



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak
PO Box 51 · Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 · Phone (907) 442-1800

February 16, 2026

Chair and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Terri Walker. I am currently the superintendent of NWABSD. I have 37 years of experience, first as a classroom teacher, then principal, a director, assistant supt. And now in my 6th year as the superintendent. I am here in strong support of Senate Bill 210.

My experience has shown that teachers who are immersed in the culture of the communities they serve achieve the strongest outcomes for students. They are able to connect classroom learning to students' lives at home. Building these meaningful connections is essential to student success.

Studies have shown that culturally relevant curriculum improves attendance and academic achievement. When students see their culture, language, and community reflected in their education, they become engaged in learning. Implementing a Place-based education, tied to local environments and community projects, will help our students achieve successful outcomes. In our district, we are developing a place-based science curriculum grounded in Native Ways of Knowing and aligned with the Alaska state Science and Cultural standards.

Our **framework** will ensure that the education our student receive is

- Place-based
- Culturally sustaining
- Community-guided, and
- Aligned with student identity, cultural values and well-being

This framework honors and supports our **Iñunialiptikun Atautchikun** (Together, Through our Way of Life).

SB 210 will strengthen and support this work. This bill is about equity, identity, and academic excellence to ensure that Alaska's students are being prepared for careers to serve and support their communities, with pride in who they are.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB 210.

Terri Walker

Terri Walker, Superintendent