



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

February 14, 2024

About Our District

Student Enrollment:

- **12,459**
 - **25% are military connected, 33.4% are economically disadvantaged**

Certified Staff:

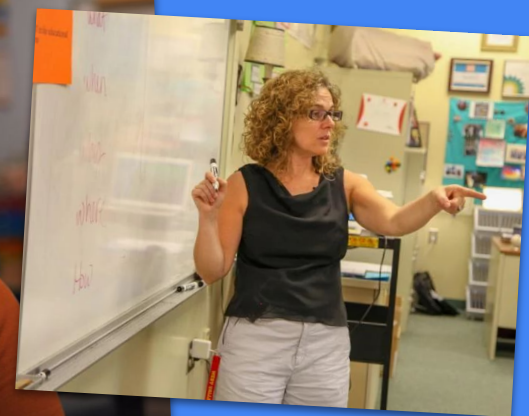
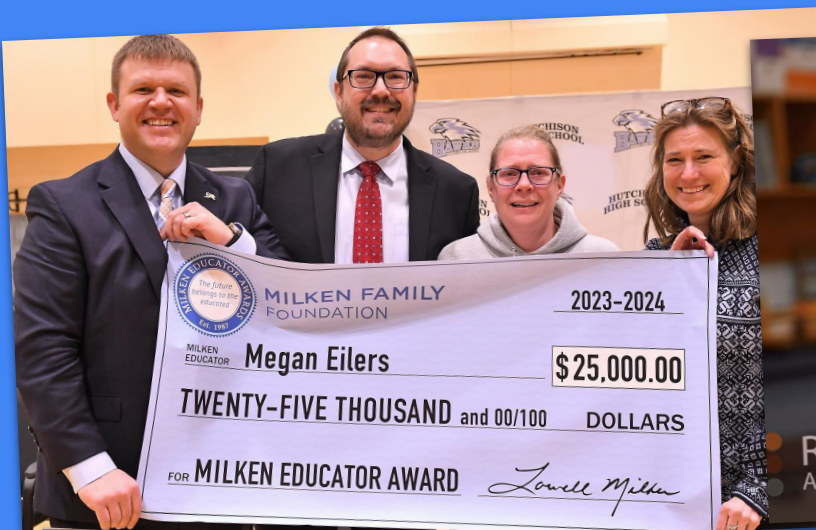
- **751**
 - **6 unfilled certified positions to be filled ASAP**
 - **38 emergency certificated educators hired this year**
 - **14 J1 visa educators hired this year**
 - **SPED certified positions and related service provider positions (SLP, OT, and PT) are being filled virtually**

Classified Staff:

- **754**

Schools:

- **33 total**
 - **15 elementary, 8 secondary, 5 charter schools, 5 schools of choice, including three schools on military bases, a CTE school, home school program, and various programs that provide alternative learning opportunities.**



What We Are Looking At

- **\$28 million deficit**
 - **62.3% of our revenue comes from the State**
- **2 school closures**
 - **3 were recently closed**
- **5 additional students per class:**
 - **K-5 30:1**
 - **6-8 32:1**
 - **9-12 35:1**
- **100 certified educators cut (15%)**
- **17 kinder paraprofessionals cut**
- **Custodial outsourcing**



What It Means

- **Inadequate fund balance that would get our District through 2-3 weeks**
- **Upheaval for families and students moving to a new school once again**
- **35+ students in classrooms built to hold 24. An average of 25 more students, or an additional class, for every secondary teacher**
- **Inadequate support for our youngest students learning to acclimate to school**
- **Custodial staff that aren't accountable to principals, unfamiliar with students, and unable to do the same level of care leading to more expensive repairs long-term.**

Then...

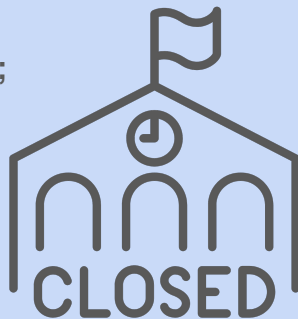
2014

- Band and orchestra at the elementary level;
- ELP (gifted and talented) teachers in every elementary and middle school;
- Art teachers available to teach lessons in elementary grades;
- Building subs that knew students;

...and Now

2024

- Class sizes have increased;
- Already closed three schools;
- More than 250 jobs lost previously, with 100 more certified cuts expected



- Band and orchestra now begin at middle school;
- More students per class - less individual instruction
- 4 ELP teachers districtwide total;
- No formal art instruction at the elementary level;
- Fewer teachers with formal training
- Fewer services and staff at all levels
- No building subs. Sub shortages abound;
- Cuts to transportation limit student learning opportunities including CTE options
- Print shop closed;

What This Means to Our Students

- Up to six (6) classes of students at the secondary level sit in an auditorium or library supervised by a single teacher when experiencing sub shortages;
- Elementary classes are divided between three different teachers that are often not the same grade level;
- We hired 132 certified educators this year: 38 emergency certificated and 14 J1 visa educators (17.5% or more than 1 in 6 educators are new to our district this year). Many early-career-educators are leaving for other states;
- SPED classes are taught virtually from outside of Alaska without certified educators supporting in the classroom;
- Related services (Speech, OT, PT) are being provided virtually to SPED students even at the elementary level;
- Costs of athletics and extracurriculars have risen to the point of being too costly for many families to access;
- Secretaries and other classified staff are doing walk-to-read to attempt to have small reading groups per the Alaska Reads Act. There is inadequate funding for after school reading programs and after school transportation;
- Aspects of our buildings are in disrepair - windows, boilers, stairs, and roofs;
- We are dipping into our general fund to cover transportation costs;