

Bering Strait School District

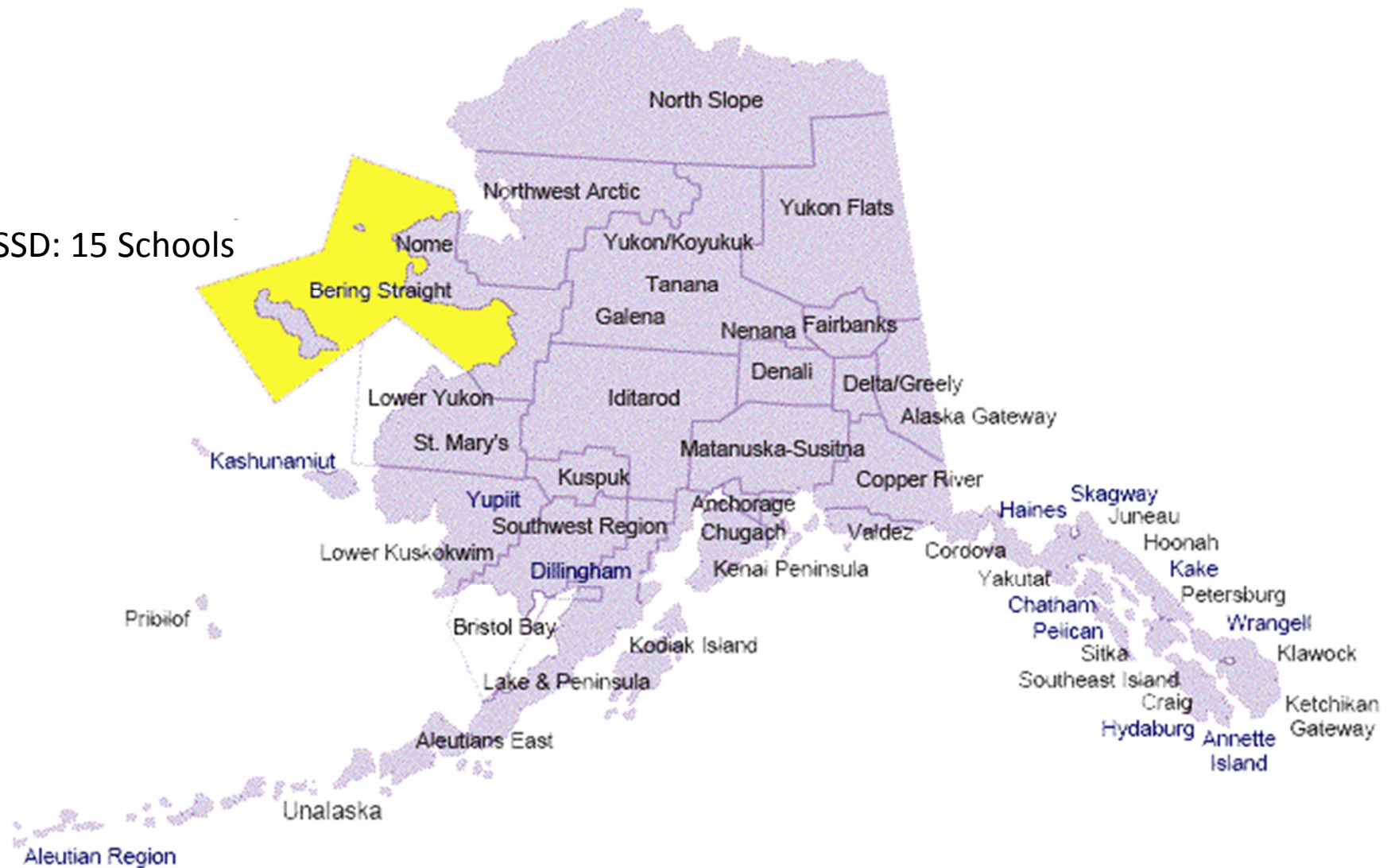


Presentation to Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee
Brett Agenbroad, Superintendent
Mark Vink, Business Manager

September 10, 2013

Map of the Bering Strait School District

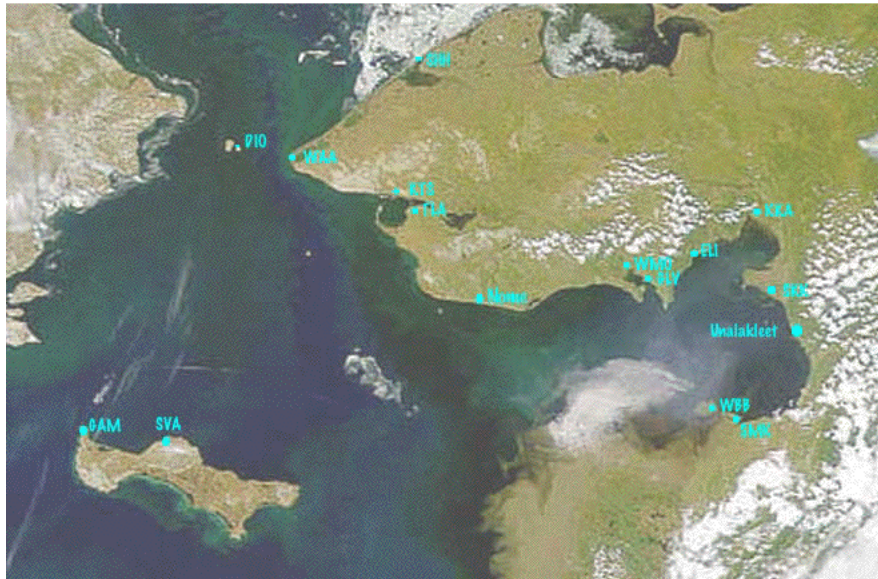
BSSD: 15 Schools





BSSD Facts:

- District encompasses 80,000 square miles
 - Larger than the State of Washington
- 15 Schools
 - Smallest brick and mortar school – 22 students (FY13 in Little Diomed)
 - Largest brick and mortar school – 226 students (FY 13 in Savoonga)



History of BSSD

Education has been an important part of the Bering Strait area for many years. In the 1940s-1970s members of the Unalakleet Eskimo Mothers' Club, many of whom had gone through only the eighth grade, advocated for a public high school in Unalakleet so that all children would have the opportunity to be educated at home, not far away in a strange culture without family support. Today we have high schools throughout our district and a vast majority of parents choose to keep their children at home to attend school.

Prior to Alaska statehood, the federal government through the Department of the Interior, and specifically the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), was responsible for the education of Alaska Native students. The schools within the Bering Strait region were run by the BIA. Most of the schools went through the eighth grade and then students left home to attend Mt. Edgecumbe High School or other boarding schools in Alaska and the Lower 48.

The federal government was slow to turn over the management and responsibility of education to Territorial Alaska and then the State of Alaska. Both entities have responsibilities to the predominantly Alaska Native students of the Bering Strait region.

- The State of Alaska has a constitutional responsibility.
- The U.S. government has federal treaty responsibilities.

Although the State of Alaska now oversees all of the K-12 education in the state, the federal government fulfills its responsibility through funding programs such as the Indian Education Act, Johnson-O'Malley Act, Impact Aid, and the Title programs.

Within the Bering Strait region, the children were taught first through the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. In Unalakleet the Covenant Church converted a children's home facility (built in 1943) into a boarding high school facility in 1955. Covenant High School charged tuition and children of low income families were subsidized. Covenant High provided education to approximately 100 high school students throughout Western Alaska. Because of its limited facilities, some students from Unalakleet still had to go elsewhere for their high school education. That school operated until 1985.

The dual federal/state systems continued in Alaska and the Bering Strait region well past statehood.

History of BSSD (cont)



The 1970s were very exciting times for Alaska Natives. In 1971 President Nixon signed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. REAAs were created in 1975, which provided for school boards to be elected locally. The Molly Hootch case was settled in 1976, bringing high schools to small communities.

As a result of the REAAs, Frank A. Degnan High School (originally Unalakleet High School) was built and served high school students throughout the region. Students were housed with families who received a stipend of \$50/month for feeding the students.

The boarding home program was conducted to address two major issues:

1. There were no funds to build dormitories for the students, and
2. The boarding home program kept the students closer to home in a more familiar culture.

With the settlement of the Molly Hootch case and the construction of high schools in BSSD villages, the boarding home program in Unalakleet was discontinued. The impact on students' families was significant. With local public high schools available in each village, students did not have to leave home to meet the requirement of attending school.

Over the next few years, members of communities within the Bering Strait region voted at various times for their elementary schools to leave the BIA system and be a part of the REAA system. For several years Unalakleet operated its elementary/middle school program under BIA and its high school program under REAA. In 1981 all of the education K-12 was through the REAA.

Bering Strait School District now operates K-12 schools in 15 villages.

Academic Overview

As a new entity with the establishment of the REAAs, one of the first tasks was to develop a curriculum. Teachers from across the district met several times to establish the initial curriculum. Although that curriculum has changed over the years, BSSD continues to involve its teachers in curriculum development. Through time, committees have met to adopt textbooks and to compile resource lists for the classrooms. With the implementation of No Child Left Behind, BSSD revised its curriculum again to align with the state standards. The BSSD Board of Education has adopted the Alaska State Standards as the district standards.

In 2002 BSSD began a journey using the Quality Schools Model. We adapted it to our students' needs and culture while maintaining the requirements of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED). We worked through the issues that arose; however, there were some issues that we could not successfully address.

- Parents did not fully understand the grading system of emerging, developing, proficient, advanced, and had difficulty interpreting where their students actually were academically.
- Parents, used to students being in a designated grade, did not understand the pod system (groups of grade levels).
- Due to pacing issues, many students were not on track to graduate in four years. Many entered their senior year with fewer than half of their requirements completed.
- BSSD did not see a rise in test scores...HSGQE and SBA.

With this information in mind, BSSD returned to the Carnegie grading system in 2011.

Some of the programs BSSD uses and supports:

- Success for All – reading
- EnVision Math
- Response to Intervention (RtI)
- AIMSweb for progress monitoring
- CHAMPS – Classwide Positive Behavior Support (PBS)
Stands for **C**onversation, **H**elp, **A**ctivity, **M**ovement, **P**articipation

BSSD's Educational Technology Department is integral to the function of the district and to the education of the students. A wide range of programs are run from the district office including distance learning, technology training, and videoconferencing of meetings and events.

BSSD Demographics



Size of district: 80,000 square miles

Number of K-12 schools: 15

Ethnic populations:

- Alaska Native: 98.9%

- Non-Native: 1.1%

Gender:

- Female: 47.2%

- Male: 52.8%

Special Education: 10.2%

English Language Learners/Limited English Proficient: 47%

Migrant: 22.8%

School Year	Graduation Rate
2007-2008	32.0%
2008-2009	48.2%
2009-2010	47.5%
2010-2011	55.0%
2011-2012	59.8%
2012-2013	Not yet released by EED

Alaska State Performance Index (ASPI)

ASPI Rating	# of Schools	Sites
5 Stars	0	
4 Stars	1	Teller
3 Stars	7	Elim, Golovin, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, St. Michael, Unalakleet, White Mountain
2 Stars	3	Gambell, Koyuk, Wales
1 Star	4	Brevig Mission, Diomedes, Savoonga, Stebbins

BSSD
would like to
THANK
the legislature
and
AHFC
for past funding of
schools
and
teacher housing units!

By updating Facilities,
to have been able
to construct
more energy efficient
buildings and have also
been able to
provide for
a better learning
environment
for our students.

BSSD Facility Construction 1988-2013

Schools	Total Cost
Elim (New Construction)	\$12,862,458
Stebbins (New Construction)	\$12,000,000
Gambell (Remodel & Addition)	\$12,434,700
Golovin (Remodel & Addition)	\$10,506,542
Koyuk (New Construction)	\$11,898,309
Shishmaref (New MM)	\$8,911,402
St. Michael (New Construction)	\$22,947,517
Savoonga (New Construction)	\$32,233,568
Teller (New Construction)	\$9,618,949
Wales (New Construction)	\$5,699,311
White Mountain (New Construction)	\$12,255,173
Brevig Mission (New MM)	\$5,177,701
Brevig Mission (Addition)	\$5,371,571
Unalakleet (New MM)	\$12,288,182
Diomedes (New MM)	\$16,214,920
Shaktoolik (New MM)	\$9,363,631
Shaktoolik (Addition)	\$2,500,000
TOTAL EXPENSE:	\$195,438,870



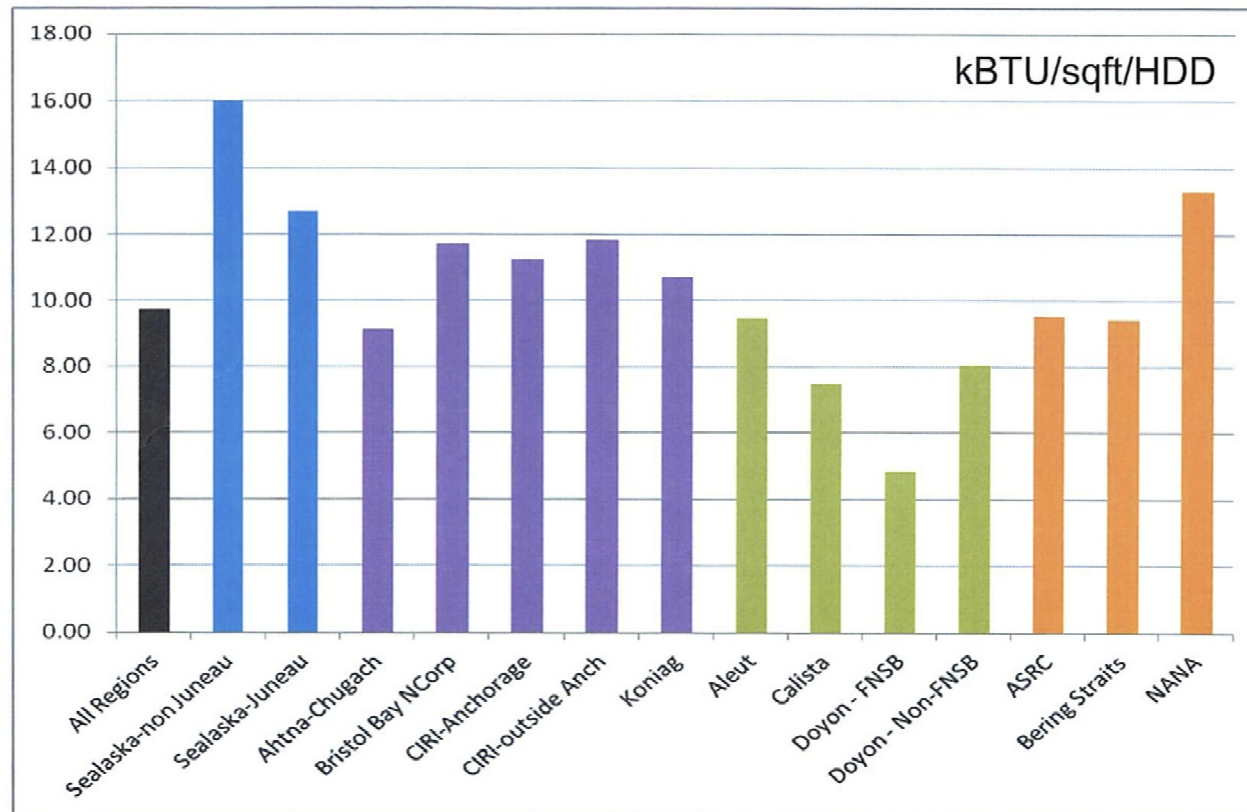
AHFC Teacher Housing Grants

Location	Amount	Building Types	Number of Units
Savoonga	\$1,791,389	4 duplexes	8
Unalakleet	\$3,093,018	3 four plexes	12
St. Michael	\$978,976	2 duplexes	4
Stebbins	\$1,492,880	3 duplexes	6
Shaktoolik	\$484,960	1 duplex	2
Koyuk	\$648,908	1 duplex	2
White Mountain	\$1,073,090	2 duplexes	4
Brevig Mission	\$801,190	2 duplexes	4
Teller	\$1,267,816	2 duplexes	4
Gambell	\$1,891,855	2 four plexes	8
TOTAL COST:	\$13,524,082		

By using those grants to upgrade BSSD facilities, the district has been able to recover costs paid, in utility costs and local housing rentals, by \$400,000 annually, as well as provide more modern and energy efficient housing for staff and educational environments for students. Those savings are able to be re-directed back into the classroom and help increase student learning and teacher retention.



School Energy Use (not cost)



Energy use (EUI) per climate factors of audited schools by ANCSA region

Per AHFC, BSSD is below the state average for energy use.



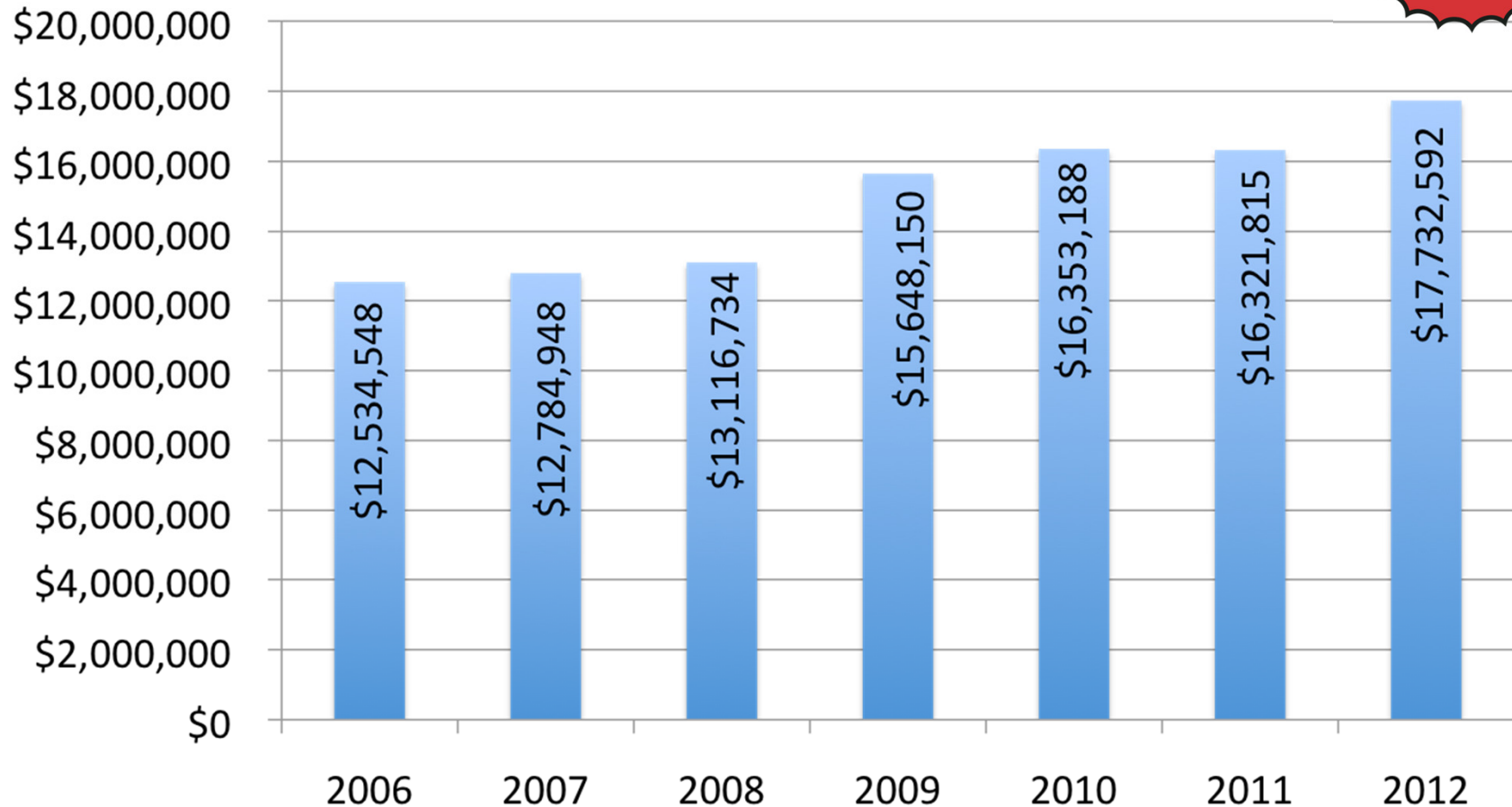
Bering Strait School District Historical Information



	FY2002-2003	FY2003-2004	FY2004-2005	FY2005-2006	FY2006-2007	FY2007-2008	FY2008-2009	FY2009-2010	FY2010-2011	FY2011-2012
REVENUE										
Federal	\$10,220,541	\$12,169,612	\$12,815,043	\$13,393,200	\$13,236,126	\$14,597,190	\$14,962,993	\$17,378,569	\$17,255,753	\$17,918,363
State	14,843,589	14,628,470	16,637,273	17,679,434	22,040,742	29,597,018	29,493,477	29,483,427	31,112,289	33,777,321
Other	2,940,011	1,424,538	1,701,968	1,477,798	2,519,569	2,855,687	2,243,284	1,612,945	2,292,969	2,959,040
TOTAL REVENUES	28,004,141	28,222,620	31,154,284	32,550,432	37,796,437	47,049,895	46,699,754	48,474,941	50,661,011	54,654,724
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	27,733,872	28,057,646	28,377,187	31,107,527	33,809,806	42,453,017	43,163,628	42,503,033	44,922,345	47,234,760
Transfers	623,391	624,486	1,032,405	1,075,235	2,197,107	3,053,261	2,499,603	2,645,033	6,777,940	5,457,469
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	28,357,263	28,682,132	29,409,592	32,182,762	36,006,913	45,506,278	45,663,231	45,148,066	51,700,285	52,692,229
FUND BALANCE EFFECT	(\$353,122)	(\$459,512)	\$1,744,692	\$367,670	\$1,789,524	\$1,543,617	\$1,036,523	\$3,326,875	(\$1,039,274)	\$1,962,495

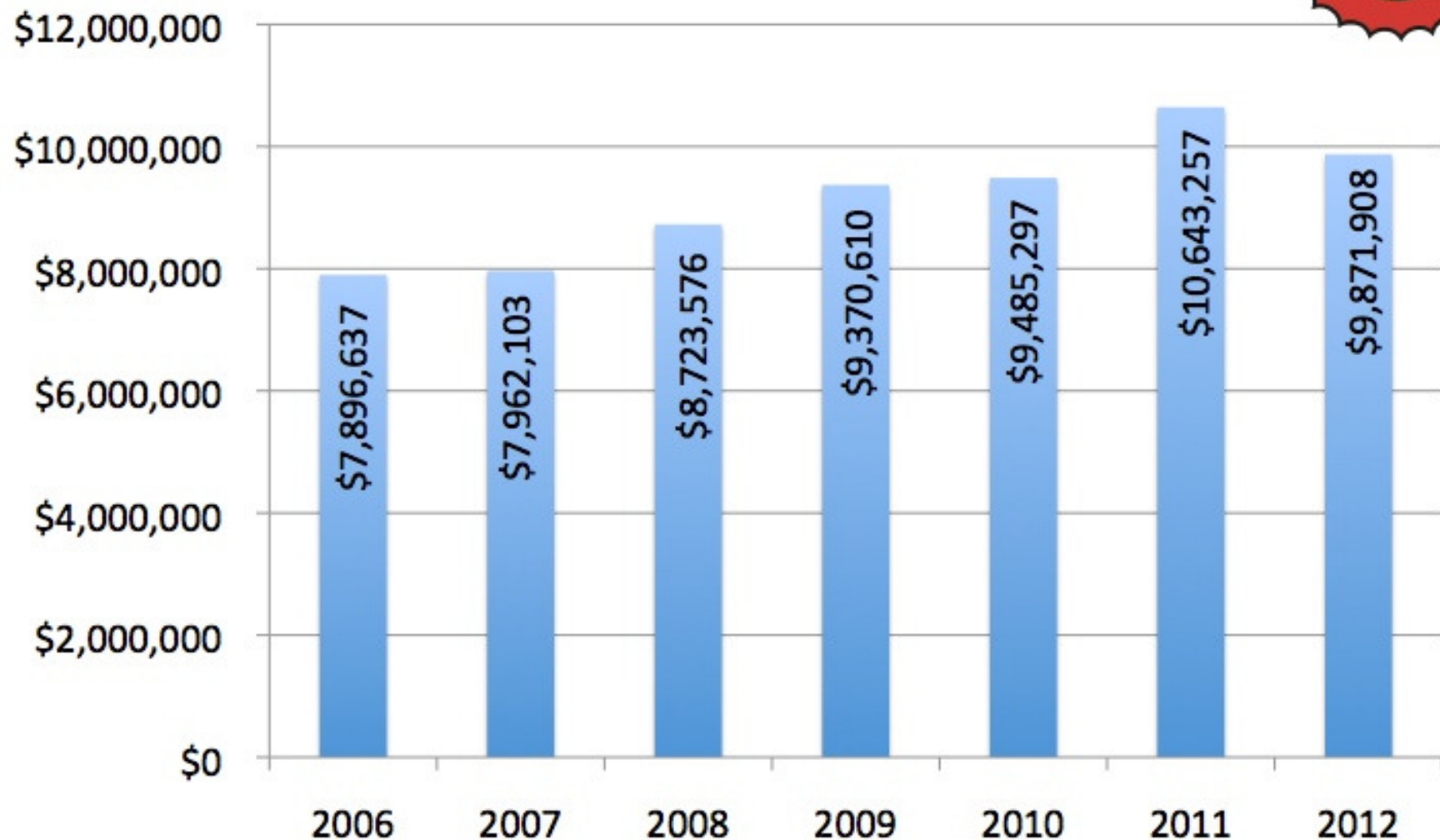
*Source: Bering Strait School District Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

Total Certificated Salaries



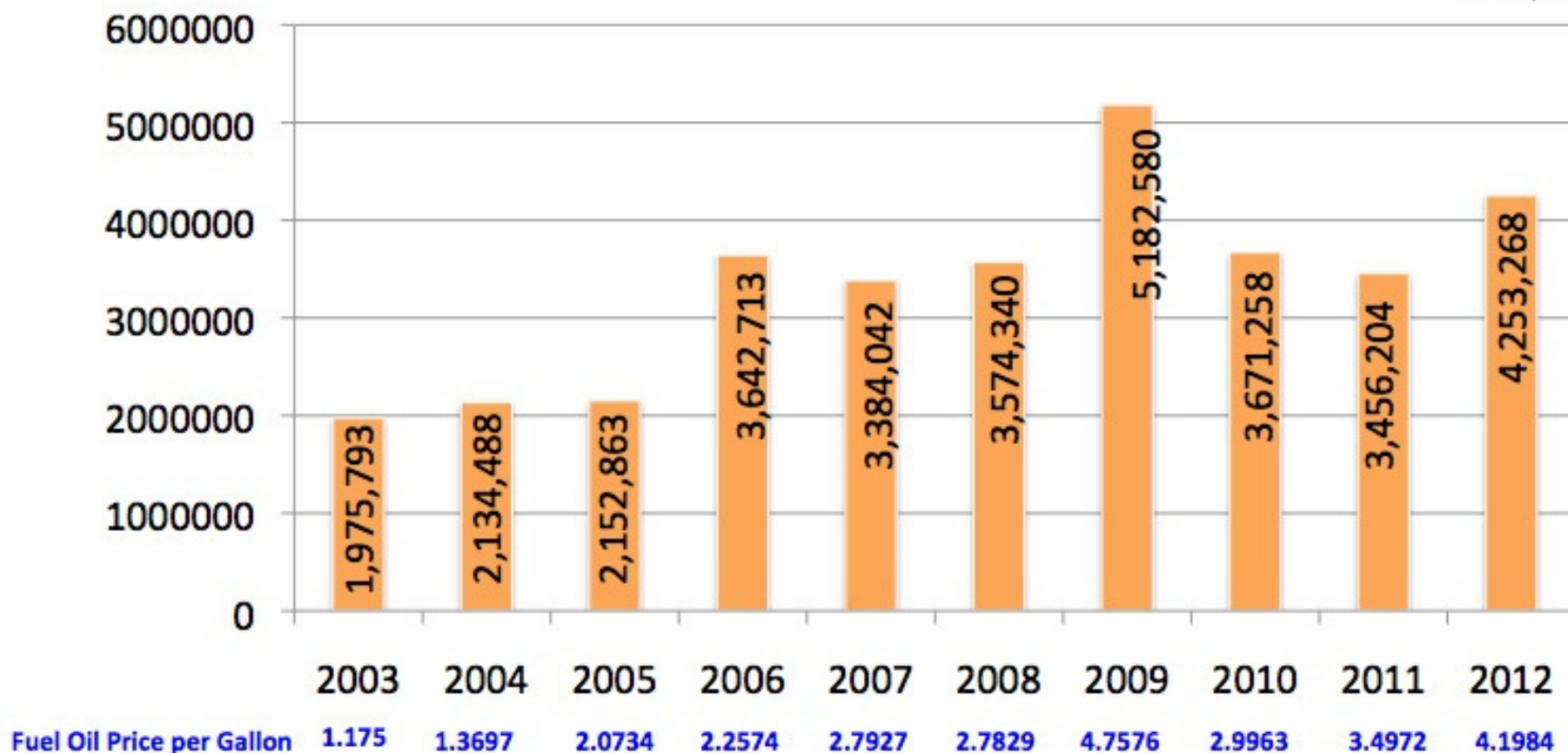
*Source: Bering Strait School District Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

Total Non-Certificated Salaries



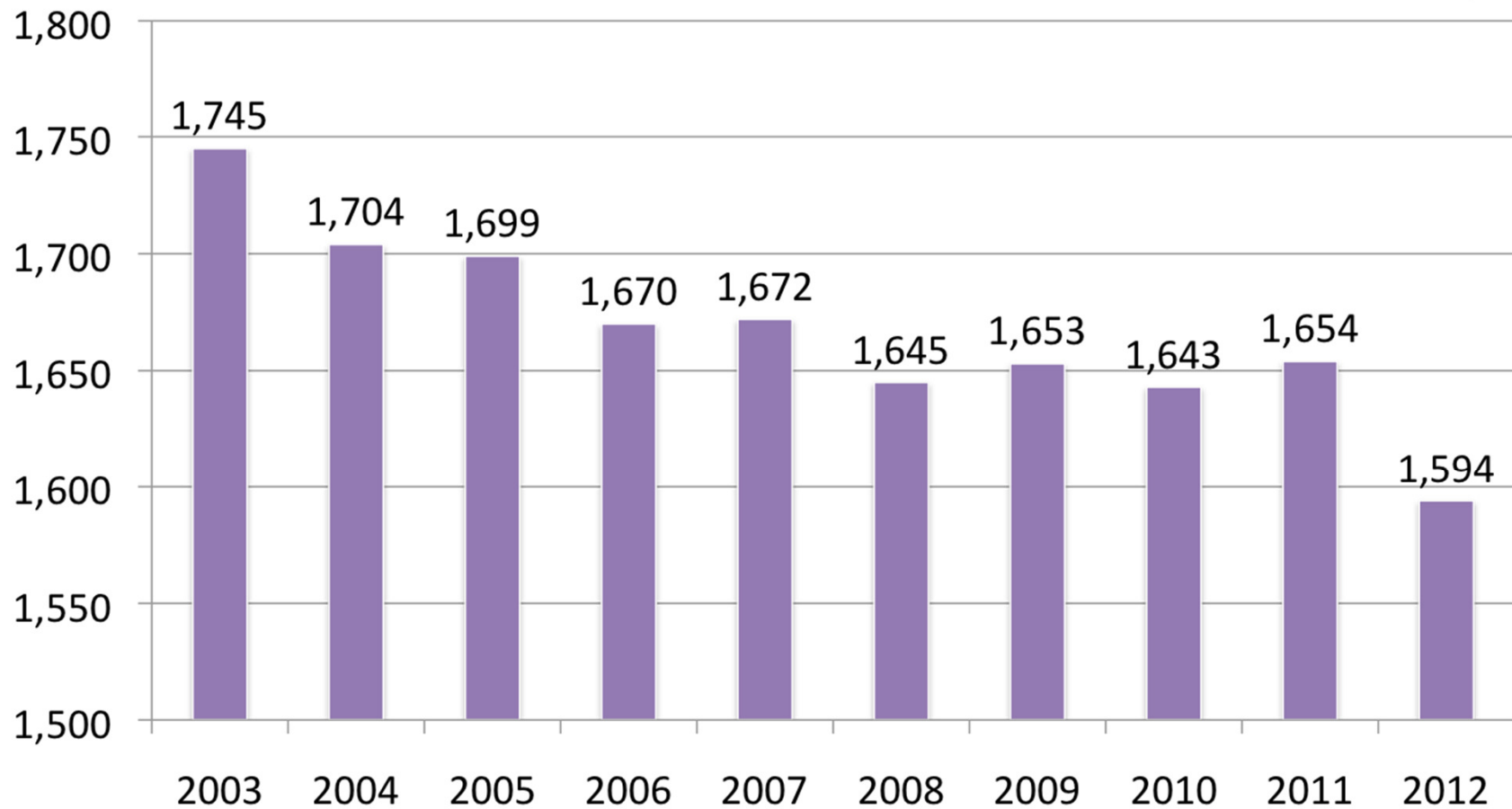
*Source: Bering Strait School District Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

Total Energy Costs



*Source: Bering Strait School District Comprehensive Financial Reports

Student Enrollment History



*Source: Bering Strait School District Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports



BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL FORECAST

	FY 2011-2012 ACTUAL	FY 2012-2013 ACTUAL	FY 2013- 2014 PROJECTION	FY2014-2015 PROJECTION	FY2015-2016 PROJECTION
REVENUE					
Federal					
Impact Aid	\$15,198,572	\$15,441,177	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000
E-rate	2,719,791	3,193,952	2,900,000	3,200,000	3,200,000
State					
Foundation	26,987,502	29,028,436	28,895,620	28,900,000	28,900,000
On-behalf	6,160,816	8,080,510	6,345,000	8,100,000	8,100,000
Other	629,003	801,727	1,322,011	1,322,011	1,322,011
Other	2,959,040	1,674,246	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$54,654,724	\$58,220,048	\$56,462,631	\$58,522,011	\$58,522,011
EXPENDITURES					
Personnel Costs					
Salaries	\$20,441,838	\$21,373,929	\$21,737,251	\$22,063,310	\$22,394,260
Benefits	6,981,910	7,785,719	7,990,480	8,110,337	8,231,992
On-behalf	6,160,816	8,080,510	6,345,000	8,100,000	8,100,000
Non-personnel					
Utilities	4,253,268	4,534,946	4,600,000	4,830,000	5,071,500
Other	9,396,928	10,951,537	11,387,645	11,387,645	11,387,645
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	47,234,760	52,726,641	52,060,376	54,491,292	55,185,397
Transfers	5,457,469	4,689,898	4,458,969	4,450,000	4,450,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$52,692,229	\$57,416,539	\$56,519,345	\$58,941,292	\$59,635,397
FUND BALANCE EFFECT	\$1,962,495	\$803,509	(\$56,714)	(\$419,281)	(\$1,113,386)

Assumptions



- Anticipate Flat Revenues and Enrollment
- Salaries are maintained at an annual INCREASE of 1.5%
- Workmans' Compensation Insurance and Health Insurance Increases Totaling 5%
- All other deductions factors are maintained with any INCREASE due to INCREASE in Salary factors
- Utilities INCREASE at an annual rate of 5%
- All other Non-Personnel accounts are maintained with ZERO INCREASE

Cost Drivers

- New EED requirements necessitating the increase of district computers and available bandwidth capacity
- Cost of Fuel
- Workman's Compensation Reform



Questions?

