

2021



2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ONE DISTRICT: FORTY-TWO DIVERSE SCHOOLS**

## MISSION

Supporting students in life success.

## VISION

Every KPBSD student will be a lifelong learner who will graduate with the knowledge, skills, integrity, perseverance, and community connectedness needed to pursue their passions and desired post-secondary opportunities.





## MESSAGE FROM CLAYTON HOLLAND SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear KPBSD students, families, community members, and staff,

As we look forward to the start of the 2022-2023 school year, I would like to take time to thank our students, families, and community members for all that you have done, and continue to do, for the KPBSD. Together we have navigated rough waters, but we continue partnering to give our students the best. For this, you have my heartfelt appreciation. Family and community engagement is truly the bedrock of this school district, and continued support of our students and for our schools will be a key component of our future success.

I would also like to thank the KPBSD staff who kept our schools open and operating at a high level throughout the last school year. Our staff modeled what it means to be kind, supportive, accepting, and what it means to listen; they demonstrated leadership, supplied encouragement and motivation, displayed positive civil discourse, and provided our students an excellent education that prepared them for their future endeavors.

Moving forward, the KPBSD will be a leader in education in Alaska. The school district will provide a strong academic foundation for all our students and increase college and career opportunities. We will continue to leverage technology and innovation to meet the needs and interests of students within each of our forty-two diverse schools. Most importantly, we will work together so that every student can become a productive and healthy citizen.

As you review the 2021-2022 annual report, I trust the stories and data will help you to recognize how incredible our staff, students, and communities are, and all the great things that happen in education on the Kenai Peninsula every day. It is an honor to serve as KPBSD's Superintendent, and I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

## 2022-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

Throughout the year, KPBSD engaged in a process to develop a new strategic plan that begins in the 2022-2023 school year. Partnering with Hanover Research, we conducted workshops and consultations designed to build staff capacity to develop the strategic plan. Included are foundational elements (mission, vision, and core values), priorities and aims, SMARTIE goals, departmental work plans, and identifying Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assess progress toward goals. In total, these elements comprise a coherent strategic plan that the district can communicate to the community, track, monitor, and adjust as needed. The 2022-2027 priorities are:

- **Community and Family Engagement**
- **Organizational and Resource Management**
- **School Climate and Safety**
- **Student Success**
- **Workforce Development**



## MESSAGE FROM ZEN KELLY

### PRESIDENT, KPBSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of the Kenai Peninsula on the Board of Education for the past six years. As we close out the previous strategic plan and draft a new course to guide us the next five years, it is important that we build on our successes and knowledge gained. We saw increased collaboration with the Borough administration and Assembly resulting in increased funding and movement on a long-term facilities plan, and a bond package that addresses much needed maintenance and improvements to our schools. We will also start construction on a new school in the community of Kachemak Selo in the near future.

The next year will see us strive to improve parent engagement and involvement, utilize innovative strategies and techniques to improve literacy, increase offerings of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses, and build on community partnerships to expand use of our facilities by the public.

Through the pandemic, we were forced to confront change and now we have the opportunity to decide what we want to retain as we navigate the possibilities of the future of education.

## KPBSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Zen Kelly, *President*, District 9, South Peninsula
- Debbie Cary, *Vice President*, District 7, Kaslof/Central
- Tim Daugharty, District 8, Homer
- Dr. Greg Madden, District 5, Sterling/Funny River
- Matt Morse, District 2, Kenai
- Jason Tauriainen, Clerk, District 3, Nikiski
- Virginia Morgan, District 6, Seward/East Peninsula
- Patti Truesdell, District 1, Kalifornsky
- Penny Vadla, Treasurer, District 4, Soldotna
- Olivia Ferguson, Student Representative 2021-2022

## COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

In June 2021, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) required every school district to create a mitigation plan included protocols for face coverings, symptom free schools, physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, contact tracing, diagnostic and screening, accommodations for students with disabilities, sports, activities, and transportation. Throughout the year, updates to the plan were communicated to stakeholders and posted in the COVID-19 web hub. The most impactful changes during the school year included individual school identification protocols to determine when mandatory masking would be in effect, a rubric to discontinue face coverings, and the discontinuation of contact tracing.

## BOND 2022

School district and borough operational, maintenance, and capital planning staff developed a plan to address capital replacement for aging school facilities. The Borough Assembly approved a bond package scheduled to go to the voters on October 4, 2022. The bond is in addition to increased borough funding for school renewal and replacements projects in 2022.

## GOALS 2022-2023

- Strengthen Relationships by Fostering Active Engagement and Involvement with Families and Communities
- Cultivate Student Success with an Emphasis on Literacy, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and Citizenship
- Foster Existing and Build New Partnerships with Businesses and Communities while Further Collaborating on Facility Usage

## 2022-2023 BOARD MEETING DATES

In addition to the business meetings, the school board will hold quarterly work sessions.

July 11, 2022  
 August 1, 2022  
 September 12, 2022 (Homer)  
 October 3, 2022  
 November 7, 2022  
 December 5, 2022  
 January 9, 2023  
 February 6, 2023  
 March 6, 2023  
 April 10, 2023  
 May 1, 2023 (Seward)  
 June 5, 2023

### NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON

Soldotna Montessori School joins 11 other schools in the KPBSD to achieve the National Blue Ribbon excellence designation.



# LEARNING IN A YEAR OF COVID-19

As the second school year of the COVID pandemic began, we moved forward with classroom teachers teaching children in person, onsite, and launched a districtwide Remote Learning program.

Distance Education (grades 9-12) will continue to serve the district with robust online courses. Remote Learning (grades 1-8) will continue to grow its service to the district by offering families a menu of learning opportunities in KPBSD.

## TITLE IX

Title IX is a federal law, enacted in 1972, that protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance, including state and local educational agencies. All administrators and staff received training in Title IX during the 2021-2022 school year. KPBSD has a new dedicated webpage and coordinator.



## INFORMATION SERVICES



Information Services continues our mission to maintain a world-class platform to support educating KPBSD students. Over the course of the previous two school years, Information Services focused on instructional technology continuity through rapid pivots and scaling of systems enriching technology in the instructional space. Initiatives including the integration of Microsoft Teams and Office 365, development of an electronic forms platform, implementation of the Zoom teleconferencing system, and expanded use of Google Apps for Education platform strengthen the toolkit available to KPBSD educators, students, and families.

To support these efforts, Information Services assisted with over 4,500 Chromebook or laptop device checkouts, collected over 85,000 electronic forms, developed numerous unique workflows to ease data entry burdens, managed more than 160 terabytes of data, and continued device replacement districtwide under the existing technology replacement plan. The team remains energized to innovate and explore new ways to strengthen our platform, streamline our processes, and deliver meaningful technology experiences to enrich the KPBSD mission.

## ASSESSMENTS

KPBSD is proud to be a school district that values assessment literacy. We employ a balanced assessment system that uses many types of assessments to inform instructional decisions and engage students in their own learning. The newest tools in Alaska’s balanced assessment system are the AK STAR and the Alaska Science Assessment. Students participate in the new assessments in the spring, and reports are scheduled to be available in November 2022.



## 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 2021-2022 school year, 180 KPBSD students were identified as experiencing homelessness, 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 (SIT) and liaison staff. This does not represent an official decrease in the actual number of students experiencing homelessness as compared to prior years; it is believed this number continued to be affected, in part, by COVID-19 and was a trend seen both state and nationwide throughout the pandemic. An exciting addition to the SIT Program this year is the presence of a dedicated, community-based liaison for the Eastern Kenai Peninsula, serving schools in Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, Seward, and Hope. There is now a local liaison presence for each region of the KPBSD.

## DISTRICT SIZE

The KPBSD school district is comprised of 42 diverse schools, in 17 diverse communities spanning 25,600 square miles.



## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

On average, every day 2,665 students are transported 6,710 miles throughout the school district



## STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES FREE MEALS SERVED

Lunches ..... **538,343**

Breakfasts ..... **214,656**



## 2021-2022 ENROLLMENT

Preschool ..... **132**

Kindergarten-6th grade ..... **4,423**

7th-8th grade ..... **1,341**

9th-12th grade ..... **2,502**

2021-2022 school enrollment ... **8,398**



## PERSONNEL

District administration ..... **10**

Building administration ..... **38**

Certified staff ..... **660**

Support staff ..... **494**

Total ..... **1,202**



## DOLLARS & CENTS

\$0.73 Salaries and benefits  
\$0.07 TRS/PERS On-Behalf  
\$0.06 Discretionary accounts  
\$0.08 In-kind services  
\$0.05 Utilities  
\$0.01 Transfers  
= \$1.00 from 2021-2022  
General Fund

# KPBSD CLASS OF 2022 #AKLEARN




## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

CTE is a broad term for education that combines academic and technical skills with the knowledge and training needed to succeed in today's labor market. CTE provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. In 2021-2022, 374 CTE sections were offered, with 2,320 course enrollments (some students took multiple classes) from twelve schools or programs in KPBSD. High school pathways and courses are offered in Business & Information Systems; Construction, Architecture & Drafting; Engineering; Digital Electronics; Health Science; Hospitality & Tourism; Human Services; Natural Resources; and Transportation.

### KENAI PENINSULA MIDDLE COLLEGE SCHOOL

KPMCS started as a pilot program under River City Academy in 2020, and in August 2022, expands to a districtwide program available to all KPBSD juniors and seniors. Students who enroll in KPMCS complete their high school graduation requirements through Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) coursework. All tuition, books, and supplies are paid with zero out-of-pocket cost to students. Additionally KPMCS offers mentoring and support to help students transition from high school to college while still allowing students to participate in any courses and activities at their local school. In the 2021-2022 year, 56 students (22 in fall; 34 in spring) in the program enrolled in 531 college credit hours. Students in KPMC enrolled in 27 Jump Start credit hours in the fall. Several seniors graduated this year with as many as 43 college credits! The goal of the program in coming years is for students to earn AA or other industry certifications simultaneously with their high school diploma.



<https://bit.ly/3bEF2W9> 

### UPSTREAM ACADEMY

After a two-year COVID hiatus, Upstream Drone Academy welcomed 35 students for a weeklong STEM camp in May 2022 hosted at Skyview Middle School. Title VI (Alaska Native and Native American) and Migratory students learned how to code and fly parrot mambo mini drones, connected with their culture through Native Youth Olympics, and learned about traditional Alaskan foods.



**KPBSD awarded 519 high school diplomas in 2022!**


### SELENA PAYMENT, RIVER CITY ACADEMY

A 2021 Alaska Communications Summer of Heroes awardee for her unique awareness of the world around her and always thinks of ways to support others more than herself.

[tps://bit.ly/3QVGMtX](https://bit.ly/3QVGMtX) 

### SARA DEVOLLD, CONNECTIONS HOMESCHOOL

Represents the State of Alaska as the State Merit Winner for the 2022 3M Young Scientist Challenge for her wearable LED designs!

<https://bit.ly/3xZASht> 



### SPENCER KUAN CO, HOMER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024

Scores 5 on the AP Computer Science exam and receives every point possible on the test, putting him in the top .29% worldwide of people who took the test!


<https://bit.ly/3QSM1e1> 






**Denise Kelly, Sterling Elementary 2022 Alaska AAESP National Distinguished Principal of the Year**

Principal Kelly believes in balancing leadership and management to make sure her students are surrounded by effective and caring people. She believes that the crux of leadership is motivating people and that leadership is shared amongst her school, and the larger community.

<https://bit.ly/3ud6joP> 

**Will Chervenak, Kenai Central High School 2022 Alaska Assistant Principal of the Year**

"I have pushed myself to improve my professional practice and have taken a new approach to student discipline, focusing on restorative justice and building positive relationships. I am very proud of the culture that exists at my school. We are focused on student voice and providing a student-centered curriculum."

<https://bit.ly/3bDY1jD> 




**Jason Daniels, K-Beach Elementary Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST)**

"Certainly one of my students' favorite parts of school and mine is the opportunity to experience STEM through hands on learning. English and Language Arts are an important part of science learning, and there is nothing more engaging, exciting, and sometimes surprising, in my experience, than getting your hands dirty."

<https://bit.ly/3I2J6LY> 


**Vaughn Dosko, Kenai Middle School 2022 Alaska Region III Principal of the Year**

"I love doing bus duty. There is nothing better than to see and greet all the kids as they get off the bus or are dropped off by mom, dad, or a sibling. Keep a journal of your journey!"

<https://bit.ly/3QUArPK> 

**Diane Buchanan, District 2022 Alaska School Nutrition Association Administrator of the Year**


"My career in student nutrition started when I wanted a job that would allow me to be on the same schedule as my children, and allow me to volunteer in their school. I started in student nutrition not expecting it to be my life's career choice!"

<https://bit.ly/3OR6Ft1> 




**Heather Baker, K-Beach Elementary 2023 Alaska Teacher of the Year finalist**

"I want to positively impact the lives of the children who walk through my doors. I want them to see themselves as more than any label they feel attached to. I want them to see their successes and growth, to love this learning journey they are on and know that I am here to support and love them along the way."

<https://bit.ly/3NqETTj> 

**Billeen Carlson, 2022 Alaska Society for Technology in Education Teacher of the Year**

"Our district is full of experienced, technologically savvy educators who put students first. As a district, we should be proud of our level of educational competency."

<https://bit.ly/3y50avU> 




**Myla S. Liljemark, Seward Middle School 2021 Alaska History Teacher of the Year**

"My favorite part of each day as a history teacher is to watch students make connections between the content of our class and the world outside of our classroom. It is rewarding to witness students finding relevance between skills and content explored in class and their own lives."

<https://bit.ly/3a2JZHJw> 

**Kim Leslie, KPBSD 2021 Alaska Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"My advice to students or to all humans really, is to be mindful of what truly makes you feel at your best or the most alive. What activities or type of work? Being surrounded by which people? Learning about what? Nourish those elements in your life as much as you can." <https://bit.ly/3proR3i> 

# 2022-2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Clayton Holland, Superintendent of Schools
- Kari Dendurent, Assistant Superintendent
- Nate Crabtree, Human Resources and Risk Management Executive Director
- Tony Graham, Secondary Education Director

- Elizabeth Hayes, CFO Finance Executive Director
- Kevin Lyon, Planning and Operations Director
- Theresa Manning, Student Support Services Director
- Eric Pederson, Elementary Education Director

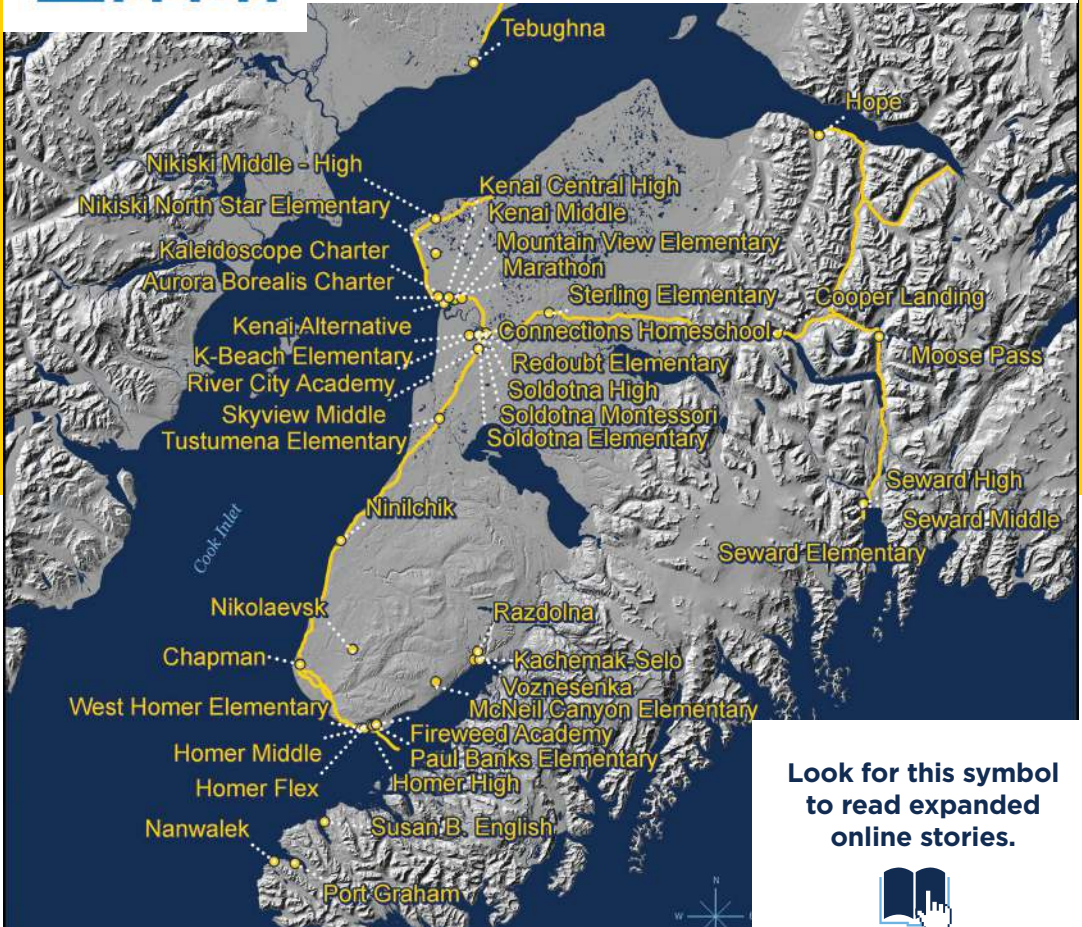
- Eric Soderquist, Information Services Director
- Director of Communications and Community Engagement



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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YouTube: @KPBSDvideos | Facebook: KPBSD | Twitter: @KPBSD  
LinkedIn: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District | Instagram: @KenaiPeninsulaSchools | Free KPBSD Mobile App: Kenai Peninsula Borough SD | [www.KPBSD.org](http://www.KPBSD.org)



Look for this symbol  
to read expanded  
online stories.



## CONNECT WITH KPBSD

Become a Key Communicator, 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, and Board of Education meetings. It is likely you have a story to share, questions, and a valuable perspective—the school district hopes to connect with you!

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