



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Education
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House Finance Committee – Department of Education and Early Development School Capital Funding

Follow-up on Committee Member Comments

Prepared by Department of Education and Early Development Staff

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1. Representative Cronk requested clarification of the responsibility of the engineer/contractor in Nunam Iqua School construction being built on piles of gravel on top of a lake.

Without knowing the circumstances or decisions that yielded the footing design solution, it is difficult to make a determination on the possibility of professional fault, liability, or responsibility. Regardless, if the design was found to be inappropriate and/or egregious the determination would likely not yield enough funds to fully resolve the situation. Finally, on matters of legal responsibility and professional liability, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) would defer to the Department of Law.

2. Representative Galvin requested a list of school districts that used America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Major Maintenance and Construction.

Please see *Enclosure 1 - COVID-19 Relief Funding Legislative Report Maintenance and Construction*.

3. Representative Cronk requested an update on the Kaktovik school construction. What has been done, how much money do they have, and how much do they need to complete that project?

Since the re-construction of the Harold Kaveolook School in Kaktovik was funded directly by the school's insurance policy and not through DEED's grant funded programs, DEED does not have access to any information regarding progress, costs, or funds remaining. This information would need to be requested directly from the school district.

4. Representative Hannan requested a list of unoccupiable schools.

There are currently no "unoccupiable schools." Though several schools have experienced emergencies (i.e., fire, flooding, beach erosion, etc.) and even more that are undergoing challenges/difficult conditions (recurring power outages, no water or shortages of water, mechanical system failures), they are or maintain occupiable facilities. The Harold Kaveolook School in Kaktovik which was destroyed by fire in 2020 is a notable example. All information DEED has suggested that the North Slope Borough School District has used insurance proceeds to be able to continue education programs.