

SB 132: Employment Tax for Education Facilities



Dr. Madeline Aguillard
Superintendent, Kuspuk School District

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Alaska Schools - *by the numbers*

131,212

students



53
school districts

In business terms,
largest employer in
most communities



452

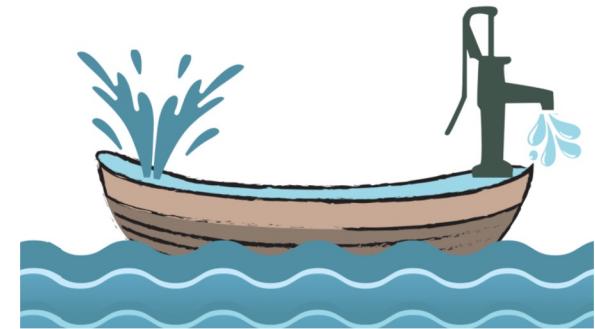
school facilities
55% are >40 years
old

* 2023 DEED
data

Ongoing Challenges: Deferred maintenance

Growing maintenance needs,
limited state funding

- Average building age: 42 years
- 71 buildings are over 60 years old



Current backlog:
Over \$300 million and growing

Jack Egnaty Senior School: Sleetmute, AK

K-12 school - 45 years old

17 students

250 miles west of Anchorage along
the Kuskokwim River

Only accessible by air or river travel

Community of 75 people



Capital Improvement Project: Major Maintenance application submitted for 14 years.

FY24 rank: 15th (after appeal)

FY25 rank: 23rd

-Immediate safety concerns prompted the district to contract LCG Lantech Inc. during the fall of 2023 to evaluate the integrity and damaged portion of the foundation and structure of the school.

Amount Requested: \$1,608,442

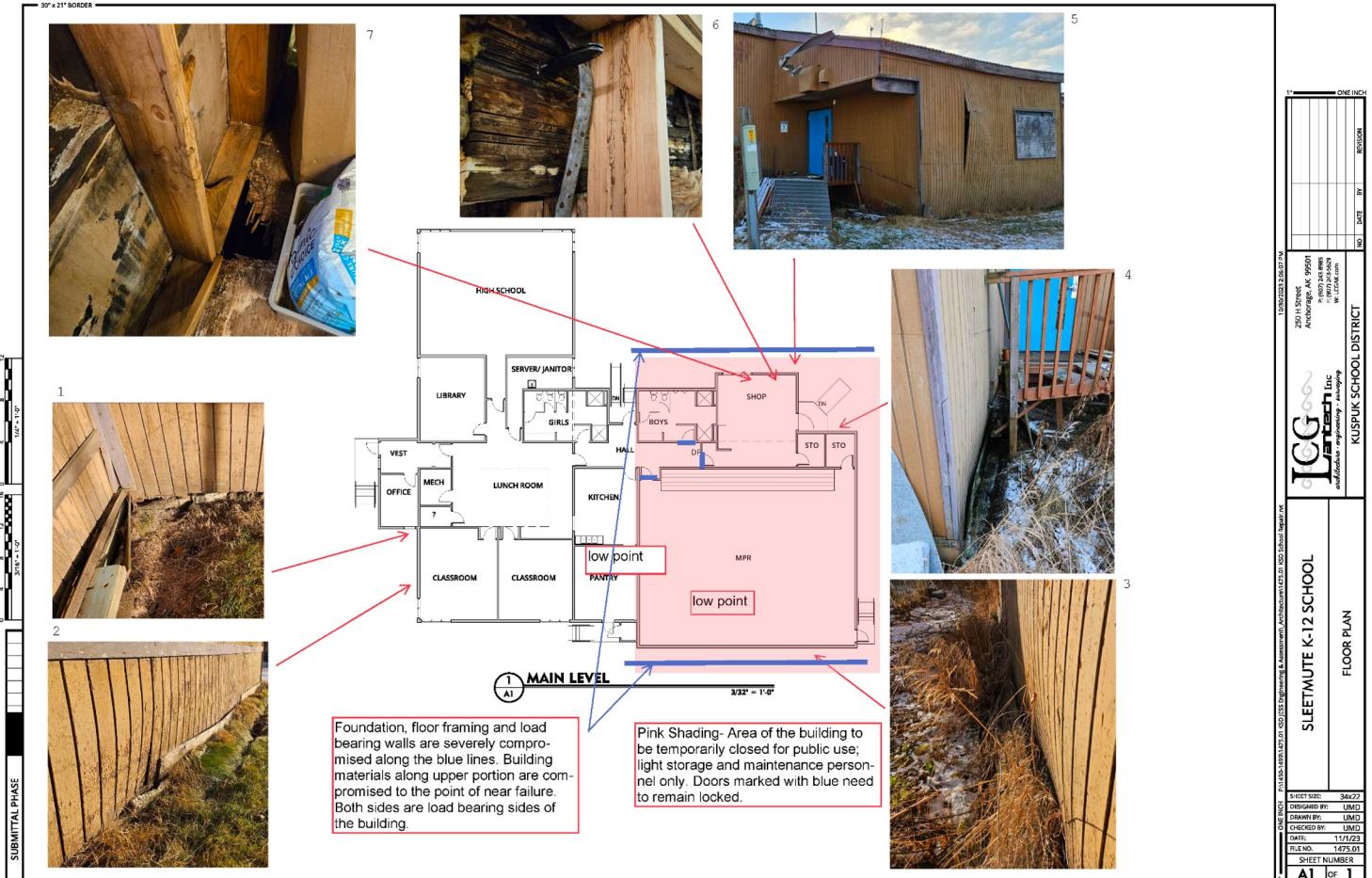
"There was a noticeable increase in the damage to several of the walls and the foundations based on the photos provided in the original DEED report from 2021.

This indicates that the structure is deteriorating quickly, increasing the potential for a collapse."

- LCG Lantech Inc Nov. 2023



“...and a portion of the floor framing which could collapse under certain circumstances. All exterior foundation walls in these areas require replacement or retrofit prior to the space being occupiable once again.” LCG Lantech Inc Nov. 2023



There are no other structures in Sleetmute large enough to accommodate students and staff during the school day, but that also means there is no other physical space for the community to gather.



Thank you! Questions?

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