



# **Galena City School District presentation to the House Education Committee February 4, 2009**

## **-Galena Interior Learning Academy Facilities-**

**Air Force Building Designation: 1854**



### **Building: Headquarters**

**Currently four classrooms and rental space for State Troopers**

**Square Feet: 12,000**

**Structure: Metal Framing**

**Year Constructed: 1984**

**Air Force Building Designation: 1847**



### **Composite Building**

**Classrooms, Auditorium, Offices, Library**

**Square Feet: 16,700**

**Structure: Steel and wood**

**Year Constructed: 1985**



**Air Force Building Designation: 1859**



**Building: Big Dining Hall**

**Food Service for up to 400**

**Square Feet: 10,662**

**Structure: Concrete slab suspended with wood construction**

**Year Constructed: pre- 1963**

**Air Force Building Designation:1851**



**Building: Gymnasium**

**Physical and Health Education Center**

**Square Feet: 15,610**

**Structure: Steel and wood**

**Year Constructed: 1966**

**Air Force Building Designation: 1845**



**Building: School Auto Shop**

**Auto Mechanics and Adult Programs Center**

**Square Feet: 6720**

**Structure: Steel and Wood**

**Year Constructed: 1959 Remodeled 2001**

**Air Force Building Designation: 1874**



**Building: Ptarmigan Dorm**

**Student Housing      116 rooms for double occupancy**

**Square Feet: 58,494      18 suites**

**Structure: Concrete and Steel**

**Year Constructed: 1988**

**Air Force Building Designation: 1876**



**Building: Iditarod Hall**

**Current Designation: Residential Living – 52 suites**

**Projected Function: 12 classrooms**

**Square Feet: 32,774**

**Structure: Concrete and Steel**

**Year Constructed: 1988**



# GALENA POST-SECONDARY ADULT PROGRAMS

Galena City School District, Galena, Alaska

## CULINARY ARTS DEPARTMENT



*Hands-on learning in a working kitchen*

P.O. Box 359, Galena, Alaska, 99741

Tel: (907) 656-2053 Fax: (907) 656-2107

Email: [jjacobs@galenanet.com](mailto:jjacobs@galenanet.com)

### Courses

**Length**  
@30hrs/wk

**Institutional Course Costs**  
[Tuition, Enrollment,  
Lab Fees]

**Books/Uniforms**  
Knives/Hand Tools

**Next Enrollment Date**

### Commercial Kitchen Production

two semesters

Provided by school  
Student needs to  
purchase appropriate shoes

*Commercial Kitchen Production is a one year [two semester] classroom and hands-on instructional course in a large working kitchen that prepares students for employment in the food service or related industry placing emphasis on the institutional environment [school, hospital, camp kitchen, mining and oil industry kitchens]. A certificate is granted upon successful completion of the course.*

### Financial Aid

*GCSD can assist or guide students in obtaining financial aid, dealing with tribal organizations, local, state and federal agencies that may provide student financial aid, although financial aid is not guaranteed. Some financial aid available to those that qualify.*

### GCSD Culinary Arts Department: Credentials

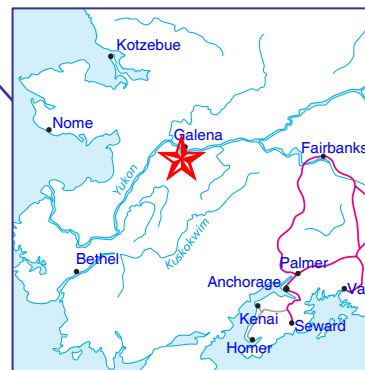
Authorized by Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education: (ACPE)

Eligible Training Provider through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for WIA funds

Instructor: Certified Chef, Rand Rosecrans: Graduated with Honors from Western Culinary Institute

Registered member of the American Culinary Federation

Holds Type M State of Alaska Teaching Certificate



**Enroll Early! Space is limited!**



### Notification of Civil Rights Compliance:

It is the intent of this institution to comply with both the letter and spirit of the law in making certain discrimination does not exist in its policies, regulations, and operations. Students attending this institution may participate in all education programs and activities, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, age, handicap or gender. Accommodation will be made for handicap students for full access to activities.

*Adult Student Accommodation Facilities available for individual students in the newly constructed Birchwood Hall. Walking distance to major facilities on GCSD campus. Family accommodation opportunities not offered by GCSD. Students to make own arrangement for accommodation in Galena: Various rental options generally available.*





# GALENA POST-SECONDARY ADULT PROGRAMS

Galena City School District, Galena, Alaska  
**AVIATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.**

*Are you interested in becoming a pilot for the aviation industry?*

**P.O. Box 359, Galena, Alaska, 99741**

**Tel: (907) 656-2053 Fax: (907) 656-2107**

**Email: [jjacobs@galenanet.com](mailto:jjacobs@galenanet.com)**



*The Private Pilot Course is a one semester- long classroom, simulator, lab and practical course leading the students towards taking their Private Pilot License exam set by the FAA. Instruction consists of theory, lab, computer-based learning and training in a FAA certified flight simulator [available to all students]. Students will also have an opportunity to log flight hours in Galena in a fully equipped training Cessna 1507. The GCSD owns a C150 which is used for flight training purposes.*

*Instrument Rating Ground School and Commercial Rating Ground School (with associated flight training) is also offered in the forthcoming semesters: allowing students to prepare towards entry-level qualifications in the aviation industry.*

## Courses

### Private Pilot Ground School\*

(\* Covers ONLY Ground School courses. It excludes flight training cost listed below)

#### Flight Training in Cessna 150

(FAA minimum requirement for PPL: 20 hrs of dual flying plus 15 hrs of solo flying; although normally a student requires about 35 hrs of dual flying and 15 hrs of solo flying).

\$150/hr: Dual flying

\$110/hr Solo flying

\$40/hr Pre-Post flight Preparation Time

### Instrument Rating Ground School\*

(\* Covers ONLY Ground School courses. It excludes flight training cost listed below)

#### Flight Training in Cessna 172

(FAA minimum requirement for IR: 35 hrs of dual flying.

\*\* Student must meet FAA enrollment requirements

\$170/hr: Dual flying

\$130/hr Solo flying

\$40/hr Pre-Post flight Preparation Time

### Commercial Rating Ground School\*

#### Flight Training call for details.

\*\* Student must meet FAA enrollment requirements

One semester

call for costs

TBA

**Institutional Course Costs**  
**[Tuition, Enrollment, Simulator Fees]**  
**EXCLUDES FLIGHT COSTS**

**Next Enrollment**

## GCSD Aviation Department: Credentials – Operating as Part 61 Flight School

Authorizing by Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education: (ACPE)

Eligible Training Provider through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for WIA funds

Flight Instructor: FAA Certified Flight Instructor: CFI: Mr Noel Frisbie

### Financial Aid

*GCSD can guide students in obtaining financial aid, working with tribal organizations, local, state and federal agencies that may provide student financial aid, although financial aid is not guaranteed.*



Governor visits Galena in a Gulfstream



Governor observes students in the school's FAA certified simulator



*Adult Student Accommodation Facilities available for individual students in the newly constructed Birchwood Hall. Walking distance to major facilities on GCSD campus.*

*Family accommodation opportunities not offered by GCSD. Students to make own arrangement for accommodation in Galena: Various rental options generally available.*

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# GALENA POST-SECONDARY ADULT PROGRAMS

## Galena City School District, Galena, Alaska AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Modern automotive workshop

P.O. Box 359, Galena, Alaska, 99741

Tel: (907) 656-2053 Fax: (907) 656-2107

Email: [jjacobs@galenanet.com](mailto:jjacobs@galenanet.com)

### Courses

Length  
@30hrs/wk

Institutional Course Costs  
[Tuition, Enrollment,  
Lab Fees]

Books/Uniforms  
Concurrent Fees

Next  
Enrollment  
Date

### Introduction to Automotive Technology

one semester

\$846.00

\$200

### Automotive Brake Systems

one semester

\$846.00

\$200

*Introduction to Automotive Technology is a one semester classroom and hands-on instructional program which is designed to introduce students to the major automotive systems, theories of operation, automotive tools/equipment, basic maintenance and repair procedures. Students who meet the proficiency requirements will be offered certification as a lubrication technician and tire repair technician*

*Automotive Brake System is a one semester classroom and hands-on instructional program which is designed to give students an in-depth knowledge of automotive brake systems; including repair, maintenance and operations. Students who meet the proficiency requirements will be offered certification as a brake technician*

### Financial Aid

*GCSD can assist or guide students in obtaining financial aid, dealing with tribal organizations, local, state and federal agencies that may provide student financial aid, although financial aid is not guaranteed. Some financial aid available to those that qualify.*

### GCSD Automotive Technology Department: Credentials

#### Introduction to Automotive Technology

Authorized by Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education: (ACPE)

Eligible Training Provider through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for WIA funds

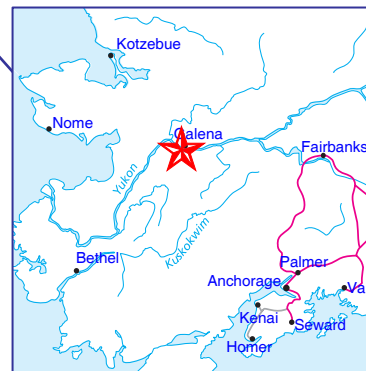
#### Automotive Brake Systems

Authorized by Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education: (ACPE)

Eligible Training Provider through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for WIA funds

Instructor: Mr. Stephen Hoffie: Type M State of Alaska Teaching Certificate

New automotive technology workshop with state of the art equipment.



**Enroll Early! Space is limited!**



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# GALENA POST-SECONDARY ADULT PROGRAMS

Galena City School District, Galena, Alaska

## COSMETOLOGY DEPARTMENT



*Modern new facilities: Small classes*

P.O. Box 359, Galena, Alaska, 99741

Tel: (907) 656-2053 Fax: (907) 656-2107

Email: [jjacobs@galenanet.com](mailto:jjacobs@galenanet.com)

Courses	Length @30hrs/wk	Institutional Course Costs [Tuition, Enrollment, Lab Fees]	Books/Kit/ Student Permit	Next Enrollment Date
Hairdressing	1650 clock hrs [± 55 wks]	\$6,750.00	\$350.00	
Esthetician	350 clock hrs [± 12 wks]	\$1,800.00	\$400.00	
Instructor Training	600 clock hrs [15 wks @ 40hr/wk]	\$3,050.00	\$350.00	Open enrollment/ active recruitment

*Upon completion of these courses, graduates will be eligible to apply for the various State licensing examinations.*

### Financial Aid

*GCSD can assist or guide students in obtaining financial aid, dealing with tribal organizations, local, state and federal agencies that may provide student financial aid, although financial aid is not guaranteed. Some financial aid may be available to those that qualify.*

### GCSD Cosmetology Department: Credentials

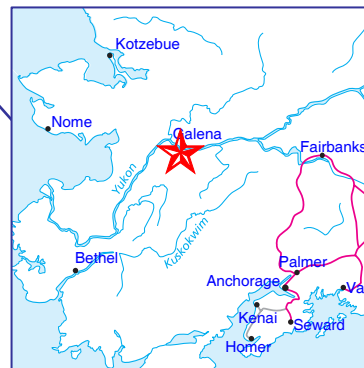
Licensed as a "school" by the State of Alaska: Division of Occupational Licensing: Board of Barbers and Hairdressers

Authorized by Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education: (ACPE)

Eligible Training Provider through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for WIA funds

Instructor: Mr. Gar Wong: qualified, experienced [over 29 years]

Licensed Instructor by the State of Alaska: Holds Type M State of Alaska Teaching Certificate



**Enroll Early! Space is limited!**



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# GALENA, ALASKA

## *Facilities: City of Galena*



*Galena Early Learning Center*



*Public Indoor Heated Swimming Pool*



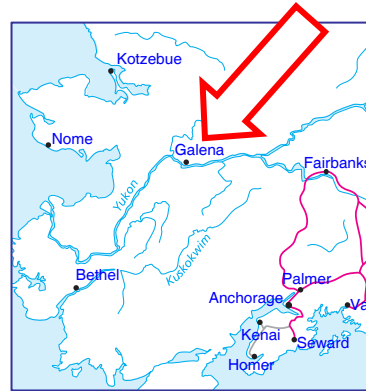
*The Iditarod checkpoint and in the background, an example of rental accommodation available in Galena*



*Various Gym opportunities*



## **Galena City School District, City of Galena, Louden Tribal Council, Tanana Chiefs Conference**



### ***Population:***

Galena with a population of  $\pm 700$  people is situated on the Yukon River and 260 miles west of Fairbanks.

### ***Accessibility:***

Galena is served with  $\pm 5$  daily flights from Fairbanks on two weekly flights from Anchorage. Galena is the hub for the region.

### ***Facilities and Amenities:***

Galena has many local amenities: 2 stores, 2 churches, a heated indoor Olympic sized swimming pool, a new modern health and dental center, restaurant, B&B, schools, UAF Rural Campus, Native and City Council offices, Magistrates Court, State Troopers and other facilities. The best feature of Galena is its friendly people.

## *Facilities: City of Galena*



*City Hall, Health Clinic, Mental Health Facilities, Telemedicine*



*Official Opening of the Facility*



*Former Lt. Gov Loren Leman, Elder Sidney Huntington, Elder Bobby Vent of Huslia*

Northwest Association of  
Accredited Schools



GALENA INTERI★R LEARNING ACADEMY  
Part of  
*Galena City School District, Galena, Alaska*

# High School Annual Report 2008-09

## EVIDENCE BASED SCHOOL EVALUATION



# Annual Report and Standards for the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools

Setting World Standards for Accreditation



2008-09

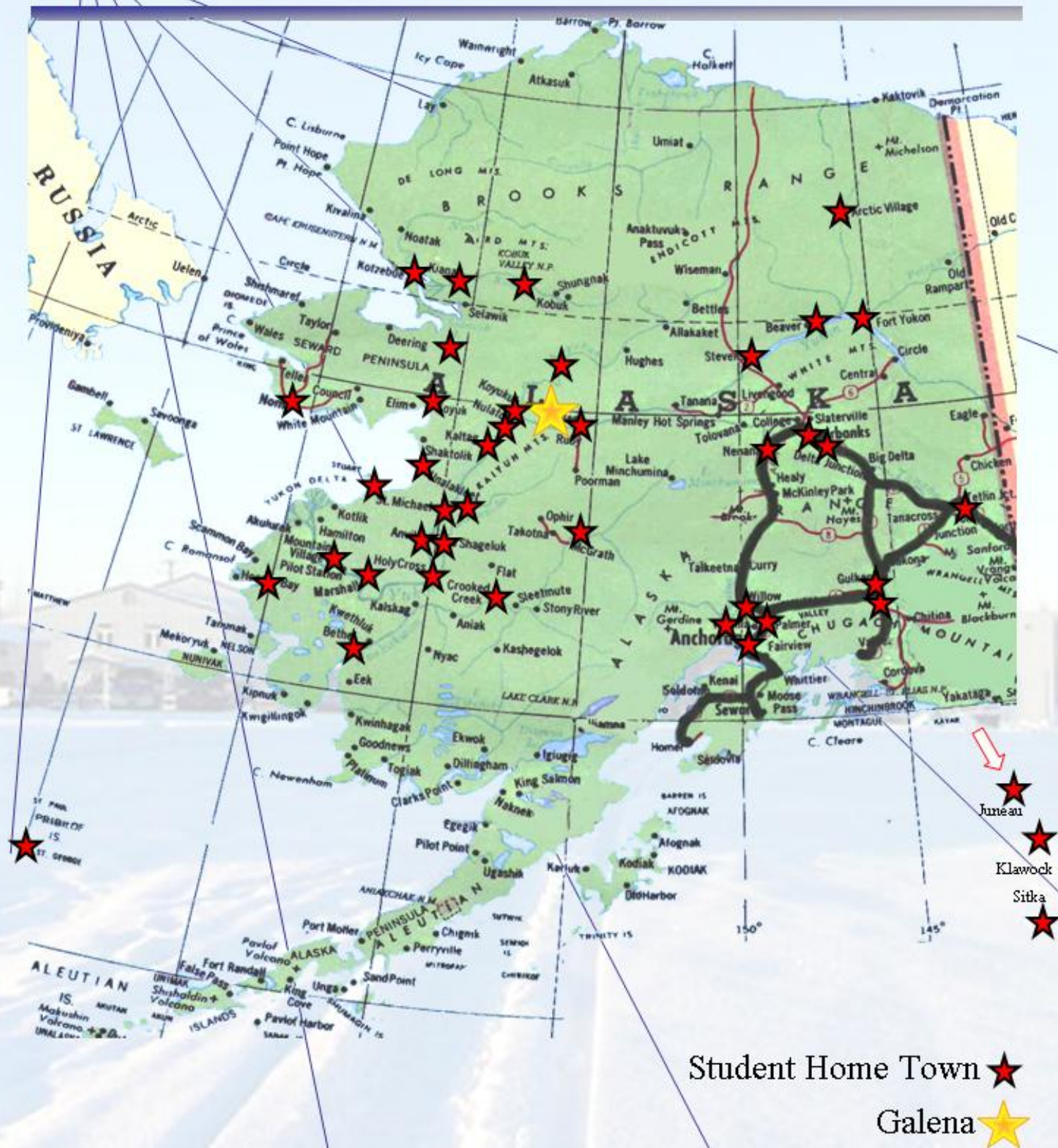
[www.NorthwestAccreditation.org](http://www.NorthwestAccreditation.org)

The mission of the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools is to advance excellence in education through the process of accreditation.





# GILA Student Home Town



November 2008

# **GALENA INTERIOR LEARNING ACADEMY**

## **UNIQUE PROGRAM FEATURES**

Galena Interior Learning Academy, a statewide boarding school for grade 9 -12 students that are seeking another choice, is Alaska's longest operating residential secondary vocational school. It is accredited by the "Northwest Association of Accredited Schools".

GILA offers High School age students the opportunity to gain industry standard vocational-certification in aviation, automotive technology, cosmetology and culinary arts while achieving the academic skills necessary to succeed in post secondary studies. Students enroll in these programs receiving many hours of instruction which may lead to continuation after graduation there by leading to certification and future employment. This opportunity provides motivation for undergraduates to excel academically allowing more time for the vocational career pathways. Vocational and technical teachers are hired from industry for upper level career pathways, validating the programs meeting the standards required by industry.

GILA is located in Galena, a village in Interior Alaska. It attracts students from all over the state, ranging from the Pribilof Islands in the West, to Prince of Wales Island in the South, Northway in the East and Arctic Village to the North. For the 2008 school year, 52 villages and communities were represented at GILA. It appeals to the lifestyle of the rural students but it is also accessible to students from urban communities who desire to pursue an education more focused to their individual needs. As Alaska Native families are forced to relocate because of the high cost of living in the villages, we as a boarding school are receiving greater numbers of applications each year, thus proving to be a more viable educational option.

The GILA campus is located on a former U.S. Air Force Base and offers modern residential and educational facilities. The Air Force has officially turned over many buildings to Galena City School District and will complete the process on September 30, 2008, allowing GILA to expand further in to more facilities. Future remodeling will allow for greater numbers of classrooms to accommodate for the increased number of applications. The strong partnership with the Air Force, City of Galena, Loudon Tribal Council, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska School Boards Association, local organizations and businesses contributes to a first class education for students.

## **ENROLLMENT**

GILA started FY 2008 with 128 students and ended with 124, a 97% retention rate. Homesickness and family needs are the main reasons why students leave during the school year. As these departing students chose other options, we at GILA assist them in enrollment into another educational institution to continue their educational endeavors.

Enrollment interest remains strong with more classroom space being necessary each year. Since the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) decision occurred, opportunities and challenges are being faced with great success. The Air Force's departure provides space for more programs and students while adding costs to the physical operations. In 2007-2008, enrollment increased to 128 students creating the challenges which were changed to opportunities for greater programs with the required expansions to accommodate the numbers. More content area classes and electives were added with an increase of 4 required class offerings and 6 electives being added to the class schedule.



Anticipated GILA enrollment:

FY 2006-07 110 students (actual 112)

FY 2007-08 130 students (actual 128)

FY 2008-09 150 students (actual 117)

Continued increased in enrollment is expected in 20 to 30 student increments each year until maximum capacity is reached at approximately five years.

The 2006 Alaska State Legislature provided an additional boost for GILA in the form of financial assistance for room and board. This act supported by the Governor, State Board of Education, and the Alaska Association of School Boards, brought recognition of the public support for “boarding schools of choice” in today’s Alaskan economy. A strong emphasis is placed on student resiliency and the “assets” program shared with Alaska Association of School Boards.

The staff at GILA works hard to maintain a cohesive relationship with the diversity of its students. A majority of underclassmen return each school year, with over 50 new students adding to the increased numbers. This includes replacing the graduation senior class as well as the increase in total student numbers.

Many systems are used to advertise the opportunities at GILA; however the most prevalent is word of mouth with recommendations among friends and family. State-wide publicity via newspaper, radio and TV has been recently implemented in order that families are aware of the opportunity which GILA affords. With many families being required to move toward more urban areas for employment or reduced cost of living, attending GILA is an opportunity that allows their high school aged children to continue their education while remaining in rural Alaska. These efforts resulted in many applicants, of which 128 were invited to attend for the 2008 school year.

Twenty two seniors graduated on May 16, 2008, 100% of which passed all portions of the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Examination. This class was 94% Alaska Native, exceeding the graduation rate of this group in most rural and urban schools in Alaska.

The graduation featured distinguished speaker Senator Albert Kookesh JD., our Senator for Interior Alaska. His strong message to Alaska Native students was very well received. An additional surprise visit from Todd Palin, the First Gentleman was a great treat as well. As a pilot in his own rite, Mr. Palin was invited to pin the wings on four graduates, two of which had achieved the Private Pilot status and two who had achieved Instrument Pilot Status.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

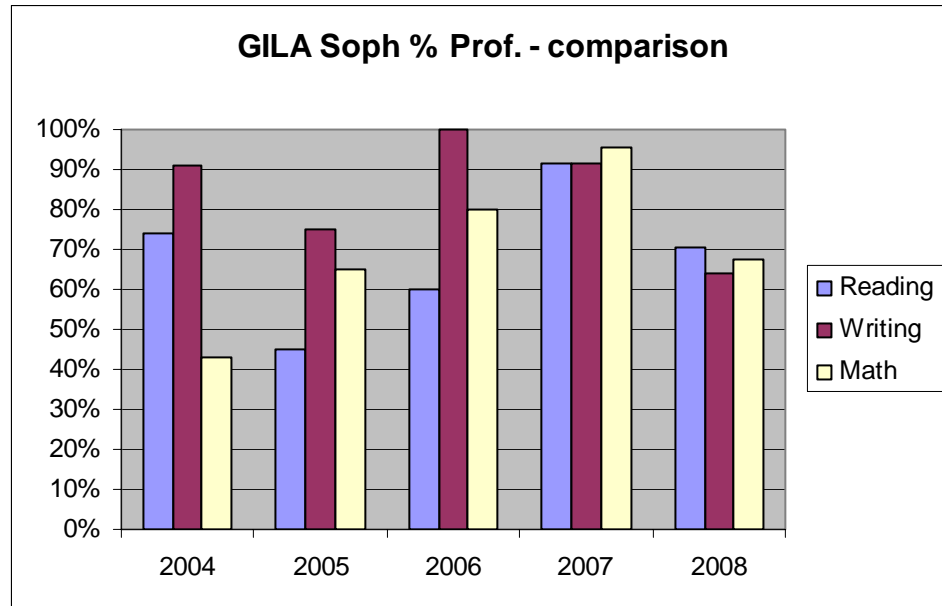
All GILA students grades 9 through 12 were administered the Terra Nova test, with grades 10 through 12 also taking the AHSGQE. The Standards Based Assessments was administered to the freshman as well as being imbedded in the sophomore AHSGQE. The results of those assessments follow.

## **ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION QUALIFYING EXAM**

For the past three years over 90% of Galena Interior Learning Academy graduates have passed all three portions of the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam, with 100% passing rate for the 2008 graduates.

A high percentage of the sophomore class achieved great success on their first attempt at the AKHSGQE . In the content area of reading, 70.7% of Sophomores were proficient, in Writing 64.2% were proficient and in Math 67.4% were proficient on their first attempt.

Although sophomores have been enrolled at GILA from one to 15 months in our program at this assessment date, our rigorous educational system provides exceptional learning opportunities as indicated by these scores.



<b>Soph % Proficient</b>					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Reading	74%	45%	60%	91%	71%
Writing	91%	75%	100%	91%	64%
Math	43%	65%	80%	96%	67%

### **ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS**

Adequate yearly progress is determined by 31 categories on the 9th and 10th grade Standards Based Assessment at GILA.

Although our assessment scores for 2008 show a slight reduction, reflecting that we did not make AYP for that calendar year, we have made great strides with hiring an additional math teacher and a special education teacher to improve on the learning of our students and subsequently those scores.

As seen, GILA students are showing great improvement, which are directly proportional to the number of years in the GILA educational system. This information is especially important with data showing 89% of GILA seniors, 93% of the juniors and 88% of the sophomores and 96% of freshman are Alaska Natives. This provides a total of 92% of GILA students being Alaska Native on the end of the year count.

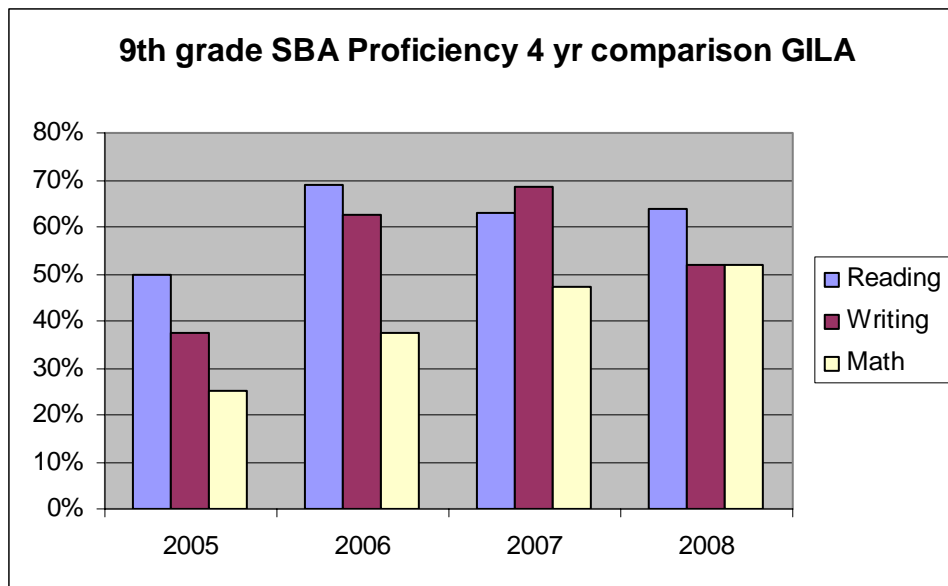
## **GILA STANDARDS BASED ASSESSMENTS (SBA)**

The Alaska Standards Based Assessments are scored based on the percentage of student's proficient on each test. The Alaska Standards Based Assessments measure how well students have mastered the Alaska academic standards in reading, writing, and mathematics, each of which has their own subcategory. These tests are designed specifically to assess the Alaska standards with Alaska students. Test results are reported in terms of level of mastery, that is, the percentage of correct answers. These assessments are then used to determine AYP for each school and district.

A primary goal of GILA is to provide an academic and vocational education opportunity where the students can take advantage of their abilities. The longer the students stay at GILA, the greater their academic progress. In the data below, you will notice increasing scores each year students attend the school.

### **Grade 9 Standards Based Assessments**

As you will observe in the data below, the freshman at GILA are showing constant improvement in all subject areas. It should be noted that upon acceptance of students into GILA at this beginning grade level, academic ability is discounted completely.



<b>SBA 9th Proficient</b>				
	2005	2006	2007	2008
Reading	50%	68.%	63.%	64%
Writing	38%	63%	68%	52%
Math	25%	38%	47%	52%

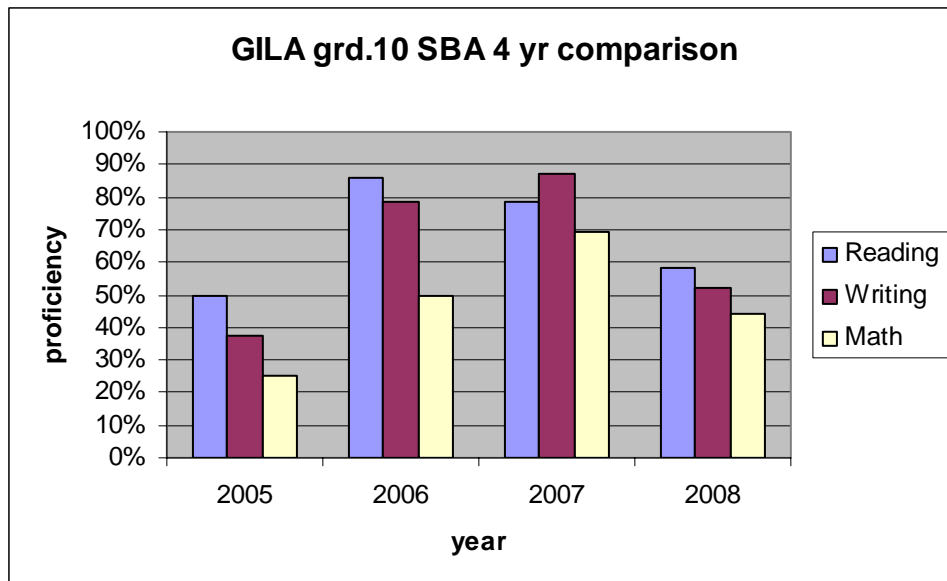


We feel with our staff development system the staff provides the opportunity for education that will give all students learning opportunities which are essential to success. Freshman students have been involved from one to 6 months in our educational system at this first state assessment date.

We require 480 minutes of monitored education 5 days per week which compares to 300 minutes required by DEED. The success of our model shows in the assessments scores.

#### Grade 10 Standards Based Assessments

Over the four years the SBA questions have been imbedded in the Qualifying Exam, GILA students have shown regular improvement as documented in the graph below. Although we feel improvements are needed, the scores remain similar between the students 9th grade SBA and a more difficult 10th grade SBA.



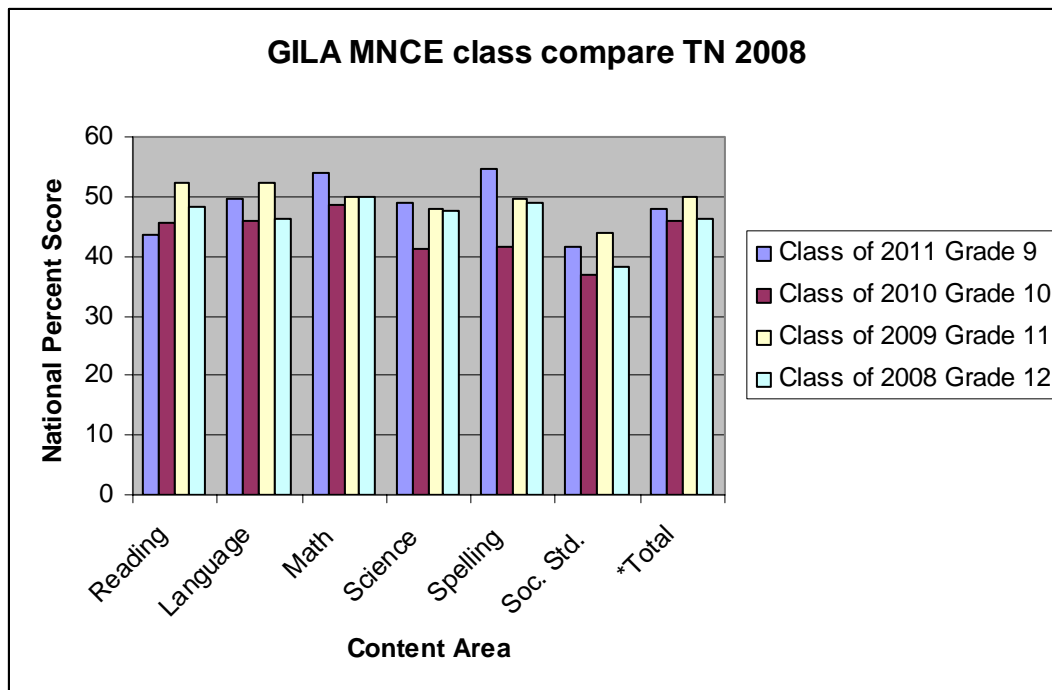
SBA	grade 10	4 year comparison			
		2005	2006	2007	2008
Reading		50%	86%	78%	59%
Writing		38%	79%	87%	52%
Math		25%	50%	70%	44%

Sophomore students have been involved in our system from one to 15 months at this assessment date. This data provides evidence of the high number of sophomores who were invited with in the last few months while students who previously attended kept the scores from dropping excessively.

## GILA: TERRA NOVA ASSESSMENTS

The Terra Nova is a norm-referenced test which means that the scores presented are comparative. The Mean Normal Curve Equivalent is computed by adding the Normal Curve Equivalent scores of all students in a group, then dividing by the number of students in that group. The Mean Normal Curve Equivalent scores show how well Galena students at each grade and in each subject area compare to their grade level peers around the country.

The Terra Nova Mean Normal Curve Equivalent Scores in the spring of 2007 are shown in the table and graph below. Virtually all Terra Nova scores are within the National Averages and are grade appropriate. The data shows scores are remaining within the national percentile in virtually all areas.



Total Score MNCE by Grade Level		2/08/08 testing						
MNCE	Reading	Language	Math	Science	Spelling	Soc. Std.		
*Total								
Class of 2011	Grade 9 43.5	49.6	54	48.9	54.5	41.4	47.9	
Class of 2010	Grade 10	45.6	46	48.5	41.1	41.7	36.8	46
Class of 2009	Grade 11	52.3	52.2	49.8	47.8	49.7	44	49.8
Class of 2008	Grade 12	48.3	46.3	50	47.5	49.1	38.1	46.4

## **STAFF**

All certified staff at GILA has accomplished “Highly Qualified” status. The vocational staff is certified professionals who have had additional training in educational techniques. GILA enjoyed 100% teacher retention rate this year among core academic staff however one of our vocational instructors moved into retirement at age 68. The instructional team consists of six core academic teachers, four industry-certified vocational instructors, a counselor and a native culture arts instructor. To that, we are adding two additional core teachers, one for Math/Technology and one for Special Education to accommodate the higher numbers of students.

Certified staff development is through ‘Performance Excellence for All Kids’ (PEAK) methodology. Each new staff attends a week long workshop in the summer. The district offers up to 18 days of additional training for all teachers, which includes ten days of Assessment Writing Workshops, half of which are on Saturdays.

The teaching staff is very dedicated. They work with those students who make a grade “C” or less in the after-school and Sunday evening tutoring sessions. All students attend a one hour home work session before dinner. Principal Harry White feels that the twenty minutes of daily “Silent Sustained Reading” for students and staff, vocabulary instruction in all classes and the cross curriculum teaching of Reading, Writing and Math attributed to the achievement of AYP.

The residential hall staff is responsible to supervise students all hours outside the school day and reside in the same building with them. They build a unique bond with the students, assist them in their homework, provide activities and regulate their schedules in off school hours supporting a successful learning environment. Resiliency and “assets building” training are provided for all residential hall staff.

The residential staff members are predominately graduates of university programs in residential living. This year four of the staff held degrees in education, where one was actually a certified teacher. Others are hired for their understanding and expertise in cultural needs, medical experience and activity organizational training.

## **NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REQUIREMENTS**

### **Highly Qualified Staff**

One Hundred Percent of our staff are Highly Qualified.

According to “No Child Left Behind” each parent has the right to know whether their students are being taught by a federally defined “highly qualified” teacher. Any parent who wishes to inquire about the qualifications of their child’s teacher is encouraged to contact Mr. Harry White, Principal of GILA and/or refer to the district web site listed above.

For further information regarding what defines a “highly qualified” teacher please refer to the federal definition

[http://www.eed.state.ak.us/nclb/pdf/teacher\\_and\\_paraprofessional\\_requirements.pdf](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/nclb/pdf/teacher_and_paraprofessional_requirements.pdf)

[http://www.eed.state.ak.us/nclb/pdf/teacher\\_and\\_paraprofessional\\_requirements.pdf](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/nclb/pdf/teacher_and_paraprofessional_requirements.pdf)

2006 Goals & Accomplishments



## **ACHIEVEMENT OF PAST GOALS**

The goals for 2009 and for the future include continuing our academic success while raising assessment scores in all areas. We also plan to more completely develop our vocational enrollment by improving on the quantity and enrollment of short courses with the post secondary program. Searching for funding in order to afford the increasing cost of increased enrollment and new on line buildings will remain an on going challenge until GILA becomes a fully funded boarding school for rural Alaskan Native students.

Student academic achievement, measured by the Terra Nova, Standards Based Assessments and Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Examination continues to improve. Although our students come to us with various and at times undetermined academic abilities, the data on all assessments show marked improvements every year of continuous attendance at GILA.

Vocational job opportunities in our nation comprise over 75% of all employment opportunities for young people today. We are continuing to explore additional vocational options for GILA students, having provided four additional short courses this year which have both led to summer jobs and potential permanent employment upon graduation. These courses consist of Industrial Electrical training, Plumbers and Construction/Maintenance with a focus on Carpentry. In all three courses together we have trained in excess of 30 post secondary students. An additional Content Course for students involves the medical profession. Our high school Health teacher is teaching an Allied Heath course for college credit. From this course students may enroll at UAF in their medical field.

Drivers Education is an additional course which is more complete this year. In past years, we have offered the academic portion of Drivers Education, leading to success on the written portion of the state test. For this year, we have acquired a vehicle for students to practice driving. Our course is now approved with all facets of the program for students to succeed in getting their drivers license and possibly move on to CDL and equipment operating licensures which will be required for the Gas Pipeline.

Research indicates that students cannot read if they do not first comprehend the vocabulary words within the passage they are reading. Our staff receive ongoing extensive training to implement vocabulary in their content areas allowing them to move beyond the normal vocabulary instruction to teach students methods to digest prefixes, suffixes and root words. This allows the students to break apart words which they may not have ever come in contact with, and realize their meaning. Vocabulary words are discussed in assemblies and students are challenged in recreational settings with new words. Our reading scores are improving, however other academic areas are improving greatly which we feel is in large part due to the ability of the student to read and comprehend the material in those areas.

With these concepts in mind, twenty minutes of daily "Silent Sustained Reading" remains for all students and staff. Students and staff have spoken loudly to keep this system in place for years in the future. Students are now sitting and reading casually on their own time. They are now reading more and understanding what they read at a higher level. The improved State Assessment scores in all areas show that this approach is successful.

## **2008 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **School:**

The 2008 school year provided evidence that GILA continues to provide exceptional educational opportunities for Alaskan youth. Our student retention rate remained the highest of Alaska's three 9-12 boarding schools. Although achievement of ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS was not accomplished, we have added new positions in Math and Special Education to address those needs. All program and teaching adjustments, staff development increases, and changes were implemented to increase student learning.

Vocational course adjustments were made with additional classes offered in each area. Participation in these career pathways continues to increase with the job markets demand.

The aviation program had thirty students, with two achieving their FAA approved Private Pilot Licensure and two achieving their Instrument Licensure. Several took the written portion of the FAA exam as well as building hours for completion of the Private Pilot License.

Cosmetology had great success with three students completing their 1650 hours of instruction, have passed all state testing requirements and presently working in the industry. Cosmetology continues to grow with two future instructors in the program to complete their training, thus making the program triple in size to three instructors. New equipment has been purchased to also increase the square footage of that training area by 100%.

The automotive program participation is continuing to grow with reorganization of class structures. Our new instructor just completed all areas of the ASE certification over the summer, allowing the statement that he has accomplished the highest level of certification possible. Additionally the Automotive program has added two sections of Drivers Education to meet the on going demand for CDL operators.

Success continues to be our goal and we are achieving it. Biweekly staff meetings are held in collaborative groups through out the school year to discuss classroom assessments, homework, distributed practice, corrective loops and other areas. Our student success is the result of this team concept among the staff. Reading, writing and math are included in each subject area with additional content areas beginning to receive increased emphasis. Data driven decision making is the basis for all staff development and class offerings.

A fantastic year was experienced in the area of student health and safety. Many evening activities augment those offered through the school including wrestling, volleyball, basketball, cross country running, cross country skiing, academic decathlon, Battle of the Books, science fair and more. These opportunities provide healthy choices to students. A Saturday Cultural day was held during spring where students could learn to snowshoe, cross country ski and compete in races. It was a great way to shake off the winter cabin fever.

### **Residential Hall: (Resiliency project)**

#### **Galena Interior Learning Academy Resiliency Project**

This project is a project of Galena City Schools. The GILA Resiliency Project focuses on building and sustaining assets in Alaska Native students attending the Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA), a public boarding school. This project supports the Fund for the Improvement of Education Appropriation Act which authorizes this project to "support operation of its (Galena City School District) boarding school for low-performing Native Students from remote villages

across Western Alaska.” This project will start serving 130 students but will grow to serve up to 300 Alaska Native students as the school grows over the next three years.

**The goal for this project is to increase the assets of Alaska Native students to help them successfully complete their education in Galena Interior Learning Academy.**

**The objectives of this project are:**

- 1. To train all staff in asset development and engage them as a team in strategies that develop positive development of the Alaska Native teens they serve**
- 2. To implement out of school component of Reconnecting Youth, a nationally proven program that results in increased decision-making and problem-solving skills, teamwork, cooperation and trust**
- 3. To provide culturally relevant activities that provides avenues for students to understand and practice traditional Native values.**
- 4. To increase ways that families can communicate and support students in the boarding school.**
- 5. To increase local community connection and support for boarding school students.**

Learning from previous grant projects and boarding school history that know that we must focus on not only the academic skills of our students, but also their social and emotional foundations for success. The activities of this project are:

1. Train all staff including residential hall staff, teachers, administrators and support staff on assets development in youth and how they can contribute to the three elements necessary for student success.
2. Implement Reconnecting Youth, a program of classroom and out of classroom lessons and activities for students deemed at-risk for school failure.
3. Increase the Alaska Native culturally relevant activities through collaboration with Loudon Tribal Council.
4. Increase local community connections for students including churches, organizations and community service activities.
5. Increase the connections with families in remote villages through use of the Internet.
6. Increase recreational and outdoor experiential learning activities for students paying particular attention to activities that promote resiliency, youth development and leadership.

Through this project we expect the following outcomes:

- Students will increase their achievement levels and lower negative or risky behaviors such as substance use, negative behaviors, and disciplinary actions.
- Student academic achievement will increase
- Students will feel more comfortable and bonded with the school and residential halls

There will be a decrease of students who leave the school due to homesickness, substance use, mental health issues or disciplinary actions

## **2008 STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS**

GILA students again participated with the Galena City School athletes and completed a very successful sport season. The Girls and Boys teams which were comprised of both Sidney Huntington School and GILA, won the Basketball regional championships and went on to compete at state level. The Boys team won the State 2A title at those competitions with the girls placing 4th. Success was also exceptional in mixed six volleyball with them attending state competition as well, ending in 4th place. Wrestling ended with six students completing at state, coming out with one champion and various other placings. Academic Decathlon performed very well, with a third place finish. Several students won individual medals and notoriety. Participating students not only were required to adhere to state and local eligibility requirements,



but also complete all residential life chores and maintain a high level of citizenship at the boarding school. While completing in numerous extra curricular activities, our teams received first place honors for their Academic Achievements at the state Basket Ball Tournament with highest GPA.

Students participated in the 'Student of the Month' program, 'Spirit of Youth' competitions and state wide pageants. Each month a boy and girl are chosen by staff to receive a 'Student of the Month' award and recognition; from which a 'Student of the Year' is selected. This student receives recognition and gifts at the end of the year. Although this program started with donations, the district has adopted it financially. Again this year GILA had a student who won the 'Spirit of Youth' for the State of Alaska. This comes with financial and personal opportunities in their academic studies after high school.

All these positive accomplishments were achieved by students while complying with the challenges of residential life and being far from their families. Sacrifices are made for a better education not often available at home. Student applications continue to increase, although we have the highest credit requirement in the state at 26 and exceed the number of minutes required by the state per day by 150%.

### **GOALS FOR 2008-2009**

The 2009 school year will be the eleventh year that GILA is operating. We have improved in our assessment scores each and every year.

Our major goal will be to continue the improvement in our academic areas while adding to our already well attended vocational areas. Our goal for the upcoming year is a Reconnecting Youth Health course as a pilot for at risk students. Implementation of Peer Helpers in conjunction with Sidney Huntington School is planned to give students not only another extracurricular activity, but to assist in at risk behaviors. Staff has been trained in both the reconnecting youth health class and peer helper leadership with a follow up refresher next fall.

Reading remains a nation-wide challenge and will also remain a targeted area for GILA. Reading comprehension is a crucial skill for all educational endeavors and all content areas. With emphasis on reading and vocabulary in the past, we have raised all other content area scores on the state assessments. We plan to continue this focus and concentrate on Science more completely as that content area is added to the state exams.

With one of the most intensive staff development models in the state, our staff rise to the occasion to give more than expected each year. We meet a minimum of every two weeks through the school year for collaboration with colleagues. Increasing the abilities of certified staff to develop effective assessments and distributed practice in their areas of expertise is a priority. Regular assessments, with varied methods of distributed practice will be a focus area. Corrective loops will be an area for further learning to allow increased units to be covered each year successfully. This will be patterned after research-based instructional and assessment strategies directly affecting our students in a positive educational profile.

"No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) has increased accountability with all of the school systems in the nation. One of our goals to continue to lead the charge handed down by the federal government, continue to provide and improve our educational system, and to remain a model for others to follow. We appreciate the leadership of our school district, state and nation who has taken this charge and assisted in the improvement of the educational structure. We have 100% of our staff "Highly Qualified" in their major content area. We plan to increase that by encouraging staff to receive greater training and achieving "Highly Qualified" in a more broad range of

curricular areas. Meeting AYP consistently is a large goal. We now plan to improve on the reading, writing and math scores, adding science to that mix, while adhering to all 31 subgroups for AYP.

Our mission at GILA has been and will continue to be a school of CHOICE for students who seek greater opportunities than are available in their village. As long as we have the ability to continue to be that safety net for the children of Alaska, showing the success ratios that we have provided in this report, we will move forward with even greater expectations for ourselves and the students we serve. The challenge provided as we increase in facilities and students shows the dedication of Galena, Loudon tribal council, Galena City School District and Alaska State Legislature to assist students of this Great State of Alaska by stepping up to the plate and assist the youth in their educational endeavors.

Within the next four years, we have the opportunity to grow from one hundred and twelve students to three hundred students, providing greater opportunities than presently available. We have moved into a larger residential hall and diner this year, and remain challenged with securing more classroom space for the students in a boarding school setting.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

“Our Kids are Worth What Ever it Takes”