Curricular Safety Equipment; Travel reduction (extra-curricular)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO? #IDEAS

- ✓ Advocate for a [state fiscal plan](#) and Borough funding to the maximum allowable
- ✓ [Share your story](#) about the impact of schools and K-12 education
- ✓ Ask your principal or school site council about the [impact of education funding to your school](#) and KPBSD
- ✓ Contact [your state legislator](#) or elected official via phone, email, or town hall meeting
- ✓ [Testify](#) at a legislative hearing via an LIO office, make a telephone call, or write a letter
- ✓ Attend a [Borough Assembly meeting](#)
- ✓ Talk to family, friends, elected officials, community partners

# School Bond 2020



## Aging School Facilities

All 42 schools in the KPBSD except Seward Middle School (2006) are over 20 years old without a major renovation. One exception: the Susan B. English School shop built in 1958 was fully remodeled due to fire in 2017



## Significant footprint and value

KPBSD operates 42 schools that include approximately **1,847,300 square feet**, with an estimated replacement value in excess of **\$1,000,000,000** after the 2020 insurance appraiser increase in value



## Inflation: construction costs rise

Actual bids demonstrate the cost would be \$203.18 to procure what cost \$100 in 2001. Example: Seward Middle School \$14.7 M bond today would cost approximately \$ 27,783,000



The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and Kenai Peninsula Borough are working together on the 2020 School Bond and identified 19 projects that are essential to repair. Continued planning is underway, and the cost of the proposed \$30 million, 20 year school bond is approximately \$27.80 per \$100,000 assessed value, with no State Bond Debt Reimbursement.



KPBSD / KPB ADMIN JOINT DRAFT BOND LIST

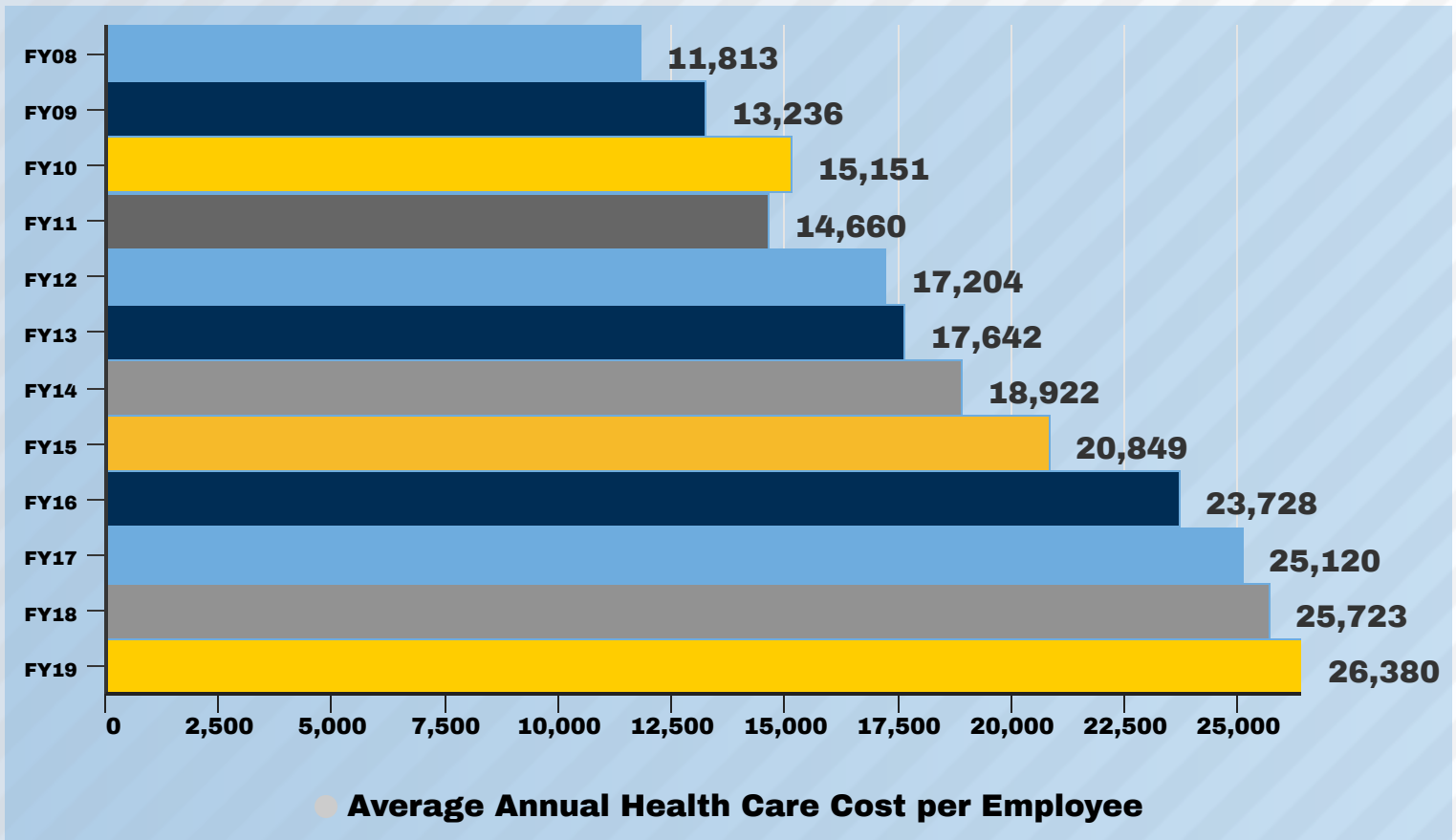
Project Title & Description	Bond amount	Attendance Area	Estimate Source	Notes
Chapman Window Replacement	\$ 308,580.00	Anchor Point	Estimate based on Chapman Adjustment for Inflation	CIP Cost Save / End of Life Rank 16
Cooper Landing Window Replacement / Siding	\$ 227,550.00	Cooper Landing	Estimate based on Chapman Adjustment for Inflation	CIP Major Maintenance Window / Exterior Rank 1
Homer HS – Attic Roof Ventilation and Gutters The current original shake roof was installed in 1985, is no longer in warranty, and is deteriorating. Additionally, attic ventilation has proven to be inadequate, and the internal gutter system is no longer functioning to protect the building from leakage. In order to properly address the internal gutters and ventilation system the entire roof will need to be replaced.	\$ 8,271,734.00	Homer	DEED 18th Edition Cost Model	DEED 13th Edition Was \$5,620,000 Inflation adjustment to current \$7,358,255.35 Borough is applying for a Grant? ** Could drop if borough gets grant
West Homer El – North Wall Sealing Shortly after construction, the north wall constructed of fluted concrete block started allowing moisture penetration into the building. This has subsequently caused damage to surfaces, and has contributed to mold growth. This project would install a secondary wall over the exterior surface to prevent water intrusion.	\$ 659,583.00	Homer	Estimate From K&A - 2012 Probable cost statement adjusted for inflation 2019	CIP Misc. Rank Rank 1
Homer HS Heating Controls Replacement The original heating controls were installed in 1985. The components are failing and the entire system needs to be upgraded to meet the current standards. Boilers are scheduled for replacement the summer of 2019.	\$ 900,000.00	Homer	Estimate from KPB Borough Maintenance	CIP Cost Save / End of Life Rank 2
Kenai MS Kitchen / Serving Area Remodel - Kenai Middle School was constructed in 1968. Three lunch periods, small window for one student serving, feeding 200 per day	\$ 750,000.00	Kenai	DEED 18th Edition Cost Model 2018	CIP Misc. Rank #3 - Serving space requested per 13 DSG Funds - KPBSD Estimator calculated for estimate
KCHS DDC Control Replacement	\$ 872,500.00	Kenai	Based on Homer Cost / DEED SF Cost	CIP Cost Save / End of Life Rank 3 - Multi Site
K-Selo New K-12 The buildings are in disrepair and are out of code compliance. The Kenai Peninsula Borough received a two-year extension to allow procurement of matching funds by June 2021. The State has appropriated \$10,010,000.00 with a \$5,390,000 local match required for this project.	\$ 5,390,000.00	K-Selo	DEED Match	2015 State Capital Improvement Project By KPB / KPBSD - Ranked 1
Ninilchik Boiler Replacement	\$ 413,012.00	Ninilchik	DEED 18th Edition Cost Model 2018	CIP Cost Save / End of Life Rank 5
Nanwalek Kitchen Expansion / Window Replacement Upstairs	\$ 1,230,214.00	Nanwalek	DEED 18th Edition Cost Model 2018	CIP Misc. Rank 5
Nikiski Middle High School - DDC Control Replacement	\$ 593,395.00	Nikiski	Based on Homer Cost / DEED SF Cost	CIP Cost Save / End of Life Rank 3 - Multi Site
Nikiski North Star Roof Replacement (Metal)	\$ 3,422,902.00	Nikiski	DEED 18th Edition Cost Model 2018	Water penetrated Siding and froze winter 2018/2019
Ninilchik Window Replacement	\$ 201,017.00	Ninilchik	Estimate from Bids NPR Window	CIP Cost Save / End of Life Rank 9
Seward MS Repair 2016 Earthquake Damage - The building was damaged in the 2016 earthquake. Interior and exterior repairs are required to preserve building integrity and are a seismic retrofit.	\$ 857,314.00	Seward	Contractor Estimate / DEED 18th Edition Cost Model 2018	CIP Safety / ADA Rank 4 Submitted to DEED in 2019
Skyview DDC Control Upgrade	\$ 591,360.00	Soldotna	Based on Homer Cost / DEED SF Cost	CIP Cost Save / End of Life Rank 3 - Multi Site
Soldotna School Facilities Renovation	\$ 2,000,000.00	Soldotna	Estimate from KPB	Address Building Issues
Sterling window / siding replacement (east wing constructed in 1961, 1963 and 1978)	\$ 417,750.00	Sterling	Estimate based on Chapman adjusted for inflation	CIP Cost Save / End of Life Rank 10
Tebughna – Window Replacement (entire facility - constructed in 1966, 1976)	\$ 832,500.00	Tebughna (Tyonek)	Estimate based on Chapman adjustment for location and inflation	CIP Cost Save / End of Life Rank 6
District wide access control	\$ 2,000,589.00	District Wide	Estimate from KPB Borough Maintenance	Request to assist with KMS and remainder of district
<b>TOTAL BOND</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>29,940,000.00</b>	

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Health Care Costs Increase



The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District cost of health care per employee continues to rise despite the implementation of numerous new cost saving measures. KPBSD reduced costs by joining a new PPO with higher discount rates, implementing telemedicine to the district, and providing a planned surgery program for employees and their families.

The savings incurred from the planned surgery program particularly illustrates the unreasonably high cost of health care in Alaska. Employees or dependents with non-emergent surgery needs are flown to the Lower 48 to receive the needed care. Airfare, lodging, and meals are covered for the patient and a companion. The employee is not charged for deductibles or coinsurance. During calendar year 2019, KPBSD had 19 cases that experienced an **average savings of 56.46 percent from what the cost would have been in Alaska. A savings of over \$440,000!** Unfortunately, KPBSD's cost per employee continues to rise despite the implementation of numerous new cost saving measures.





# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

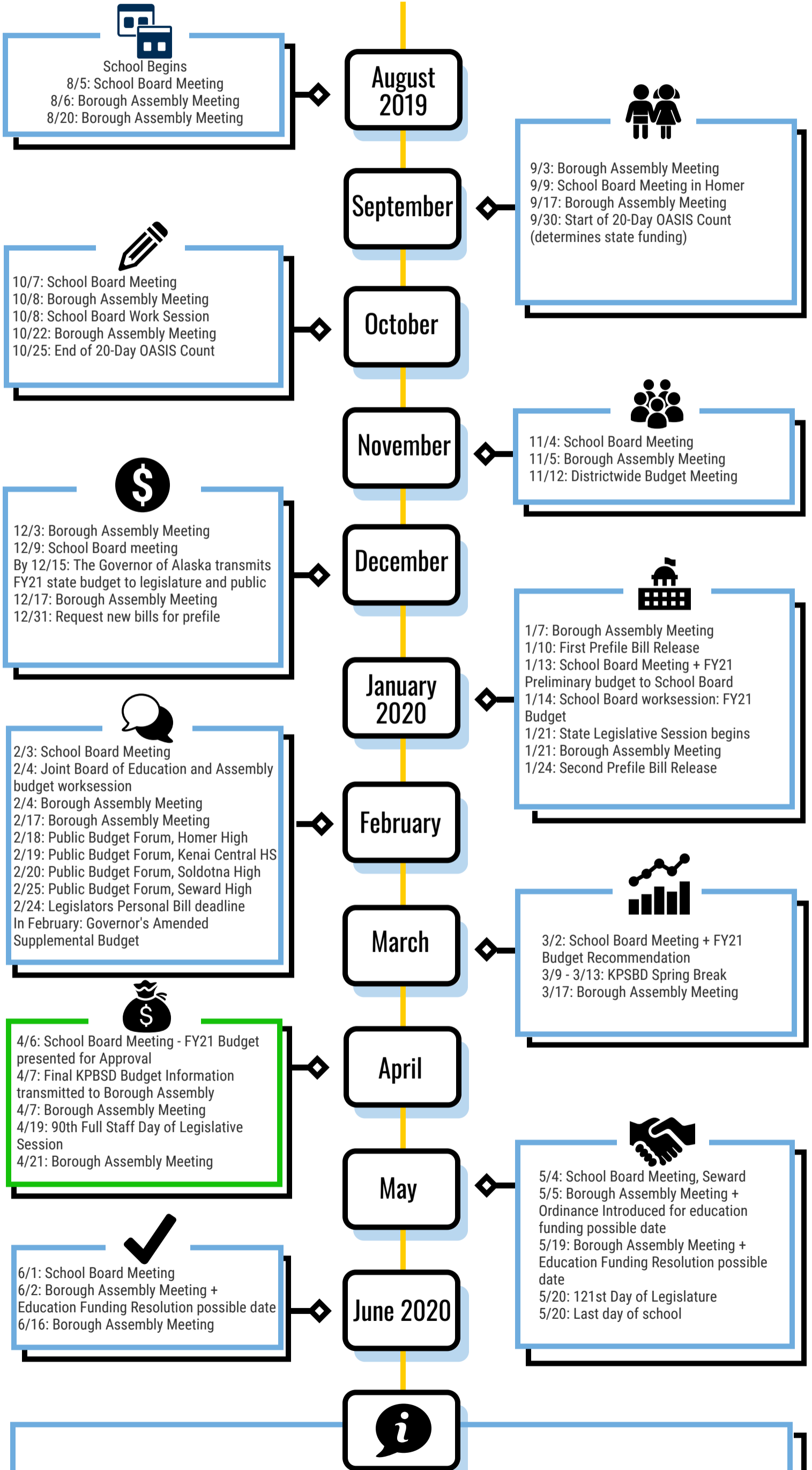
## FY21 Education Funding Calendar

for the 2020-2021 school year

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.



### Public involvement in the school district budget counts Quick glance calendar: KPBSD, Borough, and State of Alaska



Watch for additional dates in spring 2020 to be added for joint Board of Education and Borough Assembly worksessions, Facebook Live Q&As, KPBSD outreach in communities

[www.KPBSD.org](http://www.KPBSD.org) | [www.KPB.us](http://www.KPB.us) | [www.legis.state.ak.us](http://www.legis.state.ak.us) | [The Legislature and KPBSD](#)



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board of Education

Penny Vadla, President

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520  
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

December 3, 2019

Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Honorable Governor Michael J. Dunleavy:

Forty-two diverse schools and 8,500 students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) are counting on you to provide a budget to fund education for our district, and all learners in Alaska. As you prepare your State of Alaska FY21 budget, inclusion of full funding to meet increasing costs and the diverse and significant needs of Alaska students is crucial.

Our success in schools and our graduation rate continue to rise. Simultaneously, we have seen a rise in OCS and suicide risk referrals, and students who experience homelessness. The social-emotional health of our students is a priority in our district, and the investment to fully fund education for Alaska students is a promise for our future.

Early notification of funding is critical for sound financial management, stability, a focus on learning, and recruitment and retention of quality educators. The KPBSD is accountable for the dollars entrusted to it and supports measures that will allow our district to operate in a more efficient manner.

Sincerely,

Penny Vadla, President  
Board of Education

cc: Senator Peter Micciche  
Senator Gary Stevens  
Representative Ben Carpenter  
Representative Gary Knopp  
Representative Louise Stutes  
Representative Sarah Vance



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board of Education

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520

Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

## 2020 State Legislative Priorities

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District stands ready to work with the Alaska legislature to find the right solutions to fully implement the following priorities in order to support development of world-class graduates from our public schools.

- **Public Education**

Section I of Article VII Health, Education, and Welfare of the Alaska State Constitution is clear: “The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other public educational institutions. Schools and institutions so established shall be free from sectarian control. No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution.” The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) fully supports what our State’s founders promised all generations of Alaskans. An equitable and suitable public school system provides opportunities for the preparation of all Alaskan children for effective citizenship in our state and nation; as such, it is critical that public funds go to support public schools.

- **Timely, sustainable, adequate education funding plan that addresses inflation**

The State of Alaska must provide timely, sustainable, adequate revenue for public schools in Alaska. This funding must be consistent, reliable and predictable to provide full funding to meet increasing costs and the diverse and significant needs of our students. Early notification of funding is critical for sound financial management, as well as recruitment and retention of quality educators. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) is accountable for the dollars entrusted to it and supports measures that will allow our district to operate in a more efficient manner.

- **Safe Schools, Positive School Climate, and Social and Emotional Learning & Well-being**

Providing a safe school environment conducive to learning is a high priority. Schools have experienced many safety challenges and tragedies in recent years around the country. The State of Alaska must provide the funding to retrofit facilities to provide more secure schools. This will take a significant capital improvements budget.

School safety is not only related to the physical plant, it is also strongly related to the school’s climate and culture. The state must provide financial support so schools can partner with local communities to implement comprehensive, culturally appropriate school-based mental health programs that support and foster the health and development of students. Additional funding is necessary to enable schools to increase, recruit and retain more school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and mental health specialists. Funding is also needed to increase professional development opportunities for districts in planning and implementing interventions for students experiencing childhood trauma and other mental health challenges. Meeting the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) needs of students is essential.

- **Health Care Costs**

It is critical that the State of Alaska develop a long-term, sustainable plan that addresses the rising health care costs negatively impacting all sectors of Alaska. The cost of health care for KPBSD continues to increase every year between 6% and 12% per covered employee. KPBSD has worked hard to find efficiencies to lower these costs; yet, the district has not been able to eliminate the increases. More funds expended for health care, reduces the amount of funding available to the classroom.

***The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.***

**KPBSD Board Members and Superintendent**

Penny Vadla, President	Lynn Hohl
Zen Kelly, Vice President	Greg Madden
Dan Castimore, Clerk	Matt Morse
Mike Illg, Treasurer	Jason Tauriainen
Debbie Cary	Cameron Blackwell, Student Representative
	John O'Brien, Superintendent

## **2020 Federal Legislative Priorities**

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) stands ready to work with the federal legislature to find the right solutions to fully implement the following priorities in order to support development of world-class graduates from our public schools.

- **Public Education Priority**

The KPBSD believes that public education is an indispensable component for strengthening the ideals of our nation's democracy and a necessary, unifying, and dynamic influence in American life. The public school insures the preparation of all children for effective citizenship in the United States. As such, it is critical that public funds go to support public schools. The State of Alaska and KPBSD are very supportive of school choice, as evidenced by providing accountable public: charter, alternative and home school programs. Similar to what is in the Alaska Constitution; we oppose any legislation that expends public funds through voucher programs, or indirectly through tax credits or related plans, to fund any religious or other private educational institution. Our district has always been accountable for all public funds received. In order for all children to be provided a fair opportunity to succeed, any educational entity receiving public funds should be held accountable in the same manner as KPBSD.

- **Safe Schools**

Providing a safe school environment conducive to learning is crucial. Schools have experienced many safety challenges and tragedies in recent years around the country. Federal support will be necessary to fund facility upgrades and additional staff to address security, school climate improvements and student supports to meet the ever-growing issues faced by today's youth in our country.

Additional funding is necessary to enable schools to increase, recruit and retain more school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and mental health specialists. Funding is also needed to increase professional development opportunities for districts in planning and implementing interventions for students experiencing childhood trauma and other mental health challenges.

- **Funding of IDEA, Federal Title Programs and Accountability**

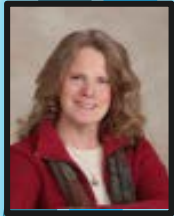
The Individual's with Disabilities Education Act sought to level the playing field for all of our students. The Federal government was able to establish this program with a promise to provide States with at least 40% of the costs associated with serving our students with disabilities. Currently, the Federal contribution is under 20% of costs with little to no discussion on keeping the original funding promise. KPBSD requests that the promised funding level to implement this Act is provided to states and districts as soon as possible so that all students receive the highest quality education possible in all of our schools.

With the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation underway, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District urges the United States Department of Education (USED) to honor local control and avoid federal overreach while implementing ESSA. KPBSD also requests that federal legislators eliminate discretionary funding caps, to allow adequate investment in education, including full funding of the education programs authorized by the bipartisan Every School Succeeds Act. We also ask that the USED honor the intent of the law and not attempt to create regulations that "fix" problems not addressed in legislation such as the "supplement, not supplant restrictions" and the insistence by USED to require that a school's performance be defined by a single designation.



# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District 2019-2020 Board of Education

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District 9  
Term Expires: 2022



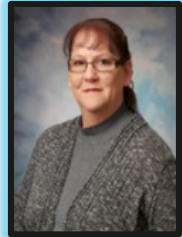
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District 1  
Term Expires: 2022



Cameron Blackwell  
Student Representative  
Soldotna High School  
425 West Marydale  
Soldotna, AK 99669



Debbie Tressler  
Board Administrative  
Secretary  
714-8836  
dtressler@kpbsd.org

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to  
empower all learners to positively shape their futures.

2018



2019

# ANNUAL REPORT

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ONE DISTRICT: FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS



## VISION

KPBSD will inspire all learners to pursue their dreams in a rigorous, relevant, and responsive environment.

[www.KPBSD.org](http://www.KPBSD.org)

Connect on Mobile App, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube



## MESSAGE FROM JOHN O'BRIEN

### 2019-2020 INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

We are pleased to present KPBSD's 2018-2019 Annual Report. This publication is an opportunity to step back and review last year's accomplishments, highlights, and celebrate areas of excellence. In the coming year I look forward to helping our district successfully navigate a variety of challenges. Predictable and sustainable revenues are essential to ensure that KPBSD can continue to provide a high quality education for our students.

More students are suffering from trauma and have needs in the area of mental health support and building their own resiliency and healthy coping skills. Added emphasis will be placed on learning opportunities and supports for students, parents, and staff in the areas of the effects of trauma, adverse childhood experiences (ACES), and suicide and self-harm prevention. We

plan to accomplish this shift through implementing programs and efforts such as Sources of Strength, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Restorative Practices, and mental health resources from a variety of grants and community partnerships. Healthy students and positive school culture are paramount to student achievement, and we will strive to meet the needs of our students in this crucial area.

**In 2019-2020 we will focus on positive school climate, and support of students' social and emotional needs.**



## MESSAGE FROM SEAN DUSEK

### 2018-2019 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

As the former superintendent, I am very proud of the students, staff and accomplishments we have seen over the last several years. We focused on building strong, positive relationships with all of our students and providing rigorous and relevant learning opportunities to promote academic growth. We continue to face challenges as our state works to develop a long-term, sustainable fiscal plan and our borough works to strengthen and diversify the local economy. We are fortunate that a main strength of the borough is the school district. I wish everyone the best as our district continues to seek improvement and remains focused on meeting the needs of every student every day.

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2022

The KPBSD is committed to prepare our students to be college or career ready through a rigorous, relevant, and responsive education.



<http://bit.ly/2Sv6xnh>



## MESSAGE FROM PENNY VADLA PRESIDENT, KPBSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

The foundation of our work is to build and maintain collaborative, strong, positive relationships with our students, staff, partners, and communities. Our Strategic Plan, mission & vision guide us to empower all learners and inspire them to pursue their dreams. We completed the three waves of personalized learning (PL) training, and will continue to provide professional development.

Despite budgetary uncertainties, innovation continues to pave the way for every student. By providing varied educational prospects like expansion of concurrent credit opportunities, industry certifications, Upstream and CTE academies, expansion of distance education, and more, our students are thriving.

I am very optimistic our schools will continue to exhibit leadership in the state by preparing students to be ready for life during and beyond the K-12 school experience.

## KPBSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Penny Vadla, *President*, District 4, Soldotna
- Zen Kelly, *Vice President*, District 9, South Peninsula
- Dan Castimore, *Clerk*, District 1, Kalifornsky
- Debbie Cary, District 7, Kasilof/Central
- Lynn Hohl, District 6, Seward/East Peninsula
- Mike Illg, *Treasurer*, District 8, Homer
- Dr. Greg Madden, District 5, Sterling/Funny River
- Matt Morse, District 2, Kenai
- Jason Tauriainen, District 3, Nikiski
- Tanis Lorring, *Student Representative*

**The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.**

## K-12 SCHOOL FUNDING

In February 2019, the Governor's proposed state budget reductions to the FY20 budget resulted in over \$20 million proposed reductions to KPBSD. The school board and administration worked diligently to determine what those reductions would need to be in order to begin to meet a cut this large in one year.

**\$22.4 million**  
A sobering look at what the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District would have to cut to begin to meet the Governor's proposed reduction to state funding.

**STAFF**  
- 100 Full-time positions  
- 100 Part-time positions  
- 100 Substitute positions  
- 100 Contract positions  
- 100 Temporary positions  
- 100 Seasonal positions  
- 100 Other positions

**FACILITIES**  
- 100 Full-time positions  
- 100 Part-time positions  
- 100 Substitute positions  
- 100 Contract positions  
- 100 Temporary positions  
- 100 Seasonal positions  
- 100 Other positions

**PROGRAMS**  
- 100 Full-time positions  
- 100 Part-time positions  
- 100 Substitute positions  
- 100 Contract positions  
- 100 Temporary positions  
- 100 Seasonal positions  
- 100 Other positions

## GOALS 2019-2020

- Develop policies and a budget plan, which promote the guiding principles of the five-year strategic plan
- Create partnerships to foster and strengthen positive relationships, which increase student educational opportunities
- Support further improvements in the areas of positive school climate, safety and social-emotional wellbeing

**#ThankYou to 4,000 KPBSD school volunteers during 2018-2019!**



**KPSD Distance Learning Programs** offer a wide range of classes through an online format to prepare students for college and careers. The Microsoft certification programs positively validate in-demand technology skills as KPSD reaches a milestone of certifying 243 students and teachers in the two years since becoming a Microsoft Certification Testing Center.



<http://bit.ly/2XleueQ>



**Homer Middle School is a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School!**

“Students, staff, parents, and the community of Homer are all responsible for this extraordinary achievement. This accomplishment is a result of support, hard work and dedication to high academic expectations.”  
-Principal Kari Dendurent



<http://bit.ly/2zLhdGF>

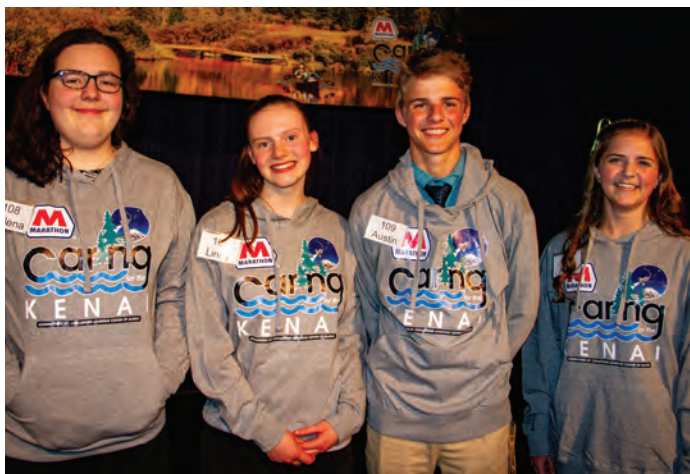


**Natali Jones is 2018 Alaska School Counselor of the Year!** Ms. Jones

is an itinerant counselor serving Chapman School Anchor Point Alaska, Homer Flex High School, Nanwalek School, Nikolaevsk School, Port Graham School, and Susan B. English School in Seldovia.



<http://bit.ly/2Y23hoM>



**Caring for the Kenai**

Q: “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?”

A: Drones, pollinators, 3D printer material, art ...



<http://bit.ly/32tGbqq>

**Sources of Strength**

is a strength-based comprehensive wellness program focusing on suicide prevention, but affecting other issues such as substance abuse, violence, resiliency and relationships. Teams of peer leaders mentored by adult advisors change peer social norms about seeking help, and encourage students to individually assess and develop positive strengths in their life. SOS is now in seven high schools, two middle schools, and one K-12 school. In fall 2019, SOS extends to Kenai Middle School and Nikiski Middle-High School.



<http://bit.ly/2zgwP6Q>



**Upstream Academies** increase STEM awareness and readiness among middle school students, especially for young people from underserved populations. Thank you to Marathon for a grant to make these programs possible.



<https://www.facebook.com/UpstreamAcademyKenaiPeninsula/>



## AVERAGE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH KPBSD

Teachers ..... **9 YEARS**  
Support staff ..... **8 YEARS**



## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Everyday school day, more than **3,466** students are transported **6,670** miles through our district.



## STAFFING RATIOS

### TYPE OF SCHOOL AND PUPIL-TEACHER-RATIO

**20.5:1** Elementary schools with more than 250 enrolled students: **KINDERGARTEN**

**22.5:1** Elementary schools with more than 250 enrolled students: **GRADES 1-3**

**24.5:1** Elementary schools with more than 250 enrolled students: **GRADES 4-6**

**19.5:1** Elementary small schools with 100 to 250 enrolled students: **GRADES K-6**

**25:1** **MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS**

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



## HOMELESS

In the 2018-2019 school year, **224** KPBSD students were identified as homeless, using the federally required McKinney-Vento Act definition. These students ranged from Pre-K through the 12th grade, and received support services through our *Students In Transition Program* and homeless liaison staff.



## DISTRICT SIZE

The school district is comprised of **44** diverse schools in 2018-2019, and with the closure of Soldotna Prep (9th grade) and Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School not opening, the 2019-2020 school year will begin with **42** schools in 17 diverse communities spanning **25,600** square miles—a land area roughly the size of West Virginia.



## STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES (SNS) SERVED

Lunches ..... **487,667**  
Breakfasts ..... **158,822**  
School Snacks ..... **467**  
Total meals & snacks served **646,956**



## 2018-2019 ENROLLMENT

Preschool ..... **248**  
Kindergarten-6th grade ..... **4,773**  
7th-8th grade ..... **1,306**  
9th-12th grade ..... **2,568**  
2017-2018 school enrollment ... **8,895**



## PERSONNEL

District administration .. **12**  
Building administration **39**  
Certified staff ..... **666**  
Support staff ..... **497**  
Total ..... **1,214**



## DOLLARS & CENTS

\$0.74 Salaries and benefits  
\$0.06 TRS/PERS On-Behalf  
\$0.07 Discretionary accounts  
\$0.07 In-kind services  
\$0.05 Utilities  
\$0.01 Transfers  
= \$1.00 from 2017-2018 General Fund



**KPBSD celebrates and thanks our community partners and the significant grants that help us meet our mission.**



# PERSONALIZED LEARNING (PL)

PL is restructuring schools, classrooms, and instruction to respond to the individual needs of students, instead of expecting students to fit a mold or adapt to structures that may not be successful for them.

PL asks teachers to redefine classroom practice, use quality data to regularly guide instruction, intentionally leverage technology tools, and promote student ownership of their learning. PL helps teachers truly meet the individual needs of students in their classrooms, empower all learners, and ensure a rigorous, relevant and responsive learning environment for all students. Key elements include:



- **Targeted Instruction**

Instruction aligns to specific student needs and learning goals

- **Data Driven Decisions**

Frequent data collection informs instructional decisions and groupings

- **Student Reflection and Ownership**

Ongoing student reflection promotes ownership of learning

- **Flexible Content and Tools**

Instructional materials are intentionally and strategically leveraged to allow for differentiated path and pace of learning, and meaningful performance tasks

**Where do you want your learning to take you and how can KPBSD help you get there? #PLinKPBSD**



Visit the PL website for videos, testimonials, stories, and FAQs:  
<http://www.plkpbsd.org/>

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)

Students should be able to demonstrate their readiness in multiple ways beyond a standardized test score, and while test scores are one key readiness indicator often used in schools, they do not always show the whole picture. Key Performance Indicators are intended to provide a holistic view of a student's preparedness for life, career, and, or college choices. Our KPI's link directly to the strategic plan and the district's efforts to develop personalized learning environments in every classroom. Research indicates that the more indicators students attain, the greater chance they may have to be successful citizens in an ever-changing world.



<http://bit.ly/KPIsKPBSDdashboard>



## BP TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE

KPBSD celebrates our Kenai BP Teachers of Excellence and BP Educational Ally award recipient.



<http://bit.ly/2XCsSjA>

L-R: Superintendent Dusek; Wendy Todd (Paul Banks Elementary); Julie Doepken (Seward Elementary); Martha Fleming (Seward High); and Jennifer Hornung (Nikiski Middle-High)

# KPBSD CLASS OF 2019 #AKlearns



**KPBSD AWARDED 557  
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS  
IN 2018-2019!**



## CALEB NAPIER

Connections Homeschool

<http://bit.ly/2LXTd9P>

## NICHOLAS REUTOV

Homer Flex School

<http://bit.ly/2YZsXj3>

## DEXTER LOWE

Homer High School

<http://bit.ly/2Om9DF5>

## FELESATA FEFELOV

Kachemak Selo School

<http://bit.ly/2JRq3XZ>

## MICHAEL METZ

Kenai Alternative School

<http://bit.ly/2SpBDMW>

## MARIA SALZETTI

Kenai Central High School

<http://bit.ly/2JQgjWv>

## URIAH JOSEPH HUNTSMAN

Nanwalek School

<http://bit.ly/2JF3Cp6>

## MICHAEL TRAIL

Nikolaevsk School

<http://bit.ly/2xWeQ1V>

## BETHANY CARSTENS, KELSEY CLARK, AND EMMA WIK

Nikiski Middle-High School

<http://bit.ly/2Yc652B>

## GARRETT KOCH

Nililchik School

<http://bit.ly/30MfLP4>

## MONIQUE COOK

Port Graham School

<http://bit.ly/30L5cLM>

## STEVEN HUNTER SMITH

River City Academy

<http://bit.ly/2XPCDA5>

## MEGHAN MULLALY

Seward High School

<http://bit.ly/2Ly7KJV>

## MYKENNA FOSTER

Soldotna High School

<http://bit.ly/2xTqRVZ>

## AMY MCGLOTHEN

Susan B. English School

<http://bit.ly/2REIqSv>

## ELENA BASARGIN

Voznesenka School

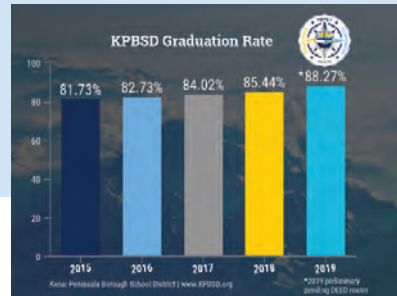
<http://bit.ly/2xZDIL0>

**THREE CITIES, THREE DECADES,  
THREE LEADERS**  
KPSBD graduate  
#inspirations

**Katie Koester**  
HOMER HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1998  
Homer City Manager

**Paul Ostrander**  
SOLDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1986  
Kenai City Manager

**Stephanie (Arbelowsky) Queen**  
KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2000  
Soldotna City Manager



## KPBSD GRADUATES PROFILE PUBLIC SCHOOL SUCCESS AND INSPIRATION

Graduates are creative problem-solvers, neighbors, business owners, teachers, parents, volunteers, innovators, doctors, and more. Your school district is a positive investment and validates its vision to, “inspire all learners to pursue their dreams in a rigorous, relevant and responsive environment.” Every week KPBSD featured a graduate profile—if you are seeking inspiration or to learn about successful outcomes, read the online stories.

<http://bit.ly/GraduateStoriesKPSBD>



# 2019-2020 LEADERSHIP TEAM

- John O'Brien, Interim Superintendent
- Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Support
- Nate Crabtree, Human Resources Director
- Pegge Erkeneff, Communications, Community, and Government Relations Director
- Christine Ermold, Professional Learning and Federal Programs Director
- Elizabeth Hayes, Finance Director
- Clayton Holland, Student Support Services Director
- Kevin Lyon, Planning and Operations Director
- John Pothast, Innovation and Strategic Planning Director
- Eric Soderquist, Information Services Director
- Tim Vlasak, Schools and Compliance Director



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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907.714.8888 | fax: 907.262.9645 | [kpbsd.k12.ak.us](http://kpbsd.k12.ak.us)

YouTube: @KPBSDvideos | Facebook: KPBSD | Twitter: @KPBSD  
LinkedIn: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District



**Look for this symbol to read expanded online stories.**



<http://bit.ly/AnnualReportFY19KPBSD>

## CONNECT WITH KPBSD

Become a Key Communicator, tune into Facebook Live Q&As, visit district and school social media sites, download the free mobile app (you learn about school closures or delay starts fast through the app), attend school events, Board of Education meetings, or subscribe to the KPBSDvideos YouTube channel. It is likely you have a story to share, questions, and a valuable perspective—the school district hopes to connect with you!



<http://bit.ly/KeyCommunicatorsKPBSD>