

Kuspuk School District Report

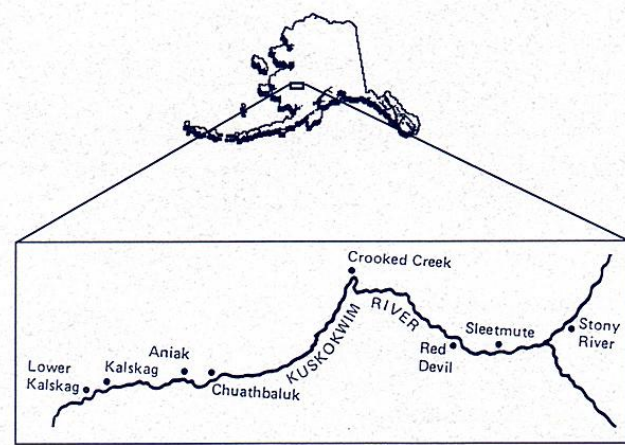


Dr. Madeline Aguillard
Superintendent, Kuspuk School District

Friday, February 27, 2026

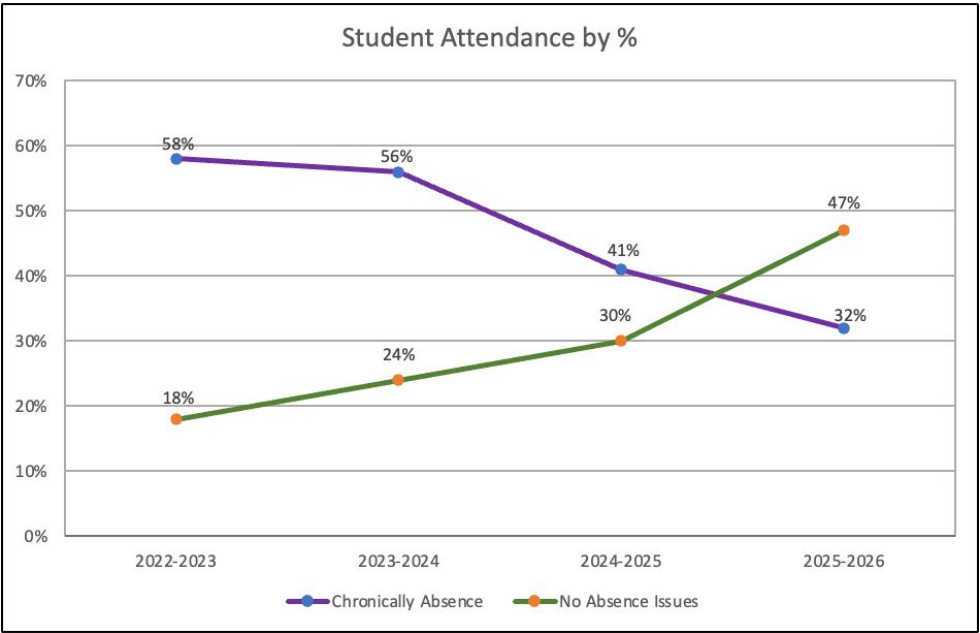
Our District & Who We Serve

- REAA #5
- Spans nearly 12,000 square miles across western Alaska
~1,391 residents (2020 Census)
 - 120 mile stretch along the mid-Kuskokwim River
(Lower Kalskag → Stony River)
- 8 schools in 7 villages, accessible only by air or river travel
- Student population:
 - 96% Alaska Native (Yup'ik & Athabascan)
 - 2% White
 - 1% Asian
 - 1% Multi
- Title I schools districtwide
- Communities rooted in subsistence lifestyles, river culture, & multigenerational families



Our Successes

- **Improved Attendance**
 - Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS)
 - Districtwide Implementation
 - Schoolwide Plans
 - Embedded Trauma-Engaged Practices
 - Collective Efficacy & Teacher Clarity
 - Dept. of Health Healthy Schools Grant
 - Data Transparency, Board Engagement, Tribe Involvement
 - Data Sharing Agreement



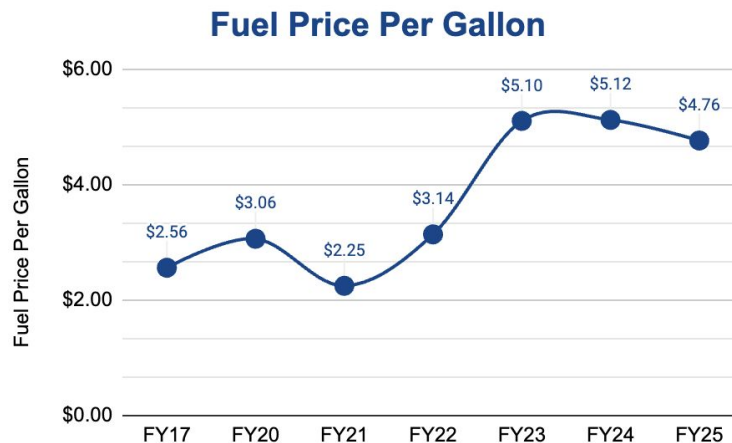
Challenges Facing Our District

- **Current Recruitment & Retention Challenges**
 - \$100,000 H1-B fee
 - J-1 Sponsor placement allowability
- **Impact & Why This Matters**
 - Over the past 5 years more than 60% of teachers in the district have been on H1-B or J1 visas
 - Over the past 6 years the district has averaged 86% retention rate of international educators
 - After the 2025-2026 school year our largest cohort of J1 teachers will be returning to the Philippines to complete their 2 year home residency requirement
 - Alaska Reading Ambassador recipient in the inaugural year & the only classroom teacher recognized 2023
 - Special Education Inclusive Practices Award recipient
 - First Lady's Volunteer of the Year Award recipient



Challenges Facing Our District

- **Fixed operational costs**
 - **Property Insurance**
 - Nearly tripled: \$192,000 → \$532,000
 - **Fuel**
 - Almost doubled: \$2.56 → \$4.76
 - **Utilities**
 - Water, sewer, & electricity increased by one-third



Challenges Facing Our District

- **New School Construction & Major Maintenance**

- Potentially 3 new school construction applications will be submitted fall 2026

Aniak Junior Senior High School: The ceiling panels above the gymnasium separating at the ridge. It can be seen as the crack undulates wider & narrower.



Aniak Junior Senior High School: Broken joist. In the very center of the image is a gray bolt that no longer resists any structural load. The broken wood chord is also visible.



“The cause [currently unknown] of the structural failure of the gymnasium joists is the cause of the cracking in the walls and ceiling. It appears most of the joists have already broken. There are just a few areas where the ceiling panel crack narrows substantially. The joists at these locations may or may not be broken as well...The gymnasium is unsafe and could collapse catastrophically at any time without further warning. The situation is especially urgent, as it appears most of the joists have already broken.

-Structural Engineer Report January 2026

Our Successes

- **Sleetmute Major Maintenance**
 - 46-year-old building stabilized
 - Unsafe occupancy conditions resolved
 - Exterior wall collapse prevented
 - Roof replaced
 - 0 instructional days missed due to building failures





Thank you! Questions?

Dr. Madeline Aguillard
Superintendent,
Kuspuuk School District

