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A N N U A L
R E P O R T



KENAI PENINSULA
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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.

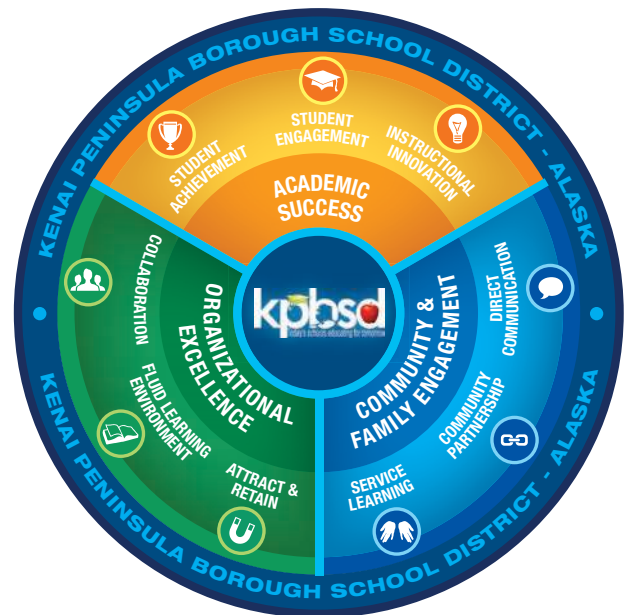
Vision Statement

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

Keeping KPBSD Focused

Our strategic plan that serves as the basis of our improvement efforts is now two years old. During this time our schools and district have methodically made progress on meeting the plan's goals that lie within its three focus areas—academic success, organizational excellence, and community and family engagement. Because the plan includes activity at our schools, the reporting of the progress to meet the plan's goals is voluminous. We are able to monitor this work through a dynamic web-based program that graphically displays the level of goal completion. With two years of our plan now complete, it is encouraging to see the nice balance of school and district improvement activity.



Celebrating 50 years!

In January 1964, five years after Alaska became a state, the Kenai Peninsula Borough was formed and with it came the creation of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Since then, the district has grown to 44 schools serving 8,800 students. When you review the history of the district, you quickly learn that our borough and by extension our residents have consistently supported their school district. Fifty years later, KPBSD can claim that it is a state leader in education; we suspect that the founding members expected nothing less.





Average Years of Experience with KPBSD

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



Student Transportation

Each school day, more than 2,500 students are transported a total of nearly 7,000 miles on school buses throughout the district.



Staffing Ratios Type of School and Pupil/Teacher Ratio

20:1 Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students: **KINDERGARTEN**

22:1 Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students: **GRADES 1-3**

24:1 Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students: **GRADES 4-6**

24:1 **MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS**

17:1 Small schools with less than 200 enrolled students: **GRADES K-6**



Student Nutrition Services

During the 2013-2014 school year Student Nutrition Services (SNS) provided nearly one million meals to KPBSD students.



2013-2014 Enrollment

Preschool **215**
Kindergarten-6th grades **4,637**
7th-8th grades **1,306**
9th-12th grades **2,774**
Total actual enrollment for 2013-2014 school year **8,932**



Free and reduced lunches

A total of **3,340** KPBSD students, or **44%** out of **7,574** students served, qualified for free or reduced-price meals during the 2013-2014 school year. Across the state, roughly **46%** of students enrolled in Alaska schools that sponsor school meal programs qualify for free or reduced price meals.



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.



Homeless

As of May 21, 2014, 200 students were identified as homeless in the school district.



Personnel

District administration **21**
Building administration **46**
Certified staff **681**
Support staff **504**
Total **1,252**



KPBSD awarded **586** high school diplomas in 2013-2014!



Message from Steve Atwater, PhD Superintendent of Schools

I am pleased to present KPBSD's 2013-2014 Annual Report. This review of last year's stories and accomplishments nicely captures much of what we are doing for our students. I trust that the report will help you recognize our staff's unwavering commitment to serve our 8,800 students.

In the following pages you will see that KPBSD continues to be a state leader with strong test scores, an improved graduation rate, a lower dropout rate, and staff receiving awards and playing a lead role on state level work. At the district level, we continue to build a strong foundation for future success guided by our strategic plan, our curriculum work, our teacher evaluation system and our attention to process performance management. It is good to recognize that past initiatives have now become "business as usual."

Our successes give us momentum to continue our work to ensure that every KPBSD student has a successful school experience that will prepare him or her for the challenges that they will face after high school.

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 possibly can be.



Key Performance Indicators

If you were asked to rate your school district, what would inform this opinion? Most people would point to test scores. But do they really tell the whole story? In an effort to broaden the variables that we can review to measure our success, we created eight key performance indicators. These key points of measurement from grades three to twelve will allow us to move beyond our dependence to just share test scores; we will be able to more comprehensively summarize our progress. This 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 Alaska Performance Scholarship
- 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

Message from Joe Arness

President, KPBSD Board of Education



We are all looking forward to another positive and productive year in peninsula schools. All signs point to a steady improvement in our classroom excellence, a productive discussion with our associations regarding negotiated agreements, and an opportunity to continue, and even build upon, our relationship with our communities.

In many ways, 2013-2014 was a difficult year. While no single issue or occurrence rose to the level of crisis, our district had to deal with or suffer through a series of challenging events. However, as a sound vessel will always do, our organization weathered those challenges and still stands as solid and dependable as ever. We are, in fact, fortunate to have a very professional staff fully equipped to deal with whatever problem or emergency arises. In my mind, the epitome of this challenge and response exchange was the reaction and cooperation involved in Skyview High School closing its doors as a high school on May 21, 2014, and later that afternoon opening as the incident command center for the Funny River wildfire, and for the enormous volume of responders. Simultaneously, the transition to open August 19, 2014 as the new Skyview Middle School was transpiring, and the roof contractor and crew were on site to begin the roof replacement. This paints a picture of a cooperative response in a challenging situation! And, it all went well.

We are all excited to welcome the new school year and the new employees and students that will be a part of it. KPBSD is ready to deliver yet another year of educational innovation and organizational leadership. We appreciate the support shown us by the Borough Assembly, as well as by the communities which comprise our district.

KPBSD Board of Education

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

School Board Meeting Schedule

July 7, 2014	February 2, 2015
August 4, 2014	March 2, 2015
September 8, 2014 (Homer)	April 6, 2015
October 20, 2014	May 4, 2015 (Seward)
November 3, 2014	June 1, 2015
December 1, 2014	June 2, 2015 (Board Planning Session)
January 12, 2015	

Goals 2014-2015

Reporting on Innovation

Each month the school board will be apprised of specific innovative practices, at the site and district level, that are designed to positively impact student engagement and the measures of their success.

Review of District Swimming Pool Use

By December 2014, Administration will provide information, to the Board, regarding the efficiency and value of the district pools usage.

Improving relations with Associations

By December 2014, prepare for the upcoming Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiations by collaborating with the employee associations and by researching applicable statutes to determine district alternatives.



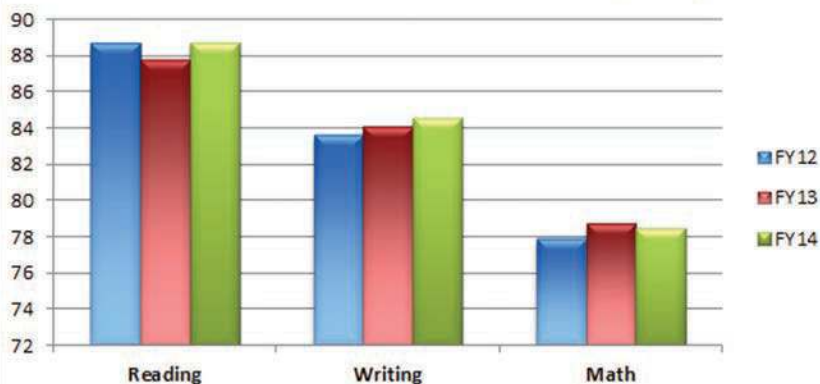


Academic Success PBIS

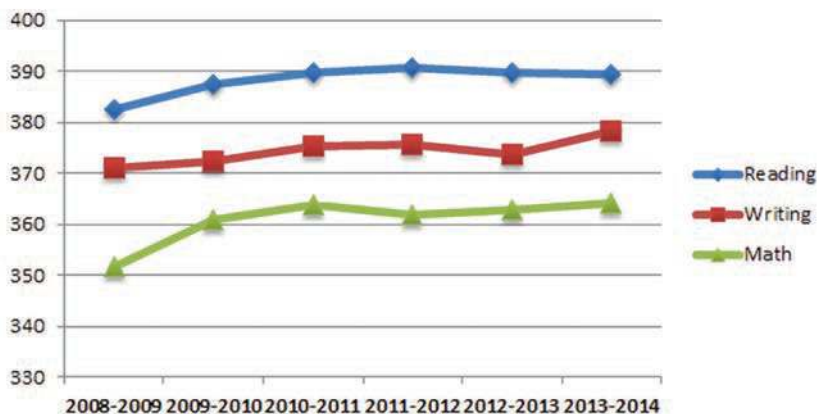
School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework used to define behavioral expectations for all students in a school, and then teach those behaviors to students. Students using correct behaviors are positively acknowledged, and the PBIS school-based teams use school-specific data to select and design behavioral approaches and interventions. Once a school-wide program is fully in place and implemented, they begin focusing behavioral efforts on smaller groups of students who require additional supports to be successful.

Eight schools implemented PBIS in 2013-2014. K-Beach Elementary, Nikolaevsk School, and Soldotna Elementary began their first year of implementation. Other schools continuing to implement PBIS include Homer Flex, Nikiski North Star Elementary, Ninilchik School, Redoubt Elementary, and Sterling Elementary. At the eight schools implementing PBIS this school year, there was a combined total of 362 fewer Office Discipline Referrals than last school year. **This equates to an estimated gain of 16,290 minutes of academic engaged time for students in the schools, the equivalent of 271.5 hours or roughly 45 days of learning.** Administrator time gained was 5,430 minutes, or 90.5 hours. PBIS makes a difference! Razdolna School, Voznesenka School, and West Homer Elementary will be working toward implementing PBIS in the 2014-2015 school year.

KPBSD Students Scoring Proficient on Standard Based Assessments (SBA)



KPBSD Average SBA Scale Scores





2014 Borough Forensics Competition, Tustumena Elementary

Organizational Excellence

APQC: Cultivating Reliability and Excellence

During this school year we were able to partner with the American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC) to review core district processes and find ways to increase our efficiency within those processes. The areas we examined were Governance, Budget and Staffing, Educational Technology, and Worker's Compensation. Through this work, key performance indicators were developed along with specific actions to address improvement in each area. While the work of continuous improvement is ongoing, our partnership has provided the tools to manage processes and performance in a systematic and transparent manner.

Elementary Report Card: A Number or a Letter, What's the Difference?

The KPBSD Department of Elementary Education worked with a team of teacher leaders over the last three years to create, pilot, and refine a new elementary report card that provides more accurate and meaningful information than the traditional A-F letter grade system. Following revisions based on feedback from parents and teachers, the report card was finalized and training was provided to the leadership teams from all elementary schools. While parents and guardians of students in grades K-3 won't notice any difference at all, parents of students in elementary grades four and higher will see that the report card for those grades now mirrors the ones used in grades K-3. The primary reason for this change is that, although everyone thinks they know what an 'A' or an 'F' means, it actually varies greatly from teacher to teacher. In fact, one teacher might grade based on whether things are turned in on time and neatly, while another teacher only grades on the level to which a student demonstrated mastery of a learning objective.

In the end, the adults in a child's life want to know how their child is doing in school—and while previously an 'A' or 'B' was something to be proud of, now adults should know that a score of 3 means a child showed they learned exactly what they were supposed to: a score of 2 means the child learned part of it; a 1 means the child still needs help with the concept; and a 0 means that even with help, the child isn't yet experiencing success with that knowledge or skill. On the other end of the spectrum, a 4 means that the child has gone beyond what their grade level standards require by demonstrating more complex understanding, applying the knowledge or skill in a new way, or maybe even can teach someone else what they've learned. While this change may be met with some initial confusion, the district is confident it is a move in the right direction for students, and prompts a new way of talking about student success in school. Here at KPBSD, we know that is a good thing for student success!

Early Release Days for Students, Maximum Day for Teachers

Over the course of the past 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 the new Alaska state standards. Teachers spent time reviewing, unpacking, and developing lessons to address the fundamental shifts in instruction that the new standards will require. 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.

Effective Instruction and Student Growth Maps

Through numerous meetings, that have included many teachers from around KPBSD, we are in position to meet all of the new state regulations regarding teacher evaluation. The next phase is to develop student growth maps to incorporate data into the system. Our district committee has developed the parameters for the maps along with a plan for a pilot to ensure that all teachers will be in a position to succeed with the new system starting in 2015. This will also include multiple professional development opportunities for all certified staff as we work together for the success of our students.





Homer High School, Power Mechanics CTE class



Academic Success

3-D Printers Changing Our World

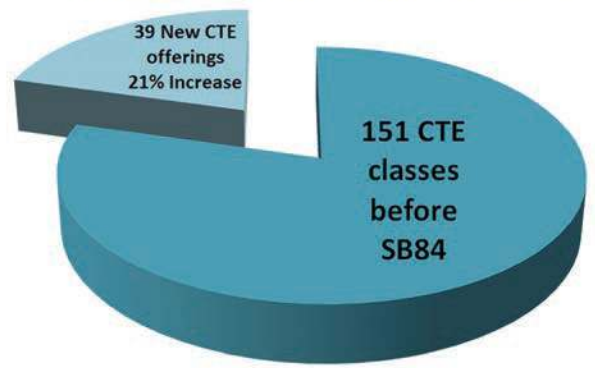
Thanks to increased funding from the Alaska legislature to support Career and Technical Education (CTE), KPBSD drafting instructor Matt Widaman and his students at Kenai Central High School (KCHS) Workforce Development Center learned how revolutionary 3D printing can be in an exciting class. The 3D printer is used to create models using computer aided design software. A 3D printer reads a design from a 3D printable file, and then applies many plastic layers upon a base layer, building the model designed by computer software. The advantage of the technique is an ability to create almost any shape or geometric feature.

The computer aided drafting class at KCHS utilizes this new technology. Some of the various designs and projects students have created include, CO2 dragsters, iPhone cases, chess pieces and boards, skeletal bones, gears, pulleys, soap dishes, predator calls, tripod adapters, dodecahedrons, and various other tools.

The technology has real-world practical uses. For example, a 40 year old wooden pulley wheel in the Kenai auditorium fatigued and broke. Borough maintenance asked students to create a 3D model of the wooden pulley wheel. A student took the exact measurements, designed the model, and printed a new pulley using the 3D printer. The student-created pulley is successfully utilized in place of the original!

The software and 3D technology being utilized at KCHS is the same technology that is used in business and industry. This alignment leads to a seamless transition for students entering post-secondary training or technical school, and provides background knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in technology and engineering-related careers.

Career and Technical Education Class Offerings and the Impact of SB84




KPBSD currently offers 190 CTE classes






KPBSD Staff Awards 2014 Inclusive Practice Award

The Homer High School Intensive Needs (IN) Classroom received the 2014 Inclusive Practice Award from The Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education. The award recognizes outstanding educators who work to ensure students with disabilities have the opportunity for an inclusive education with their peers as part of the general education curriculum. “The IN team at Homer High School is outstanding and goes to incredible lengths to make sure that our students have meaningful inclusion,” said Clayton Holland, director of pupil services. “Along with the other staff at Homer High School, they have created a school culture that accepts, includes, and is accountable for every student. The benefits of what this team has done extends not only to the students they serve directly in their classroom, but to every student and staff member in the building who has the opportunity to work and interact with students with disabilities on a daily basis.” IN team: Monica Stockburger, Intensive Needs teacher; Bobby Creamer, Speech Language Pathologist; Mary Cooper, Paraprofessional; Sara Fischer, Paraprofessional; Michael Kelley, Paraprofessional; Rhonda Owens, Paraprofessional; Clayton Smith, Paraprofessional; Michael Steen, Paraprofessional. 


Dan Bohrnson, AACTE Outstanding Career and Technical Education Administrator of the Year

“It was great to be recognized for this award,” said Dan Bohrnson. “Over the past four years the increase in CTE state and federal funding enabled our district to expand curriculum, improve our classrooms and shops, and provide needed equipment and sup-




plies to most of our CTE programs, which in turn has enabled our teachers to expose students to twenty-first century skills needed in the work force. We have outstanding CTE teachers, and these improvements have given them the tools to offer more opportunities to our students. To me this award is verification that KPBSD is heading in the right direction.” 

Greg Zorbas, ASTE Teacher of the Year


Kenai Central High School teacher, Greg Zorbas, was named Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) 2014 Teacher of the Year. Zorbas’ work with his students using technology to access classrooms from around the world is inspiring,” said Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent. “The learning opportunities that he brings to his class are an excellent way to broaden his students’ perspective on the taught content.” 

Karla Barkman, 2014 Linda K. Barrett Service Award

Karla Barkman, KPBSD District Librarian and Technology Integration Specialist received the 2014 Linda K. Barrett Service Award. Given annually by the Alaska Association of School Librarians to a fellow librarian who is a member of AkASL, Barkman demonstrates service to the school library profession, and provides significant services to both state and local activities. 




Renee Henderson, Alaska Music Educator of the Year


Kenai Central High School Choral Director, Renee Henderson, was chosen by the Alaska Music Educators Association (AMEA) as the Alaska Music Educator of the Year during the AMEA Biennial State Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska. What motivates a person to do anything for 43 years? The answer, in a word: commitment. 



2014 BP Teachers of Excellence

"The annual BP Teachers of Excellence program recognizes five of our teachers who nicely represent all that is good about teaching," said Dr. Steve Atwater. KPBSD celebrates Katie Bynagle, 5th & 6th grade, West Homer Elementary School; Terri McKnight, 5th grade, Seward Elementary School; Sheilah-Margaret Pothast, Health, Spanish and American History, Soldotna Middle School; Barbara Veeck, 3rd and 4th grade special education resource teacher, West Homer Elementary School; Amy Utecht, 3rd grade teacher, Redoubt Elementary School. 


Alaska 2014 Region III Principal of the Year

Jason Bickling, Seward Middle School and Moose Pass administrator, is the Alaska 2014 Region III Principal of the Year. "Honestly, it's very humbling to be recognized when I know there are a lot of administrators out there doing great things in their schools and making a difference for kids," said Bickling. "I am pleased to learn that Mr. Bicklings is recognized as Alaska's Region III Principal of the Year," said Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent. "His tireless work to create an optimum learning environment for his Seward Middle School and Moose Pass School students is inspiring." 




Barbara Veeck, BP Teacher of the Year

On April 30, 2014, BP celebrated five KPBSD teachers, naming Barbara Veeck, West Homer Elementary special education teacher, as an "education bridge-builder extraordinaire," and "2014 Kenai Peninsula BP Teacher of the Year." Veeck has served in many special education


projects across Alaska. Her efforts include special education curriculum development and a program to bring computer technology into the classroom. 




Kelly King, Knight in Shining Armor award

Kelly King, KPBSD homeless liaison, was awarded the *Knight in Shining Armor* award during a candlelight vigil for youth and family homelessness. "I am blessed with the opportunity to do what I love every day. Having the work I do be recognized at the vigil, by good friends who have the same vision ... I am very humbled and just so grateful," said King. "One of the more challenging tasks that we face is educating our homeless students. Because of the extraordinary effort and dedication of Kelly King, the district is able to do its best to meet this challenge," said Steve Atwater, superintendent. 

2014 Alaska Distinguished Elementary Principal of the Year

The Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals recognized David Kingsland as the National Distinguished Principal for 2014. Kingsland is the principal of William H. Seward Elementary School in Seward. "I was thrilled to learn that one of our own is being recognized by his peers as a National Distinguished Principal for 2014," said Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent. 

View the Annual Report online with hyperlinks to additional stories, scan QR codes, or click this symbol when viewing online: 

Student and graduate profiles

Faith McKinnon [Class of 2011]

"I was a homeless teen after my mother died when I was fifteen. I was left without a legal guardian and kicked out of the place we had been living. With no adult direction, I struggled to show up to school and my grades dropped. I began to fail in almost every class. I dropped out of school at the end of my junior year because I felt like I couldn't finish—I gave up on myself." Six months later, "I really started to think about it and realized I needed to finish school to prove everyone wrong—including myself." Faith enrolled in Kenai Alternative School and the KPBSD Students In Transition (SIT) program helped her with transportation to and from school, appointments, hygiene products, clothing, and more. "The school and staff working there are like one big family and really made me feel welcomed. They taught me to follow my dreams. They made me see that I could become whatever I wanted. They believed in me, which made me believe in myself. Once I got in that school and got the help I needed, things changed for the better. I remember the day I was told I was going to graduate—that was the best day of my life. Since I graduated I've held consistent employment." Faith lives in Anchorage and shares her story so people can, "gain information and not be so scared or intimidated by homelessness."



Kiowa M. Richardson [Class of 2014]

River City Academy's valedictorian, Kiowa M. Richardson will attend the United States Air Force Academy. More than a year ago, Kiowa began the intense process of preparing herself for the congressional nomination required for application to the USAFA. She demonstrated her commitment to her education, school, and community over the course of her career at RCA. Helping to shape the culture of RCA, she expanded her own horizons both inside and outside of school. Throughout high school, Kiowa received numerous awards and acknowledgments of her extensive talents, including first place finishes in the Annual RCA Poetry Slam, the Kenai Peninsula Writers Contest, and numerous Superior District Medallions in fine arts. At fourteen she authored and published *The Christmas Kangaroo*,

and attained the Silver Award in Girl Scouts. During high school she also devoted free time to volunteer at local service agencies, and with her church.



Cat Schoessler [Class of 2014]

In her senior year, Cat served as the final Skyview High School student body president. "Although the usual activities of school spirit, dances, and events happened, the focus became merging two high schools," she said. "As each year enrollment dropped, I am most proud of all the kids who created a family atmosphere, helping everyone feel welcome in the halls. Kids felt safe to speak up, listen, and look out for each other." She will carry that attitude to University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) in the fall, and into her future. An athlete, her softball team, and involvement with student government helped her to set positive priorities during high school. The Alaska Performance Scholarship aided her decision to attend UAA in the fall, where she will study political science. The values to be "open to anyone, kind, open-minded, and conscious to everyone around you" were formed at Skyview, and are now "an atmosphere I want to create throughout my life wherever I am."



Mya Swan Rueda [Class of 1994]

During a class at Soldotna High School, Mya spent several observation hours at Central Peninsula Hospital, in both the physical therapy department, and with an occupational therapist. At the time she didn't realize the importance of the experience, but twenty years later, visiting Alaska and fishing in the Kenai River, she explained, "I earned my Doctor of Physical Therapy from



2013-2014 annual Borough Student Council Leadership Day, Seward, Alaska

the Arizona School of Health Sciences, and that experience in high school did influence me in my career choice." In private practice now, Dr. Rueda specializes in myofascial release and works with infants to people in their late nineties. She was handpicked to be part of the John F. Barnes team and worked at the world renowned Myofascial Release Treatment Center, Therapy on the Rocks. Her role as a lead physical therapist allowed her to provide personalized myofascial release sessions, teach myofascial release stretching classes, and assist in the training of other myofascial release therapists. In Alaska she learned her core values, morals, work ethic, and how to catch big fish.

Dolly M. Farnsworth

Her four children, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren attended KPBSD schools. A few days before celebrating her ninety-second birthday, while sitting in her kitchen, Dolly recounted feisty stories and encounters from her six years of service on the KPBSD school board, during 1969 to 1975. "I think schools are so important," she said. "Keep an open mind, and don't set stupid rules." One of eight children, Dolly was the first to graduate from high school and attend college. Also the first woman to serve on the Borough Assembly, Dolly was proud to vote and speak her mind. Her guidance for current times: "I wish they wouldn't only think of all the new stuff, and remember some of the old stuff, like cursive writing. Get involved with the kids' education and make it fun—and not like it's hard work. A lot of education is fun if you look at it that way."







Community and Family Engagement

Project GRAD Kenai Peninsula (PGKP)

PGKP students, parents and communities were busy this past year! Six institutes were attended by 157 middle and high school students. The institutes were held outside of the school day in the summer, and on weekends during the school year. Students learned leadership skills, soft skills, visited business leaders and colleges, and participated in career and post-secondary access activities during these action packed offerings. In addition to these enriching activities, PGKP provided teacher and student support, scholarships, and post graduate support throughout the 2013-2014 school year.

Academic Success

Students In Transition (SIT) Program

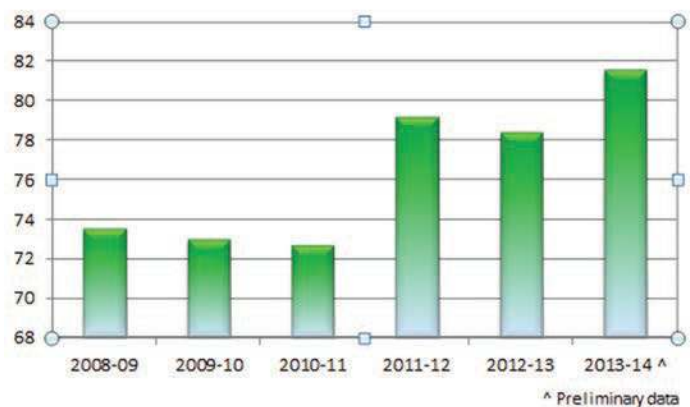
Do you know that our SIT program provides supports and services to hundreds of KPBSD students who are without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence? *The New York Times* met with us in November 2013, to highlight the hidden issue of homelessness on the Kenai Peninsula in an article, *Alaska's Thin Line Between Camping and Homelessness*.

During the 2013-2014 school year, two hundred KPBSD students were identified as experiencing homelessness at some point during the 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.

Kenai Early College Initiative

Additional students will become college or career ready by graduation through two changes in August 2014. In addition to seniors, high school juniors can now take advantage of the JumpStart program and enroll at Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). Students can take up to six credits each semester, for a maximum of thirty credits. The tuition cost is \$55 per credit versus the regular rate of \$174. Additionally, KPBSD will transport students enrolled in KPC from all central peninsula high schools to the Kenai River Campus. This new partnership with KPC to expand JumpStart will help KPBSD meet the goal that every student will graduate with at least one completed college course, industry certification, or score a three or higher on Advanced Placement tests.

KPBSD Graduation Rate 2009-2014







can access district and school news, calendars, staff directory, sports, lunch menus, PowerSchool, and much more. Throughout 2014-2015, additional features will be incorporated including emergency alerts, more news, bus routes, overdue library books, and more! Download the official *Kenai Peninsula Borough SD* app today!

KPBSD Key Communicators

A network of people interested in our schools was formed in January 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, and celebrations

through conversations, e-mail, media releases, and eWave employee news. Three interactive meet and greets with Dr. Atwater took place in 2014. We look forward to more engagement in coming years.

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. In 2014, more than 400 students responded with an innovative project or idea. In addition to \$7,500 in cash awards for the finalists, \$20,000 was awarded to the science departments of schools that participated in CFK 2014. Plus, more than twenty students received special recognition awards from local businesses and individuals.

Congratulations to 2014 top twelve winners: Katherine Dolma, Homer High School; Kyrsten Maxson, Kenai Central High School; Taylor Shelden, Kenai Central High School; Morgan Chesley, Austin Craig, and Aurora Derflinger, Skyview High School; Braden Ellis, Nikiski Middle-High School; Jane Rohr, Homer High School; 7th - 12th place (no order) Afton Carlson, Soldotna High School; Haley Trefon, Skyview High School; Patrick Latimer, Homer High School; Cassidy Soistman, Homer High School; Melissa Ehlers, Ninilchik School; Lisa Wisner, Homer High School.



Community and Family Engagement

KPBSD Mobile App

We’ve added something new to your school supplies—a free mobile app! In April development and internal beta testing began, and in August and September we will work with every school to build their specific site news and calendar. You

2013-2014 Golden Apple Awardees

Dolores Benner, *Grandma Dee*, Community Member
Barbara Ralston, Teacher
Mike Petersen, Community Member
Brenda Ratky, *Grandma Brenda*, Community Member
Kim Reiersen, Community Member
Yolanda Schrader, EEL Tutor
Eric Soderquist, KPBSD Programmer and Analyst
Elizabeth Wilson, Community Member

Alaska Sports Activities Association ASAA

KPBSD teams and students score during their state level competitions! We celebrate all of our students and coaches, and recognize those high school students who finished in the top three of their competition or were selected for a state level team.

Basketball

1A Boys State Tournament

Seldovia—third place; All-Tournament team: Aidan Philpot

Nikolaevsk—All-Tournament team: Jaruby Nelson

1A Girls State Tournament

Nikolaevsk—All-Tournament team: Nianiella Dorvall

3A Girls State Tournament

Nikiski—All-Tournament team: Alyssa Darch

Seward—All-Tournament team: Laura Kromrey

4A Girls State Tournament

Soldotna—Academic Award (3.92 GPA); All-Tournament team: Kelci Benson

Cross-Country Running

1-2-3A Boys State Championship

Homer—third place

4A Boys State Championship

Kenai Central—third place: Jordan Theisen

1-2-3A Girls State Championship

Homer—third place: Megan Pitzman
Homer—second place

4A Girls State Championship

Kenai Central—State Champion: Allie Ostrander
Soldotna—second place

Football

Small-Schools Championship

Nikiski—State Champions

Medium-Schools Championship

Soldotna—State Champions

Hockey

4A State Tournament

Soldotna—All-Tournament team: Cody Harvey

Nordic Skiing

State Championship

Girls

Soldotna—All-State team: Sadie Fox, Hannah Pothast

Classic (5K)

Soldotna—second place: Sadie Fox

Classic (7.5K)

Soldotna—third place: Sadie Fox

Top 3 in 2A/3A

Skyview—third place: Mika Morton
Girls

Top 3 in 2A/3A

Homer—third place: Brian Rowe

Soccer

Girls State Tournament

Soldotna—third place (tie); Sportsmanship Award; All-Tournament team: Taryn McCubbins, Kylie Morse, Katelynn Kerkvliet

Boys State Tournament

Homer—All-Tournament team: Max Mangue, Quinn Daugharty

Softball

Small School Championship

Homer—third place; All-Tournament team: Maggie LaRue

Swimming and Diving Championships

Homer—Outstanding Boys Diver: Kaec Brinster



Track and Field

1-2-3A Girls

Homer—third Place; All Academic Award; State Champions 4 x 400 Relay
Homer—State Champion 800 M. Run;
Aurora Waclawski

Seward—Laura Kromrey, State Champion Discus

1-2-3A Boys

Seward—second place (tie); Tannen Berry, State Champion 100 M. Hurdles and 300 M. Hurdles

Skyview—State Champions 4 x 800 relay; Micah Hilbish, State Champion 800 Meter Run

Nikiski—Seth Carstens, State Champion High Jump

4A Girls

Kenai Central—Allie Ostrander, State Champion 800 Meter run, 1600 Meter Run, 3200 Meter Run; New State record for the 1600 and 3200

Soldotna—State Champion 4 x 800 Relay

Volleyball

3A Tournament

Skyview—third place; All-Tournament team: Cheyanne Laber, Casey Neill; Outstanding Defensive Specialist, Casey Neill

Mixed 6 Tournament

Nikolaevsk—Sportsmanship Award; All-Tournament Team: Nianiella Dorvall, Anthony Yakunin

Wrestling

1-2-3A State Championship

Skyview—Austin Craig, State Champion 106; Seth Hutchison, State Champion 113

Nikiski—Luke Johnson, State Champion 195

4A State Championship

Kenai Central—Paul Steffensen, State Champion 126; Ellery Steffensen, State Champion 145

Seward—Howie Hubbard; second 285

All-State Art Competition

Skyview—Sky Schlung, third place Ceramics; Taylor Wilson, State Champion Textile/Fiber Art; Will Mahan, third place Printmaking

Homer—Hayden Chase, Best of Show and State Champion Jewelry and Metalsmithing; David Woo, third place Sculpture; Mixed Media—Lisa Wisner, third

Mixed Media—David Wood, third Sculpture



Drama, Debate and Forensics

Homer—Evan Boyer and Shaefer Nielson, third place Pantomime; Evan Boyer and Jonas Noomah, first Place Duo Interpretation; All Academic team 1-2-3A

Seward—Emily Brockman, Hayden Tiner, Robin McKnight and Josephine Braun, first place Readers Theater; Hayden Tiner, second place Dramatic Interpretation; Overall Sweepstakes 1-2-3A; Drama Sweepstakes, first; Overall Sportsmanship 1-2-3A, second

All-State Music Festival

Kenai—Alison Jones, Vocal Solo; Alexandria Bergholtz, second place Clarinet Solo; Logan Boyle, first place Low Brass Solo; John Aguilar, Raymon Machen-Gray, Caleb Rohn, second place Musical Theater Vocal Ensemble; Alison Jones, third place Musical Theater Vocal Solo; Ariana Gabriel, Saxophone solo; Olen Danielson, first place Trombone Solo;

Alison Jones and Josephine Jones, first place Vocal Ensemble; Josephine Jones, second place Vocal Solo
Homer—Cassidy Soistman, Mattea Peters, Megan Kirsis, Taylor Davis, Hannah Baird, Hailey Nelson, Sydney Paulino, Lindsey Schneider, Alyssa Vanliere, Matthew Meyer, August Kilcher, John Walsworth, Joseph Cardoza, Ian Hall, Patrick Latimer, Zane Wilkinson, second place Mixed Vocal Ensemble

Native Youth Olympics

Nanwalek—Sam Swenning, third place Wrist Carry; Timothy Ukatish, first place One-Hand Reach



Academic Success School Reconfigurations

At the beginning of the new school year in August 2014, five KPBSD schools will launch in either a new location or with a new grade configuration in order to better serve the needs of students. **Seward Middle School** was reconfigured to a 6-7-8 school from a 7-8 school and welcomes not only a new class of 34 seventh graders but also 41 new sixth graders. This positive change for Seward Middle School students brings with it added staff and programming to the school master schedule. Art, music, and robotics are some of the offerings students can look forward to in the 2014-2015 school year.

After a lengthy process, involving administrators, staff, parents, students, and community members, Soldotna area schools will open with **Skyview Middle School** (formerly Skyview High School) now educating 7-8 grade students; **Soldotna Prep** (formerly Soldotna Middle School) will house 9th grade students together with **River City Academy**, our performance based school serving 7-12 grade students, and **Soldotna High School** was reconfigured to educate our 10-11-12 grade students. New programming for Soldotna secondary students will include: 9th grade teaming to assist with the transition from 8th to 9th grade, social studies offered in 9th grade, an additional world language offering (French), increased career and technical education electives, stronger Advanced Placement opportunities, an alternative school program, Saturday classes, and a digital learning lab that will run during the regular school day and during after-school hours.

It was a heavy lift to be ready for the opening day of school and many people worked hard to make this transpire for our young people by August 2014. Guiding questions that framed the reconfiguration included: *How can we more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of Soldotna area students, especially as it relates to graduation rate, the future of education, and the long-range KPBSD strategic plan?* The increased curricular and co-curricular opportunities will benefit all of our students attending these schools.

Academic Success

Information Technology: Then and Now

An early Data Processing Long Range Plan shows that in 1984 the district had nineteen *dumb terminals* connected to a mainframe computer system owned by the Borough. The mainframe was primarily used by the school district to process accounting and payroll information in those days. Today nearly everything we do is computerized in some fashion. Our network devices have grown from nineteen terminals in those early days to over 7,400 personal computers today. Other devices now coexist on the network too: hundreds of tablet devices, 850 network printers, 600 Internet Protocol phones, video conferencing equipment, 900 security cameras, and over 700 wireless access points that allow students to attach their own computers and smartphones to the network at any District site.



Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Career Pathways

Secondary education (7-12 grade) students are focusing on their Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways and career clusters. Utilizing SB84 funding, KPBSD is ensuring that students think beyond high school graduation and develop their own Personal Learning and Career Plan (PLCP). Each student's PLCP utilizes the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) electronic portfolio to plan education and potential careers, offering students the necessary tools for a successful future.

KPBSD School Choices

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District includes forty-four diverse public schools. Dr. Steve Atwater, 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



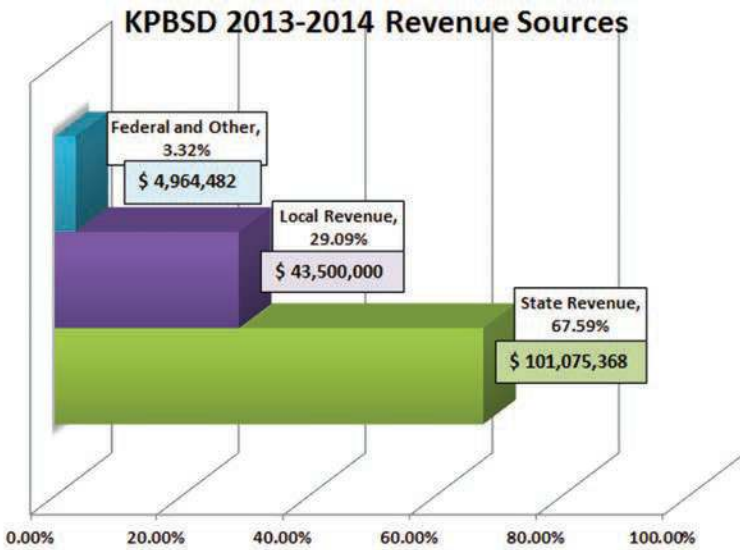
FINANCE | Revenues and Expenditures



More than three quarters—seventy-nine percent—of the General Fund budget is spent on salaries and benefits. About 15% of that 79% is a payment made by the State of Alaska, on-behalf of the district, to pay down part of the unfunded liability in the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) retirement accounts. To comply with accounting requirements, this payment is reflected on school district financial statements both as revenue and expenditure. 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. In 2014, the legislature and governor have authorized a \$3 billion payment to the retirement systems to pay down the unfunded liability. This payment will take place in FY15.

In-kind expenditures by the Kenai Peninsula Borough are also reported as revenues and corresponding expenditures on the school district financial statements as required by accounting rules. The in-kind payments comprise 6% of the Expenditure budget and are devoted to Property, Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance payments, maintenance on school buildings and audit services, as well as custodial services and utilities at the district office. Of the remaining 15%, 5% is dedicated to utility payments for schools and departments, including electricity, water and sewer, fuel for heating and natural or bottled gas. That leaves 10% for supplies, software, contract services, phone, postage, travel and other discretionary accounts.

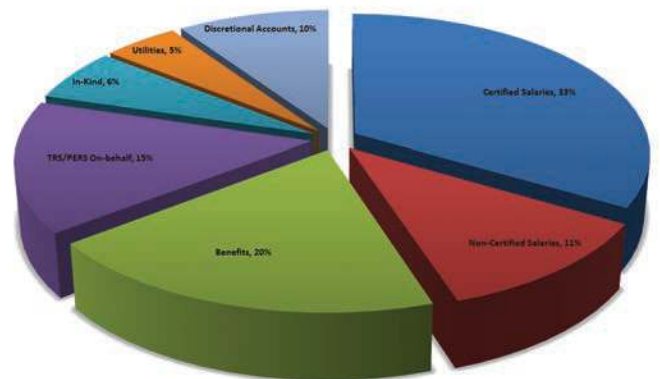
The State of Alaska requires that 70% of funding for education be spent on instructional functions. When the FY14 budget is sorted by function, it shows the KPBSD exceeds that requirement, as 74.81% of the budget is dedicated to Instruction.



Dollars and Cents

- \$0.64 Salaries and benefits
 - \$0.15 TRS/PERS on-behalf
 - \$0.10 Discretionary accounts
 - \$0.06 In-Kind services
 - \$0.05 Utilities
- = \$ 1.00 from 2013-2014 General Fund (FY14)

KPBSD 2013-2014 General Fund Expenditures

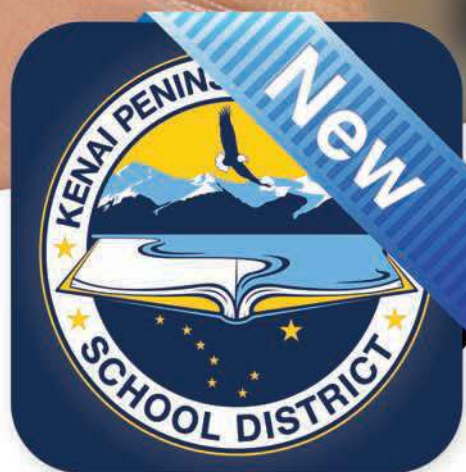
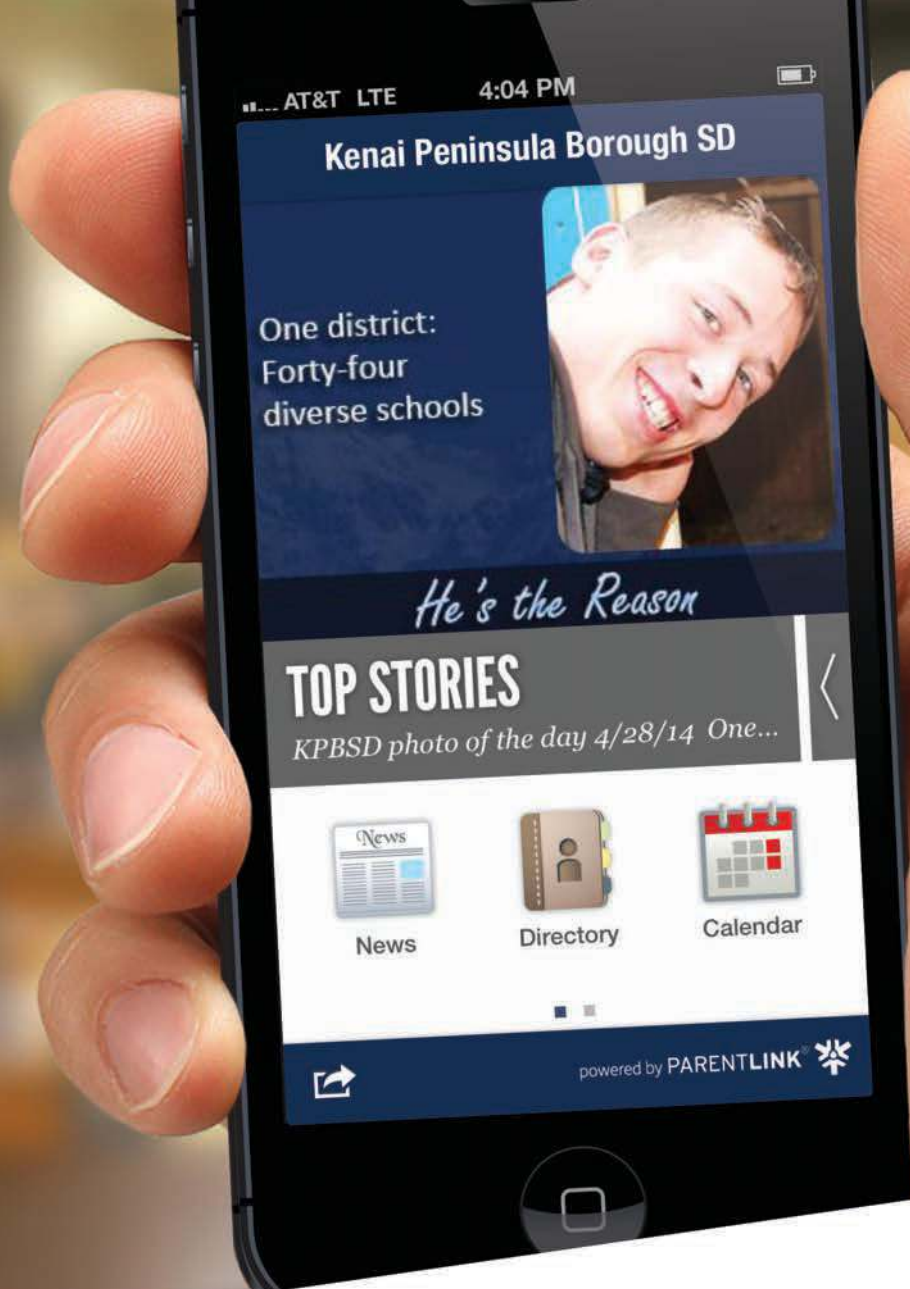


2014-2015 Leadership Team

- Steve Atwater, Superintendent**
- Sean Dusek, 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
- John O'Brien, Director Secondary Education and Student Activities
- Laurie Olson, Director Finance
- Joann Riener, Director Human Resources
- Tim Vlasak, Director K-12 schools, Assessment and Federal Programs
- Jim White, Director Information Services
- Pegge Erkeneff, Communications Specialist

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

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You can find



Kenai Peninsula Borough SD

in the app store.