

The Lower Kuskokwim School District

A presentation for the House Education Committee
April 7, 2023



Kimberly Hankins
Superintendent



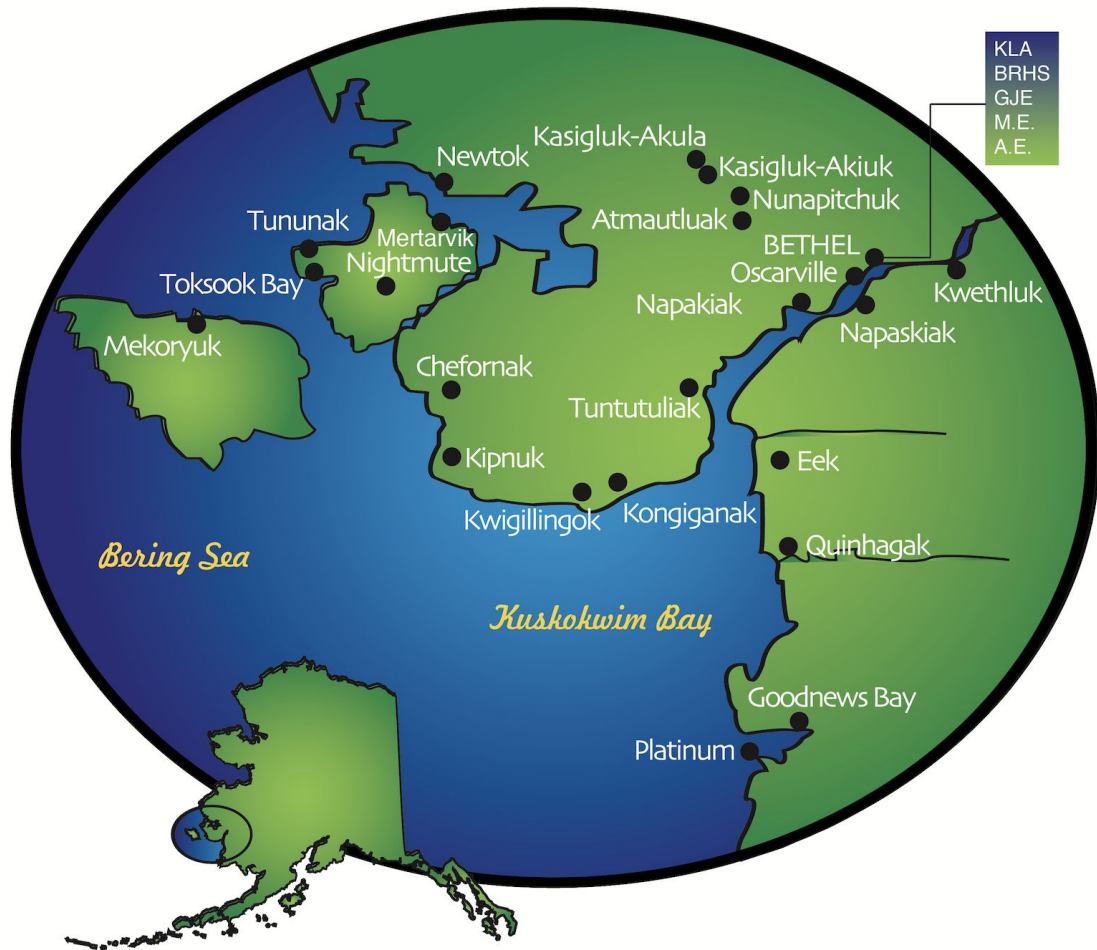
Clarence Daniel
Board President

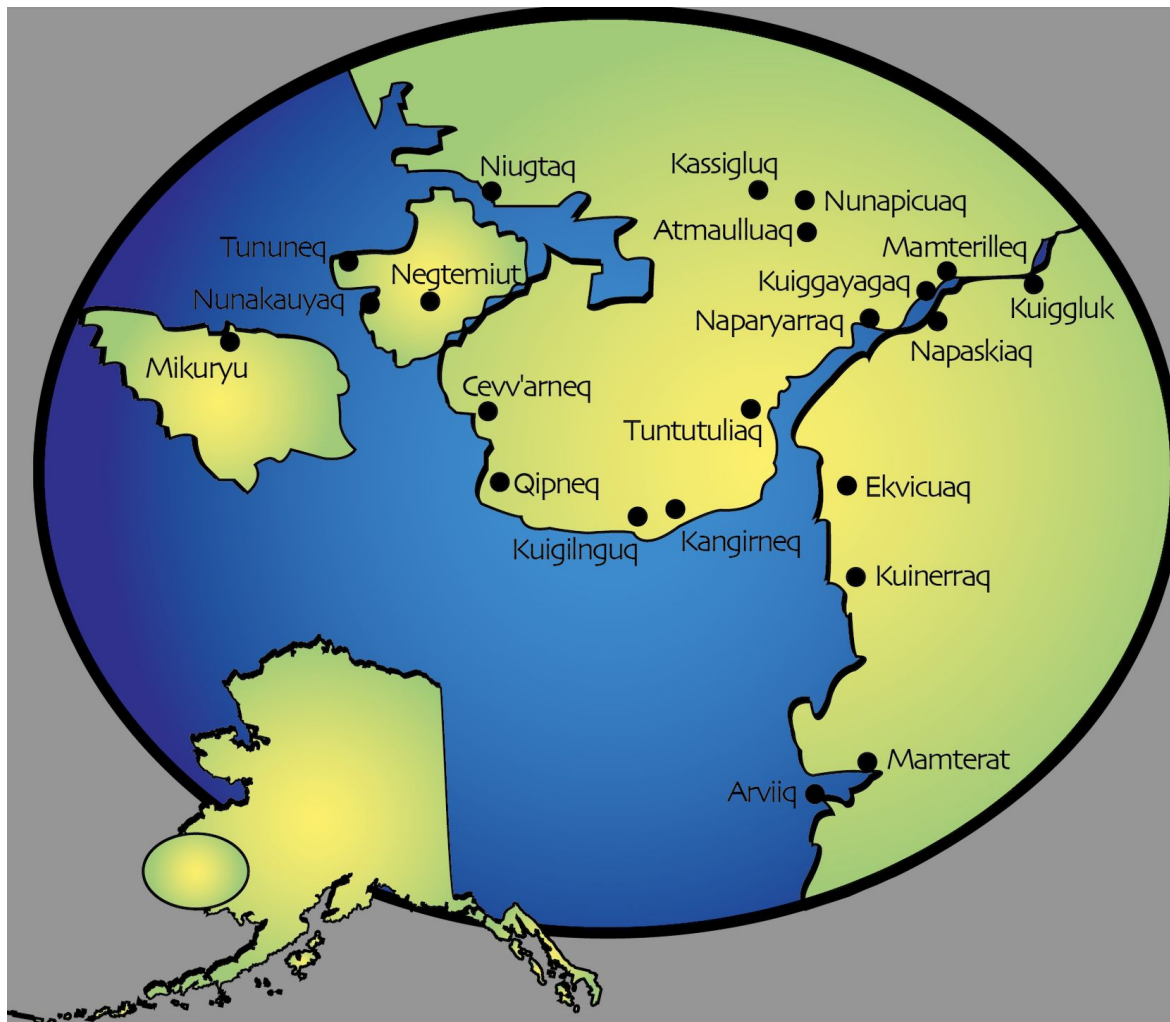


Cory Hughes
Dean of Students
Nunapitchuk



Meghan Crow
Lead Social Worker





The Mission of the LOWER KUSKOKWIM SCHOOL DISTRICT

*is to ensure bilingual, culturally appropriate
and effective education for all students,
thereby providing them with the opportunity
to be responsible, productive citizens.*

BELIEFS AND VALUES

- Every student has the right to a high quality public education.
- The education of children is one of the fundamental responsibilities of society, individuals, families, communities, and institutions — working cooperatively.
- Society must foster appreciation, respect, and understanding of traditional and diverse cultural values among its members.
 - We must respect the environment in order to sustain life, culture, and traditional values.
- Every child has the right to thrive in a safe, healthy environment.
- The educational institution must adapt to meet the needs of a changing society and prepare students to be lifelong learners.
- Schools must help students take risks, challenges, adapt to change, and become comfortable in diverse settings.

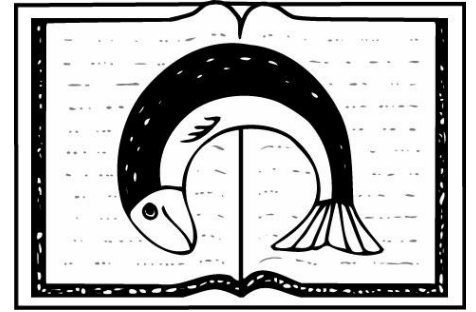
STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

Cooperatively and individually students will:

Demonstrate effective communication
Demonstrate civic and personal responsibility
Value culture, environment, self and others
Be problem solvers in a changing environment
Learn and understand Yup'ik/ Cup'ig culture, traditions,
beliefs and ways of knowing

LKSD Highlights

- Immersion and dual language programs
- Curriculum and course offerings
- Career Ladder
- Student supports
- Partnerships with local entities and statewide organizations



Immersion and Dual Language Programs

- 1 Yup'ik Immersion charter school: Ayaprun Elitnaurvik
- 19 Dual Language Enrichment Model schools



Yup'ik Immersion

- Instruction in Yup'ik K-2
- Transition to English language instruction in third grade (ELA)
- 4th-8th: split of instruction in Yup'ik and English
- Thematic, culturally-based, traditional/subsistence practices are used in the instruction of science and social studies
- Ayaprun Elitnaurvik has grown to include 7th grade this year and will be K-8 next year

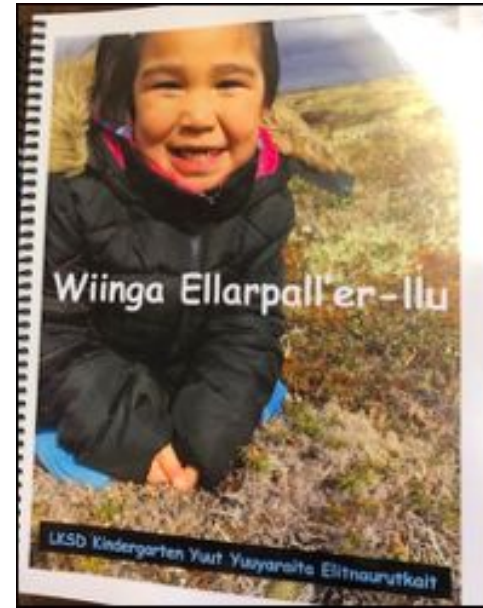
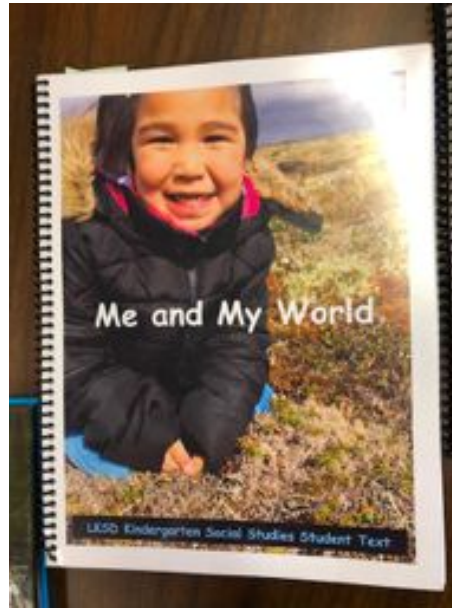
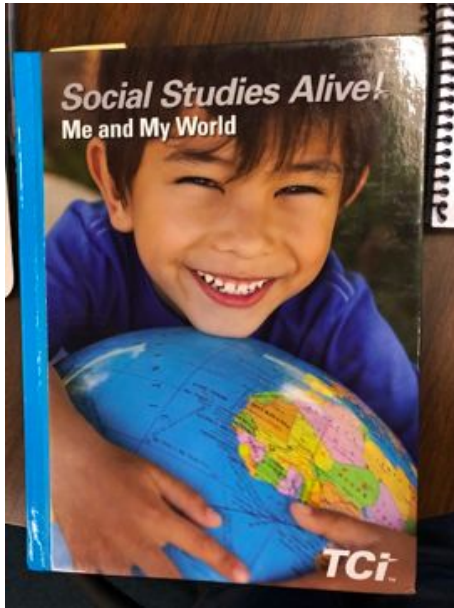
DLE Model

- DLE schools embrace the learning of two languages for all students, K-12
- Math is always taught in English
- Science and social studies are always taught in Yugtun/Cugtun
- Language arts is taught in the stronger base language in K-1
- Beginning in second grade, students receive language arts instruction in both English and Yup'ik



Curriculum and Course Offerings

- Place-based, culturally relevant materials





Rules also keep us safe.

I cross the street with an adult.

We wait until the light is green.

I look both ways before I go.



Rules also keep us safe.

I listen to an Elder.

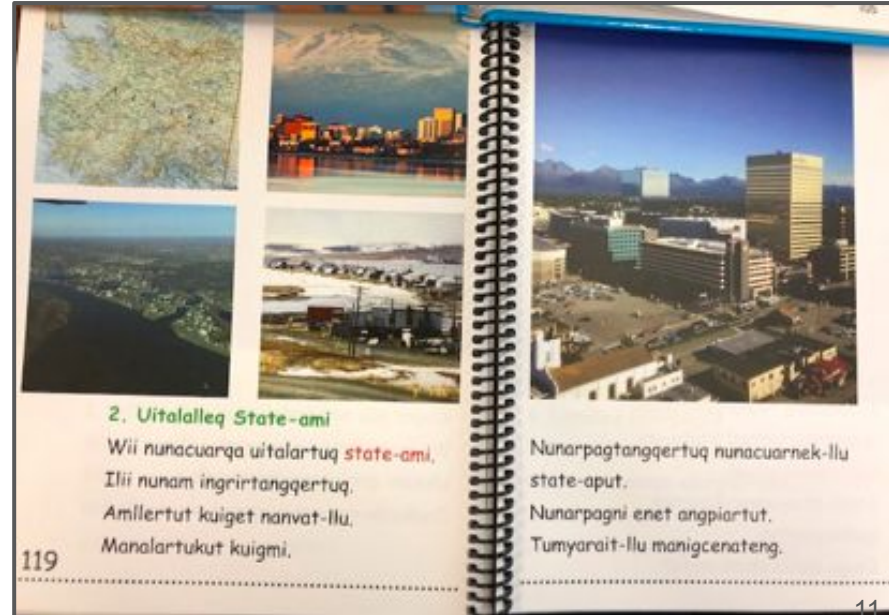
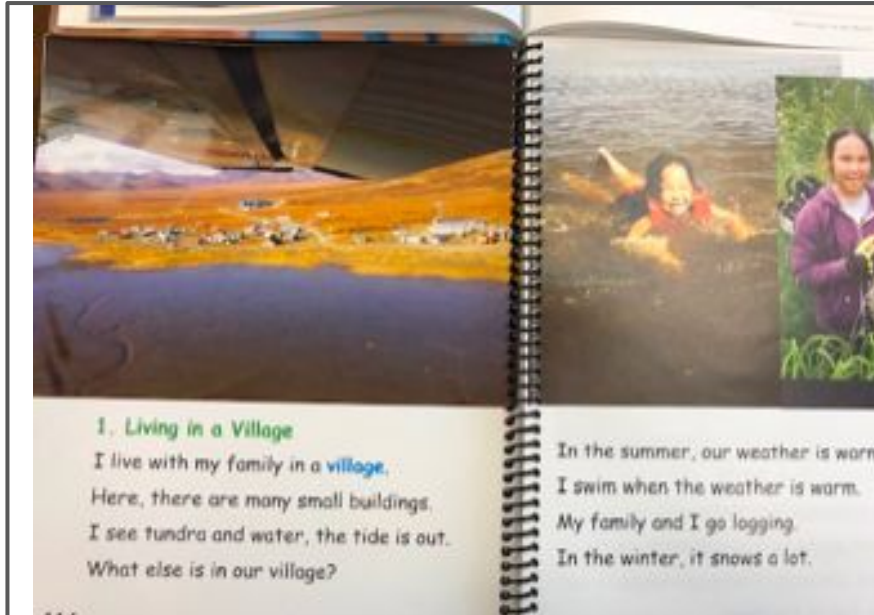
I stay away from dangerous spots.

I respect other's property.

42

Curriculum and Course Offerings

- Materials support language acquisition



Print Awareness

Benchmarks

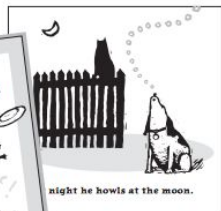
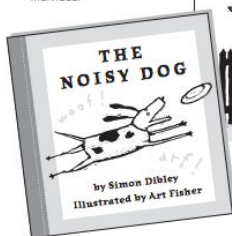
- ability to recognize that print carries meaning
- ability to understand and use book-component vocabulary
- ability to turn the pages in a book
- ability to track text from left to right and top to bottom
- ability to recognize a word
- ability to recognize the spaces between words

Strategy Grade Level

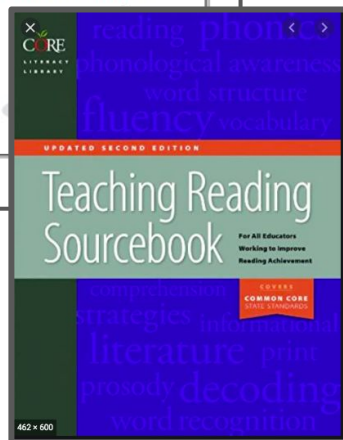
- Pre-K – Kindergarten

Grouping

- whole class
- small group
- individual



But he is as quiet as a mouse when he's in his doghouse.



Print Referencing in Shared Storybook Reading

According to Justice and Ezell (2004), "print referencing is an adult's use of nonverbal and verbal cues to direct a child's attention to the forms, features, and functions of written language." Print referencing uses the adult-child shared storybook reading context to maximize students' learning opportunities (Justice and Pullen 2003). The strategy is most effective if it is used with big books or regular-sized illustrated storybooks in which print is a salient, or highly noticeable, feature (Justice and Lankford 2002). Salient print features include large bold print, 20 words or fewer per page, patterned or predictable text, and print embedded within the illustrations (Justice and Kaderavek 2002; Justice and Ezell 2002). This sample lesson model can be adapted and used to enhance print awareness instruction during any shared storybook reading experience.

LESSON MODEL FOR

Print Awareness

Chapter 3

A Yugtun Reference Sheet for p. 78

Nallunnitarkat English

- ability to recognize that print carries meaning
- ability to understand and use book-component vocabulary
- ability to turn the pages in a book
- ability to track text from left to right and top to bottom
- ability to recognize a word
- ability to recognize the spaces between words

Strategy Grade Level

- Pre-K – Grade 1

Quartellerkalt Gröndim

- whole class
- small group
- individual

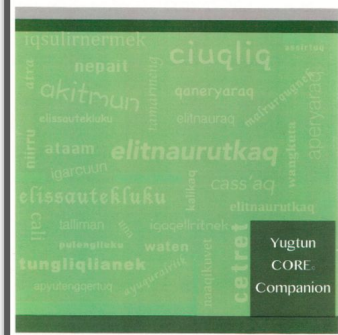
Apertualluki Elitnaullerkaat Teach/Model

Marilluki kalikarpagmek tarenralegmek - angellra assirciquq tamarmeng elitnaurat tangerrugnaluku, wall' piclatun pilyullerpenek kalikamek.

Qanerluten: Kitak kalikam manua tangerqernauput. Una kalikam manukaa – kalikam manua. Camek una aprumaa? (kalikam manua) **Qanerluten:** Kalikam manuan atrit uitalartut cali-ily kalikam igartai.

uara! Kalikat atengqertut, tang waniwa uum kalikam atra. Niirluku igat kalikam naaqluku. **Qaneruten:** Kitak elpeci naaqeqerit-u-lu. Elitnauranun gastuluki niirturalperpeki naaqrallit. **Apluki-lu:** Cauga una? (Jaikam atra) Niirluku **lutun:** Una ateq kalikam igartekaa. Uumek kalikamek igailruuq. Niirluku atra rat igartiinek naaqlvarkuki niirturalperpeki naaqrallit. am igartoi pilartot? (kalikanek igalartut) Ilu ilait taranraqalartut ututun. Tarenralitit kalikanek apumralartut ku kalikam pilungartiin atra. **Apluki:** Caloratut pilungartitot? (Kalikat itenqiggluki cali elitnaurat kalikamek. **Qaneruten-lu:** Naaqlartukut ciuqlirmek a. **Apluten:** Kia apertuucugangaanga naken ayaginilkerkamtenek? Mikelnguum ignillerkarpenek. nek kalikamek ayuygnirulu naaqlartukuu, taqskumteggus-lu tauna ciuqliq kalikaq, u. Ayuyqurtarluku kalikiuruten. yuyrugangaanga kalikaq tegumaiqluki cali ikirtoqluku? Ikirirulu kalikaq niirluku-lu

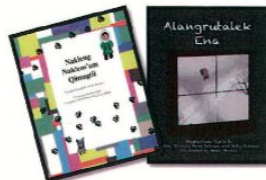
The Yugtun Early Literacy Sourcebook



Yugtun
CORE.
Companion

Elitnaurutkat: Iqat Kalikani

Una einlaaturituk apterburig kalkit imaitnek naasaraimek-lu. Qoneryart pillimaat igatun. Igat einlaurnaar naalirineq-lu. qaneryami, cali igat kalkitmi quliraneq qanemicyugnalirnek. Sentence-aat igauamat qaneryart allakaumaluteng igatun, cali-lu pivigangqerakaluteng qaneryart avimalluk. Sentence-aat ayagnimallut anglianeq iganeq cali-lu iquini nalunairuterluteng punctuation mark-aneq. Kallikani cali naaikuqung ayagnirakaluteng iqsulirnermek naaqluk-lu tallirpitum. Naaikuqung-lu quliraneq ayagnirluteng qutuk acitman.



Kalikanek Naaqinariuq



LESSON 21

Authors
Barry Haffner
James Smith, Jr.
Guthrie Green
Robert Fogel

Illustrators
Robert Green
Barry Haffner

Focus Skill

Character, Setting, and Plot

Focus Strategy

Use Story Structure

Robust Vocabulary Words

character
characteristics
protagonist
antagonist
setting
plot
conflict
resolution
climax
denouement

Aatam Ilurii



Curriculum and Course Offerings

Secondary Yup'ik course offerings

- Yuuyaraq 7th & 8th grades
 - Yuuyaraq Personal Life Skills
 - Yuuyaraq Health I
 - Yuuyaraq Health II
-
- Yup'ik Orthography I, II, III and IV
 - Yup'ik Language and Culture
 - JH Conversational Yugtun I, II and III

LKSD Career Ladder

- Locally grown teachers have the lowest turnover of any subset of LKSD teachers.
- Locally grown teachers are imperative for supporting the district's language programs.
- LKSD has been invested in our Career Ladder program for over 30 years.

LKSD Career Ladder Programs

- TEACH Program
- Two and Done Program
- Employee Career Ladder
- LKSD Graduates/Community Members Program
- Board Scholarship
- Endorsement Program: math, special education, school counseling
- Ed. Leadership Program

Student Supports

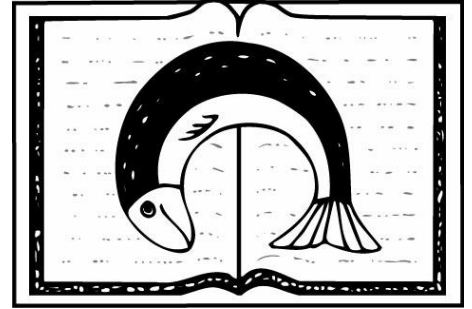
- School social workers
 - Student supports: Individual & group counseling
 - Parent supports: Resources, referral, case management
- School community Advocates
 - Liaison between school and home/community
 - Student, staff, and parent support
- School counselors
 - College & Career counseling
 - CTE Programs, ANSEP, college field trips
 - Academic advising
- Peer Leader Program
 - Sources of Strength- focuses on individual, community & cultural strengths

Partnerships with Local Entities & Statewide Organizations

- Calista Education and Culture
- Excel Alaska
- YKHC
- AVCP
- CVRF
- ANSEP Program - UAF
- Local tribes

Challenges

- Educator recruitment and retention
- Erosion & community relocations
- Major maintenance needs
- Lack of support services in the region
- Connectivity
- Flat funding and rising costs



Educator Recruitment and Retention

- On average, LKSD experiences a 15-20% teacher turnover rate each year
- Recruitment is expensive
- Retention is a priority but can be challenging
 - Isolation: STAY Program and LKRISSE
 - Quality of teacher housing
 - Affordability of living in the region
 - Access to amenities
 - Ability to offer competitive salaries

Erosion and Community Relocations

Newtok residents are desperate to relocate after September storm

By **Emily Schwing**, special to Alaska Public Media - October 4, 2022



The Lost Local News Issue

'River Is Getting Close'

Erosion threatens an Alaskan Indigenous community's school



Major Maintenance Needs

- Aging facilities
 - Schools
 - Housing
- Five projects in the top 35 on the CIP list
 - Value of \$7.7M
 - Many of these projects have been on the list for multiple years, awaiting funding
 - School wastewater upgrade project
 - Fire pump house and fire protection upgrade project
 - Heating mains replacement project
 - School renovation projects

Lack of Support Services in the Region

- Healthcare
- Law enforcement
- Trauma services
- Behavioral Health services

Connectivity

- Periods of school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the inequity of connectivity across rural Alaska
- At the start of the pandemic, LKSD estimates that less than 15% of all students in the district had access to home internet service
- Access to reliable, affordable, high speed internet is essential

Rising Costs & Flat Funding

LKSD cost increases over the past few years:

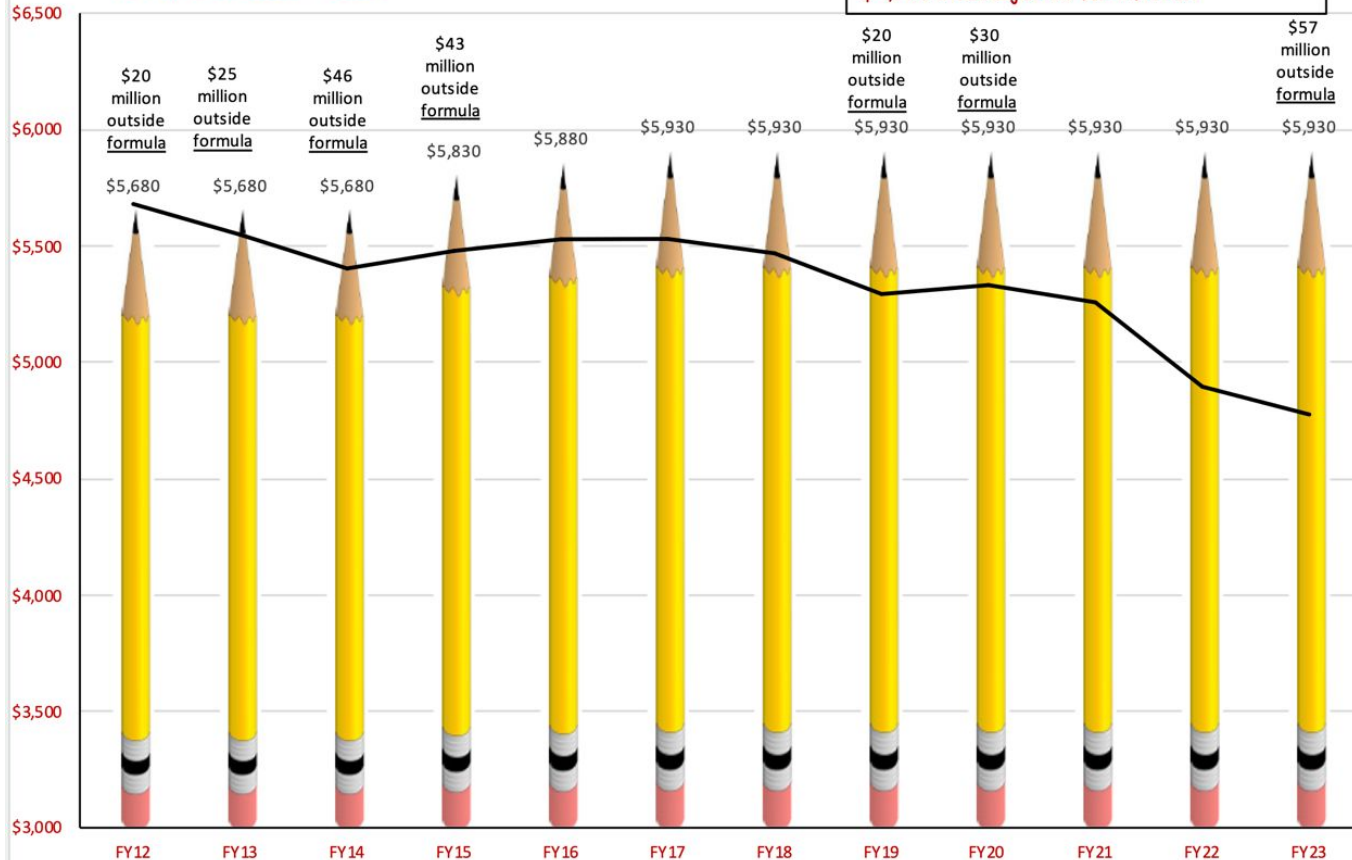
- Utilities: 38% increase
- Fuel: 46% increase
- Supplies: 10-20% increase
- Travel: 40% increase
- Insurance: \$600,000 in FY17; \$1.95M in FY24

Alaska K-12 Funding

Base Student Allocation

Fiscal Year 2012 - 2023

Data source: Legislative Finance
Line shows inflation adjustment to FY12 value;
 BSA of \$5,930 in FY23 has an FY12 value of
 \$4,776 when adjusted for inflation



LKSD Strengths

- Excellent staff
- Dedicated Board of Education
- Strong family and community partnerships
- Emphasis on local language and culture
- Fantastic students

Quyana!

