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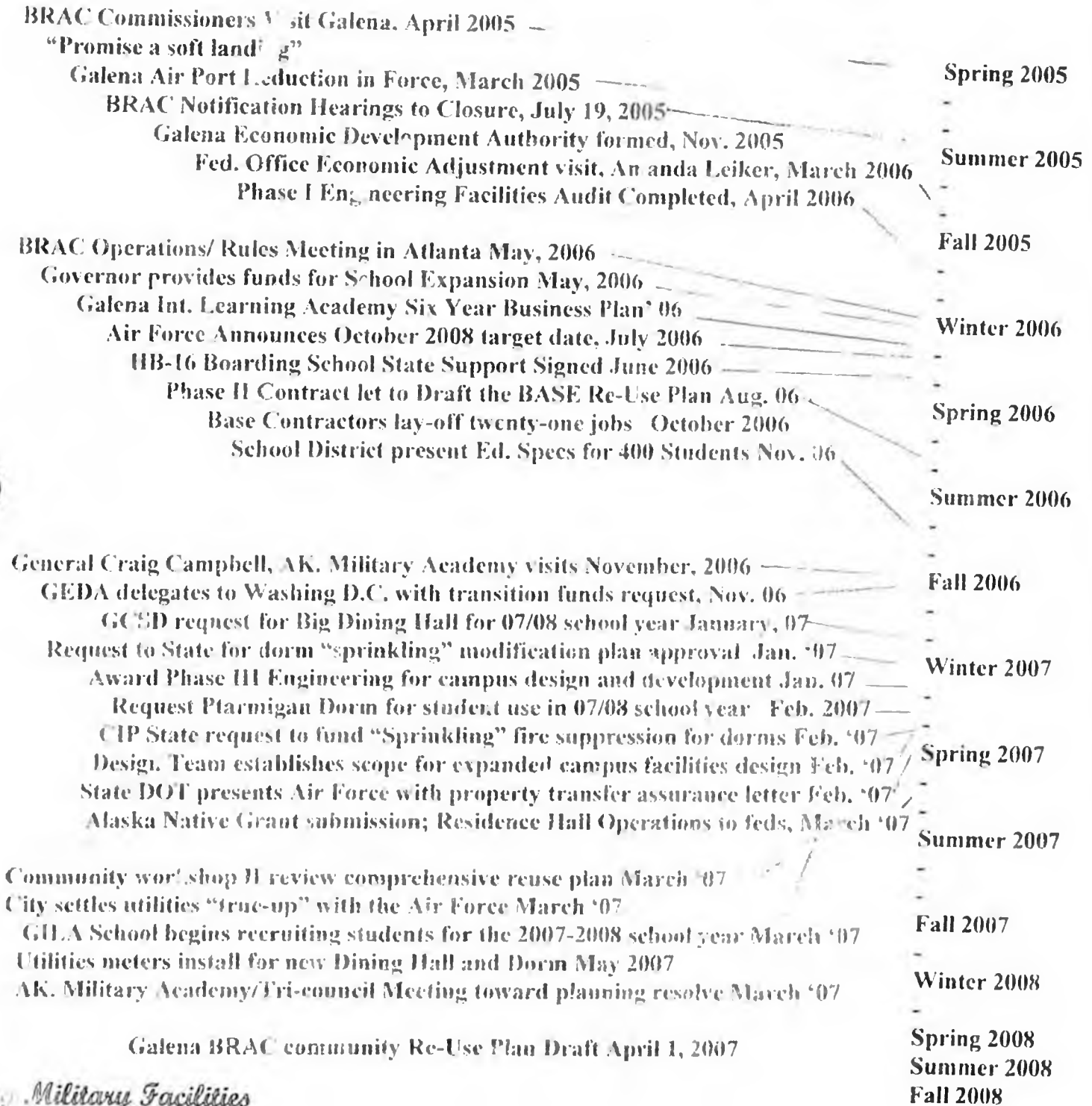
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**Galena Learning Academy
Enrollment Growth Projections
grades seven through twelve
for the Six Year Business Plan**

2006.....	125
2007.....	155
2008.....	175-200
2009.....	200-275
2010.....	300
2011.....	350

Galena

In Transition



Galena Learning Academy Military Facilities

Into an Alaska Educational

Resource

GALENA INTERIOR LEARNING ACADEMY

GALENA, ALASKA

School Campus

Adult
Residential
Hall

High
School

Cosmetology

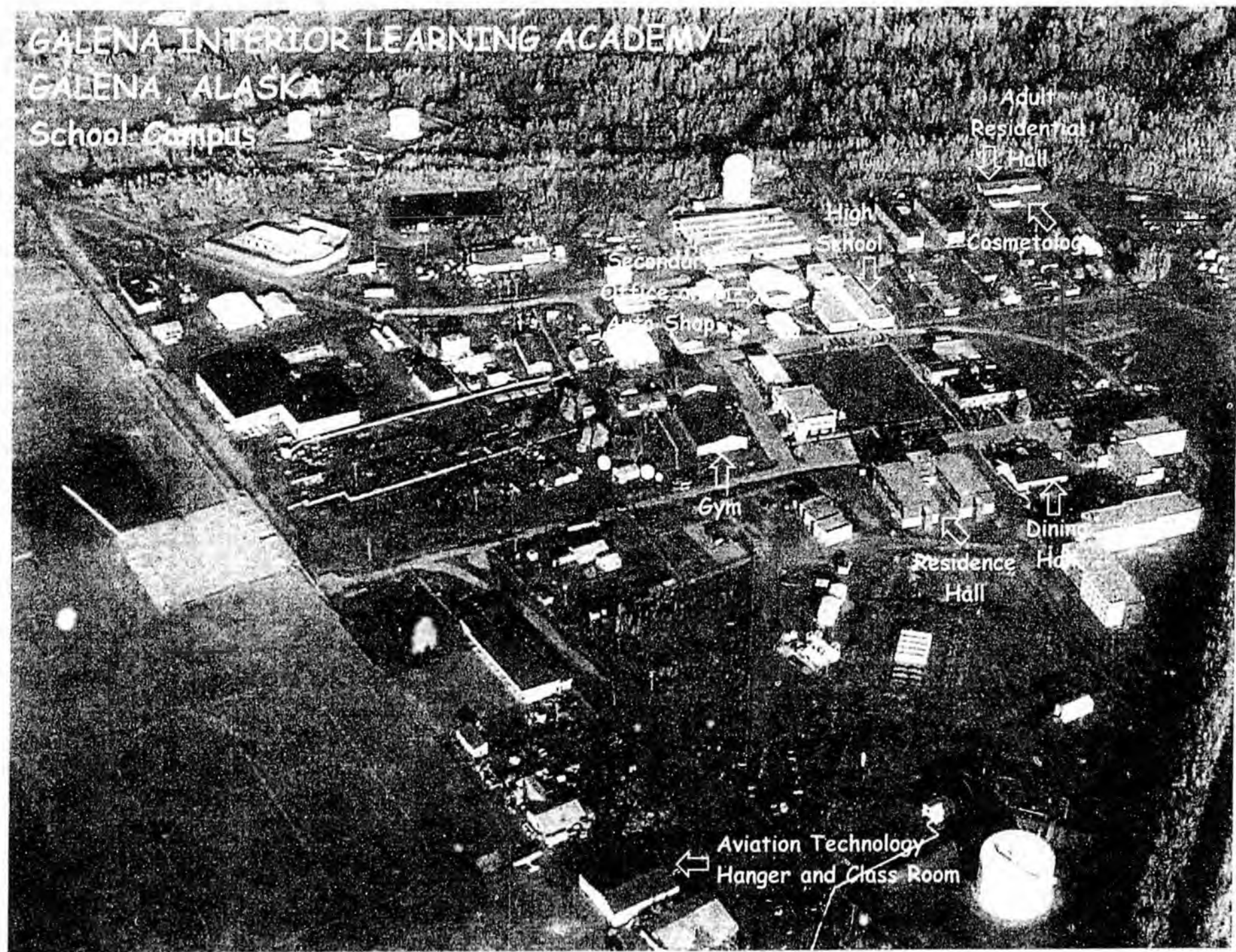
Secondary
Office
Area Shop

Gym

Residence
Hall

Dining

Aviation Technology
Hanger and Class Room



Galena City School District Report to the Public 2006

Galena City School
Galena Interior Learning Academy [GILA]
Interior Distance Education of Alaska [IDEA]



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Superintendent: Mr. Jim Smith
School Board President: Mr. John Billings
www.galenaalaska.org

Galena City Schools

Unique Program Features

The Galena staff, school board, and parents are proud of their school/community partnership. The GCS programs bring state-of-the-art technology, recreational facilities, recognized academic excellence, and industry standard vocational programs to a rural Alaskan community.

Recreational facilities feature a full size gymnasium, weight room and swimming pool. Since 1998, every Galena family has had access to a home computer and internet connection.

The school has been fully accredited since 1980 and its most recent review yielded 100% accolades and 0% recommendations. Every teacher in GCS teaches in his/her field of endorsement.



Enrollment

Enrollment 2006	K-2	3-6	7-8	High School	Total
Galena City School	35	35	19	38	127

Galena City School's enrollment during the 2005-06 school year increased by nine students from the previous year.



Graduates

Eight out of nine seniors graduated from Galena High School on May 19, 2006. All eight graduates received diplomas. 87.5% of the class of 2006 seniors passed all three sections of the HSGQE.

This incredible percentage marks the highest percentage of seniors at Galena City School passing all three sections of the HSGQE since its inception. Furthermore, 87.5% of the seniors passed the reading, writing, and math sections of the HSGQE.

The graduation featured Bernice Joseph as the commencement speaker. Bernice Joseph is the executive dean of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' College of Rural Alaska. Superintendent Smith is pleased with the seniors strong showing in the HSGQE. 100% of the graduates received diplomas. 89% of the seniors were Alaskan Native, which exceeds the rates for Alaskan Natives students in many urban schools.

GHS: Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam

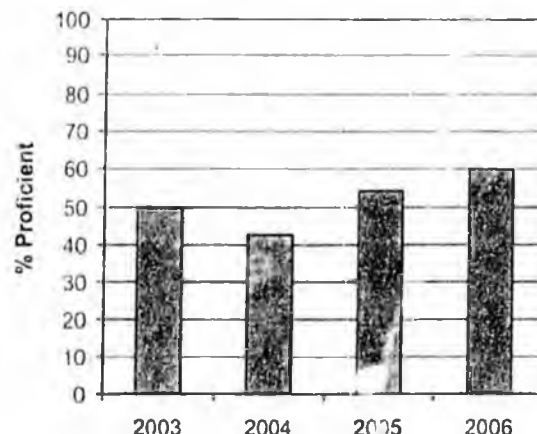
Galena student academic achievement as measured on the state mandated HSGQE are considerably higher than the average rural student and are at or above state averages in Alaska.

To date, 91.67% of Galena City School juniors have passed both the writing and math sections of the HSGQE and 75% of the juniors have already passed all three sections of the HSGQE.

The sophomore scores are also encouraging. 70% of the sophomores were proficient in writing, 70% proficient in math, and 60% proficient in reading.

Sophomore Classes	Percent of Students Passing all 3 Sections of AHSGQE
2003	50.00%
2004	42.85%
2005	53.85%
2006	60.00%

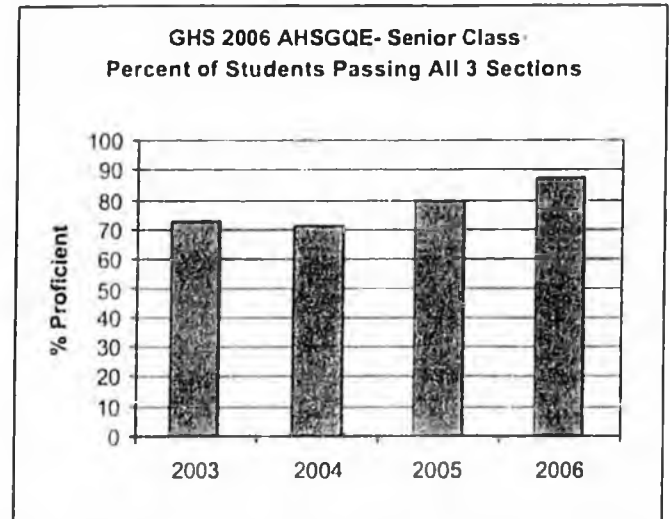
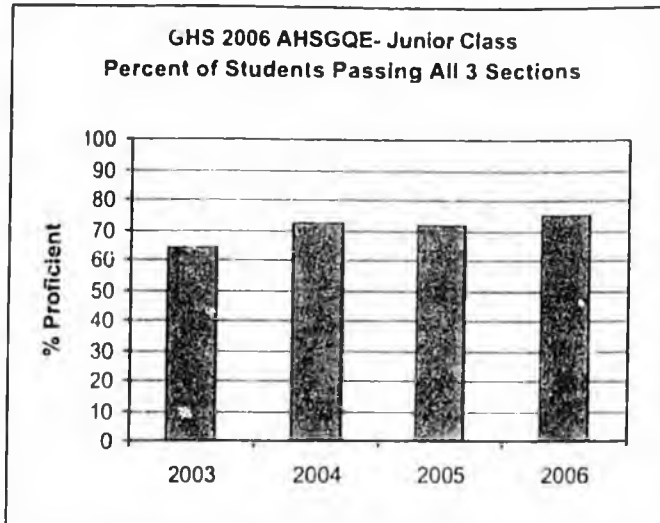
GHS 2006 AHSGQE- Sophomore Class
Percent of Students Passing All 3 Sections



Galena City School District: Report Card to the Public: 2006

Junior Classes	Percent Students Passing all 3 Sections of AHSGQE
2003	64.29%
2004	72.73%
2005	71.43%
2006	75.00%

Senior Classes	Percent of Students Passing all 3 Sections of AHSGQE
2003	72.73%
2004	71.43%
2005	80.00%
2006	87.50%



GCS Grades 3-9 Standards Based Assessments

Galena City School's results on the Standards Based Assessments are very strong. GCS elementary school students (grades 3-6) performed exceptionally well on the Standards Based Assessments. 88% of the elementary students were proficient or advanced in reading, 86% were proficient or advanced in writing, and 88% were proficient or advanced in math. Galena City School secondary school (grades 7-9) also performed at high levels. 72% of the secondary were proficient in reading, 72% were proficient in writing, and 60% were proficient in math.

As a community Galena has a ton to celebrate in regards to student learning and achievement. GCS students are consistently scoring at or above state averages on state system assessments (Standards Based Assessments and HSGQE). The scores signify that Galena City School students are especially strong in the areas of math and writing, and have made substantial improvement in the area of reading. Galena City School took huge strides during the 2005-06 school year with reading instruction, especially in the areas of reading comprehension and vocabulary development. Principal Chris Reitan stated, "We continually increase our student achievement and learning by focusing on making a difference one student at a time."

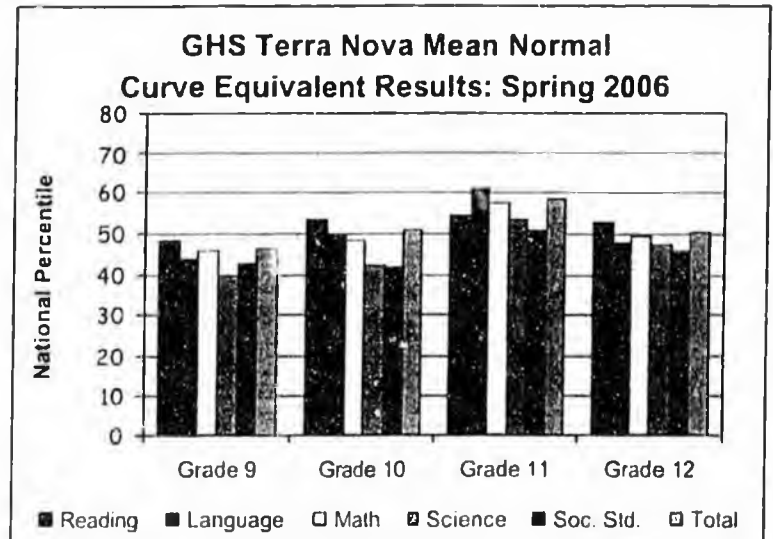


Terra Nova Tests

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.

Most of the grades scored at or above the national average on most of the Terra Nova tests. Math continues to be an area of strength for Galena City School students. Significant gains were also made in reading.

To help gauge improvement in GCS student achievement since spring 2002, the Terra Nova MNCE test scores were analyzed. MNCE scores are available for all grades, irrespective of class size. Superintendent Smith is pleased with its continued student growth and academic achievement.



Total Score MNCE by Grade Level	Reading	Language	Math	Science	Soc. Std.	Total
Grade 9	48.3	43.7	45.8	40.0	42.7	46.5
Grade 10	53.7	49.9	48.2	42.4	41.9	51.0
Grade 11	54.5	61.3	57.6	53.3	51.1	58.4
Grade 12	52.8	47.8	49.2	47.3	45.7	50.4



Survey Summary

Surveys were sent to parents in October 2005. Thirty-seven replies were received from GCS parents for a return rate of 40%. Galena parents rated the importance of Galena City School teaching essential skills and knowledge in two different categories:

1. academic content areas, and
2. work habits and responsibility.

Parents rated the importance of essential knowledge and skills on a scale of 1-5 with 1=not important and 5= extremely important in eight different academic areas: mathematics, reading, science, social studies, the arts, computer technology, vocational education, and health. Parents rated reading important information as the most significant skill and knowledge for Galena City School students to learn. Being able to use mathematics effectively was a close second. Parents also rated the importance of teaching work habits and responsibility on a scale of 1-5 with 1=not important and 5= extremely important in six different areas: having a strong work ethic, working together politely and cooperatively, being honest, being good citizens in our community, accepting consequences for our choices, and being punctual. Parents rated working together politely and cooperatively as the most important work habit. Being honest was the second most important work habit according to Galena City School parents.

Galena City School parents commented extensively and offered many suggestions. Parents would like to see more homework provided for our students, the Athabaskan language taught within the school, more prompt communication with parents, and music classes available for all students.

Surveys were also provided for all Galena City School students from 3rd grade through 12th grade. Students rated the quality of their school experience in seven different areas: the school, dissemination of information, curriculum, after school program, teachers, career planning, and the students' learning. Elementary students (grades 3-6) rated their learning experience the highest with an average of 4.41 and dissemination of learning with the lowest average of 2.96. Secondary students (grades 7-12) also rated the

quality of their learning experience the highest with an average of 4.10 and dissemination of learning with the lowest average of 3.63.

Staff

GCS has 27 certified teachers: 10 in the elementary and 14 in the secondary school and counselors, administrators and librarian. Every single one, 100% of the teachers at Galena City School is teaching in their specific area of endorsement.

Galena City School's teacher-body is incredibly stable, especially when compared to other rural schools. Teacher and administrator continuity is a major contributor to Galena's increased student achievement.

No Child Left Behind Requirements

"No Child Left Behind" is federal legislation initiated by the Bush administration. These landmark educational guidelines were designed to guide schools into raising student achievement. NCLB requires each state to "grade" every public school within that state based on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is calculated when each individual school's test results are analyzed on the basis of the following subgroups;

- ? Testing attendance rate
- ? Race
- ? Gender
- ? Math Proficiency %
- ? Language Arts (Writing + Reading) Proficiency %
- ? Bilingual Student's Proficiency %
- ? Economically Disadvantaged Students Proficiency %
- ? Students with Disabilities Proficiency %
- ? Graduation Rate



These subgroups are organized into various indicators. If a school does not meet the cut-off percentages in any of these indicators then that school is placed on a list of schools that did not meet AYP. These lists were published August 11th, 2006 and included results of the various schools districts in Alaska. The consequences of being on this list are described on the state website <http://www.educ.state.ak.us/news/presskit2006ayp/Consequences.pdf>

Galena Elementary School – For the 5th year in a row, Galena Elementary School met AYP in all thirty four areas of interest, making the Galena Elementary School a “School of Choice”.

- ? Over 90% of all students were at or above proficiency on the benchmark exams in the area of Language Arts
 - ? 88% of all students were at or above proficiency on the benchmark exams in the area of Math
- This is well above the state average. Another shining area of achievement was the Alaska Native test results.*

- ? Over 90% of Alaska Natives scored at or above proficiency on the benchmark exams in the area of Language Arts
- ? 88% of Alaska Natives scored at or above proficiency on the benchmark exams in the area of Language Arts

This is well above state averages for Alaska Native students.

Galena Jr/Sr High – For the 5th year in a row, Galena Jr/Sr High School met AYP in all areas of interest, making the Galena Junior and Senior High School a “School of Choice”.

- ? 65% of all students were at or above proficiency on the benchmark exams in the area of Language Arts
- ? 56 % of all students were at or above proficiency on the benchmark exams in the area of Math
- ? 57% of Alaska Native students were at or above proficiency on the benchmark exams in the area of Language Arts
- ? 54% of Alaskan Native students were at or above proficiency on the benchmark exams in the area of Math





These figures show good proficiency levels. Refer to the state website for further testing data:
http://www.educ.state.ak.us/DOE_Rolodex/AYF/2006/search.cfm

Highly Qualified Staff

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 Chris Reitan, Principal, of Galena City Schools.

For further information regarding what defines a "highly qualified" teacher please refer to the federal definition
http://www.ed.state.ak.us/nclb/pdf/teacher_and_paraprofessional_requirements.pdf

2006 Goals & Accomplishments

Building on the successes from the previous school years, Galena City School has adopted the goal, "Doing it Better," with the primary focus being improving student achievement and learning. To meet that goal, all staff development and curriculum development workshops focused on significant aspects related to increasing teacher quality that would directly impact student achievement and learning. Eleven GCS teachers attended PEAK Learning Systems summer institutes in Beaver Creek, Colorado. Furthermore, all staff participated in on-site individual and small group PEAK Learning workshops that focused on the development and implementation of researched based teaching and assessment strategies that have proven to improve student learning and achievement.

In addition, three staff members collaborated with researchers associated with the Drama For Schools research from the University of Texas. These teachers participated in on-site trainings and audio conference meetings that focused on improving teacher instructional strategies and aligning instructional strategies with classroom based assessment following the Drama for Schools model.

All staff curriculum workshops focused on more tightly aligning the GCS K-12 curriculum with national standards as well as state and national criterion and norm referenced assessments. All staff development encompassed building stronger classroom environments, increasing the school's instructional and assessment capacity to implement research based teaching and assessment strategies, and more closely aligning the K-12 curriculum with national standards and state and national assessments.



2006 Highlights



Galena City School continues to focus all staff meetings on increasing teacher quality through the continual refinement of our instruction and assessment strategies. Every two weeks teams of teachers met and shared their stories regarding the educational processes that were taking place in their classrooms. The discussion focused on the curriculum as well as the instructional and assessment strategies that were being implemented in the classroom. Furthermore, the conversations included constant reflection on how we can continually refine and modify our current practices to increase student performance.

Another equally serious challenge in Galena and throughout rural Alaska is the very high suicide rate. Rural Alaskan youth

commit suicide at a rate 3 times the national average. In response to this concern, GCS and Galena Interior Learning Academy sponsored the 5th annual Wellness Week prior to Christmas vacation. Community members, teachers, and Odyssey Performance Enhancement Network teamed-up and designed team building activities and workshops centered on improving the quality of life in Galena.

Additionally, all Galena City School staff attended a one-day training in March that focused on increasing the staff's awareness of the warning signs that are typically associated with suicidal behavior.



Galena Health Center Behavioral Health Program personnel Violet Burnham (Behavioral Health Clinician) and Jessica Goff (Behavioral Health Clinician) collaborated to increase the staff's awareness and knowledge of the early warning signs of suicide and how best to intervene and refer people who are in need of assistance.



2006 Student Highlights

Galena City School students shined in both academic and athletic activities. The GCS high school Academic Decathlon team continues to shine at state competitions taking 3rd place in the small school's division. Furthermore, GCS students continue to make a strong showing at the Alaska State Science Fair and Battle of the Books competitions.

Galena City School also shined in their athletic endeavors. Three wrestlers qualified for the state tournament and the wrestling team was recognized for having the highest team G.P.A. at the regional tournament.

Both the girl's and boy's varsity basketball teams swept the competition at the regional tournament and earned berths to the state competition. The girl's basketball team took 3rd place at the state tournament and the boy's finished 7th, and both teams were recognized at the state basketball tournament for having the highest team G.P.A. The Galena varsity girl's, junior high girl's, and junior high boy's cross country skiing teams took first place at the Western Interior Ski Association meet held in Tanana in April.

Goals for 2006

Next year's goals include building on the strong academic trends that were set in 2005.

GCS will ensure that improving our instruction and assessment practices through professional development that is aligned to research-based teaching and assessment strategies remains a priority of all that we do at GCS.

GCS will improve Terra Nova, HSGQE and Standards Based Assessment results. Galena City School is pleased with all of our students' academic and extra-curricular successes from the 2005-06 school year, and recognizes that if we are truly going to do it better that it starts one child at a time.





Galena Interior Learning Academy [GILTA]

Galena Interior Learning Academy

Unique Program Features

GILA, 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 also offers post secondary-vocational programs authorized by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.



GILA offers students the opportunity to gain industry standard vocational-certification in aviation, automotive technology, cosmetology and culinary arts while achieving the academic skills necessary to pass the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Allowing students to continue their post secondary education in a venue they choose increases our completion rates. 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. 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. The GILA campus is located on the U.S. Air Force Base and offers modern residential and educational facilities. The strong partnership with the Air Force, City of Galena, Louden Tribal Council, University of Alaska Fairbanks, local organizations and businesses contributes to a first class education for students.

Enrollment



GILA started FY 2006 with 74 students and ended with 68, a 92 % retention rate. Homesickness and family needs are the main reasons why students leave during the school year. As these departing students enroll in other education programs elsewhere they are not considered "drop-outs"

Enrollment interest remains strong with more applicants than classroom space available. In the spring of 2005, the Air Force Base officially presented BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) notice for the Galena site. This action provided both opportunity and challenge. The Air Force's departure provides space for more programs and students while adding costs to the physical operations. In 2006-07, enrollment increased to 110 students, with applicants exceeding this capacity. Depending on the space that becomes available annually, the anticipated enrollment is shown in the following table.

Anticipated GILA enrollment				
FY 2006-07	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11
110 students	150 students	200 students	250 students	300 students

The 2006 Alaska State Legislature provided an additional boost for GILA in the form of financial board and room state funded assistance. 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.

GILA students this year come from 46 rural and urban communities in Alaska, from as far away as St. George's Island in the Bering Straits, Barrow on the Arctic Ocean, Northway near the Canadian border and Hydaburg in the southeast pan handle. About one-third comes from interior neighboring villages. As Alaska Native families are forced to relocate because of the high cost of living in the villages, boarding schools will become more important than ever as an educational option.

GILA staff works hard to maintain a cohesive relationship with the diversity of its students. A majority of underclassmen returned this school year. Word of mouth and recommendations among friends and family are the best forms of recruitment. State-wide publicity via newspaper, radio and TV also helped recruitment. These efforts resulted in more applicants that GILA could

accommodate. The 2007-08 school year will see the students moving into newer and larger dormitory facilities and using the larger Air Force dining hall.

Graduates

Fourteen seniors graduated on May 19, 2006, twelve had passed all portions of the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Examination- [excluding Special Education] a 96% success rate. This class was 86% Alaska Native, exceeding the graduation rate of this group in most rural and urban schools in Alaska.

The graduation featured distinguished speaker Bernice Joseph, Dean of the College of Rural Development at University of Alaska Fairbanks, who gave an inspiring message to the graduates on the need for them to become involved in local and state affairs.



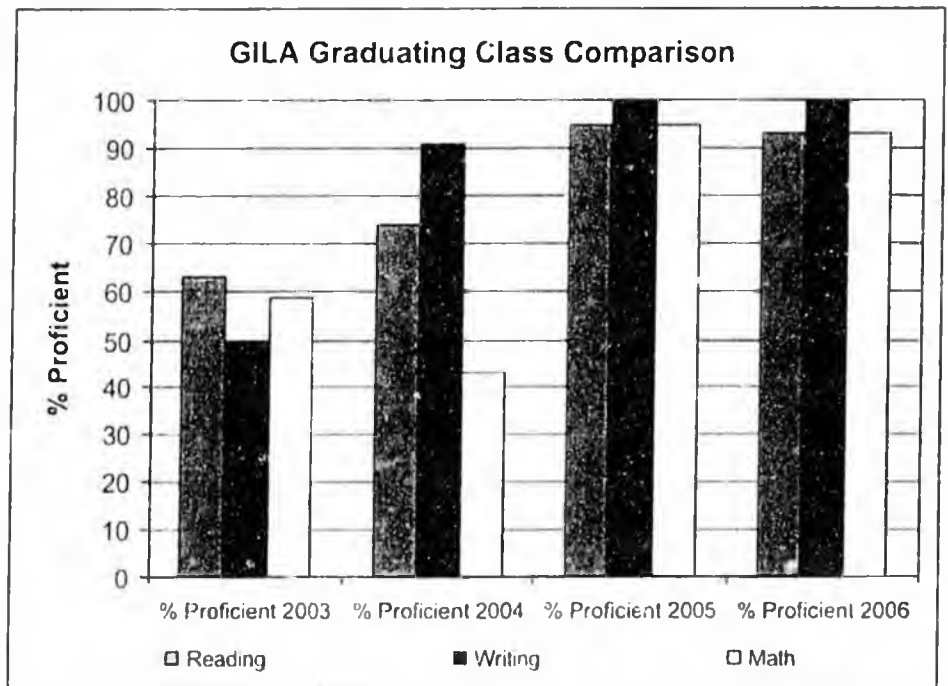
Achievements

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 for the first time.

GILA: Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam

For the past two years over 90% of Galena Interior Learning Academy graduates have passed all three portions of the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. All GILA graduates in 2006 passed the writing portion of the state assessment, with 93% percent (12 of 13) passing both the reading and the math portions. Staff remains very excited about the 96% graduation rate.

The Galena Interior Learning Academy achieves AYP. Although we have been successful in 30 of the 31 categories each of the past 3 years, we achieved all 31 categories for 2005-06 school year- a great milestone in the history of our school.



GILA Graduating Class Comparison				
	% Proficient 2003	% Proficient 2004	% Proficient 2005	% Proficient 2006
Seniors				
Reading	63	74	95	93
Writing	50	91	100	100
Math	59	43	95	93

The success rate on school-wide was the blue-print for the calculation for AYP. Seventy percent (16 of 23) of all juniors passed all portions of the assessment and sixty percent (10 of 23) of all sophomores achieved success on their first attempt.

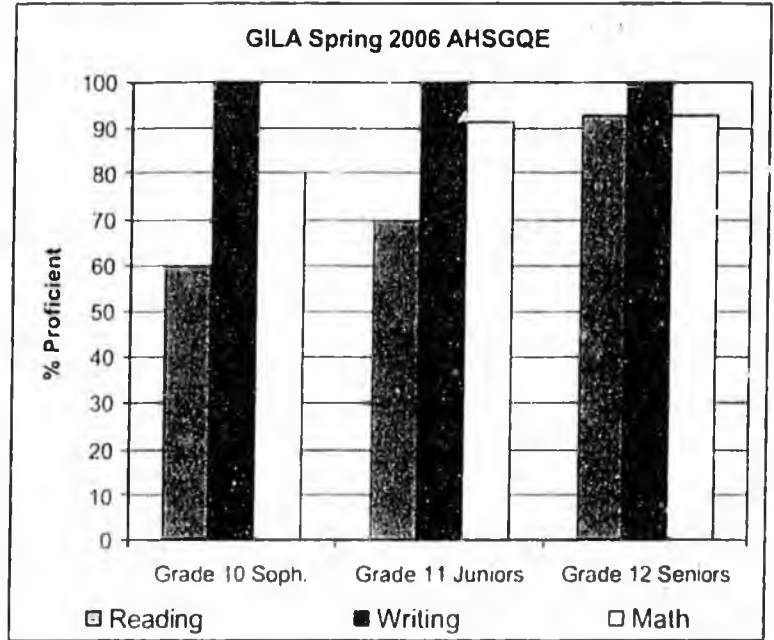
As seen, GILA students are showing great improvement directly proportional to the number of years in the GILA educational system.

This information is especially important with data showing 74% of GILA seniors, 87% of the juniors and 96% of the sophomores are Alaska Natives.

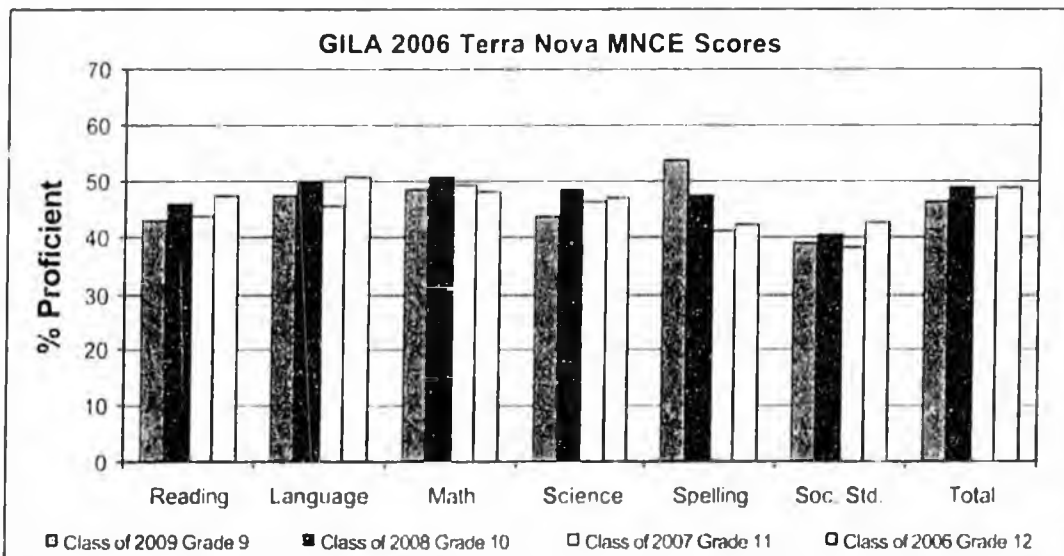


GILA: Terra Nova Assessments

AHSGQE Spring 06	Grade 10 Sophomores	Grade 11 Juniors	Grade 12 Seniors
Reading	60.0	69.6	93.0
Writing	100.0	100.0	100.0
Math	80.0	91.3	93.0



The Terra Nova Mean Normal Curve Equivalent Scores in the spring of 2006 are shown in the table and graph below. The Terra Nova results show improvement closely associated with the number of years the student is enrolled. Our students show improvement all of the following years in attendance, with their highest scores being their senior year in most content areas. The Terra Nova assessments are grade appropriate nationally, thus are a proficient measure of annual improvement. To help gauge improvement in student achievement, the Terra Nova MNCE test scores were analyzed. MNCE scores were available for all grades, irrespective of class size [unlike the Terra Nova MDNP scores which do not have data for small classes].



MNCE	Reading	Language	Math	Science	Spelling	Soc. Std.	Total
Class of 2009 Grade 9	43.2	47.6	48.7	43.8	53.9	39.1	46.6
Class of 2008 Grade 10	46.1	49.7	50.9	48.5	47.5	40.7	49.1
Class of 2007 Grade 11	43.7	45.8	49.5	46.5	41.3	38.3	47.2
Class of 2006 Grade 12	47.5	50.9	48.1	47.1	42.5	42.6	49.1



GILA Standards Based Assessments

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.

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. This is documented in the data below.

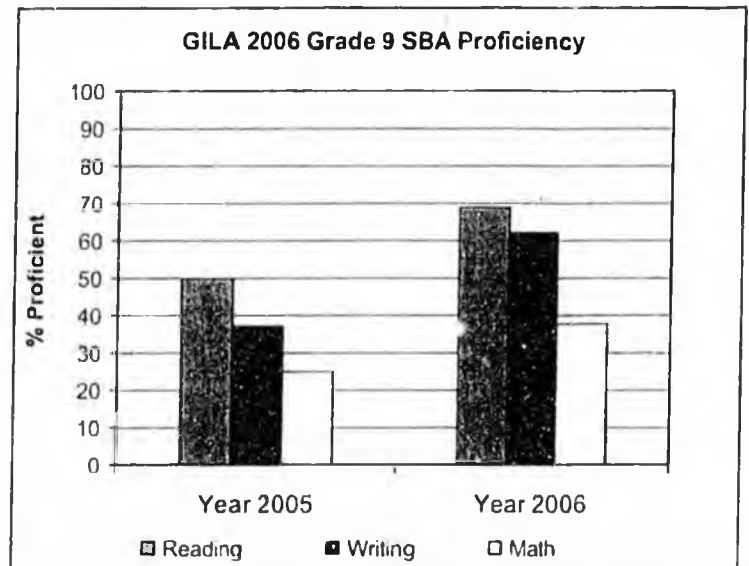
Grade 9

There was a dynamic improvement between 2005 Grade 9 and the 2006 Grade 9, as shown in the adjacent chart.

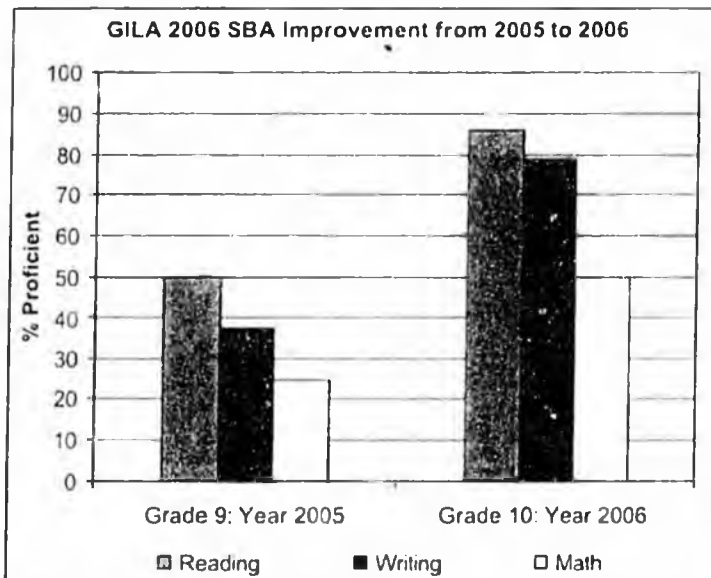
This success is reflected in the AYP scores for GILA with AYP being achieved for the first time in the history of the school. The status of a 'school of choice' is a title held proudly.

Grade 10

The Alaska Standard Based Assessments questions were imbedded in the AKHSQGE. The scores show remarkable improvement from Grade 9 to Grade 10. This data is of great advantage in developing and improving our course work.



Grade 9: SBA Proficiency	2005	2006	% Change
Reading	50.0%	68.8%	18.8%
Writing	37.5%	62.5%	25.0%
Math	25.0%	37.6%	12.6%



Grade 10: SBA Proficiency	Grade 9: Year 2005	Grade 10: Year 2006	% Change
Reading	50.0%	85.7%	35.7%
Writing	37.5%	78.6%	41.1%
Math	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%



Staff

All certified staff at GILA presents "Highly Qualified" status. The vocational staff is certified professionals who have had additional training in educational techniques. GILA enjoyed an 83% teacher retention rate for the year. The instructional team consists of six core academic teachers, five industry-certified vocational instructors, a counselor and a native culture instructor.

Certified staff development is through 'Performance Excellence for All Kids' (PEAK) methodology. New staff attends a two week 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.

The teaching staff is very dedicated. They work with those students who make a grade "C" or less in the after-school and Saturday 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 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. Others are hired for their understanding and expertise in cultural needs, medical experience and activity organizational training.

No Child Left Behind Requirements

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- ? Testing attendance rate
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- ? Students with Disabilities Proficiency %
- ? Graduation Rate



These subgroups are organized into various indicators. If a school does not meet the cut-off percentages in any of these indicators then that school is placed on a list of schools that did not meet AYP. This list was published August 11th, 2006 and included results of the all school districts in Alaska. *GILA achieved AYP in 2005-06.* The consequences of being on this list are described on the state website.

Please refer to the state website for further testing data

http://www.eed.state.ak.us/DOE_Rolodex/AYP/2006/districts/Galena%20City%20Schools.pdf

<http://www.ced.state.ak.us/nclb/pdf/consequencesnotmeetingavp.pdf>

Highly Qualified Staff

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

http://www.ced.state.ak.us/nclb/pdf/teacher_and_paraprofessional_requirements.pdf



2006 Goals & Accomplishments

The goals for 2006 included improvement in academic achievement, increasing vocational enrollment, improving reading scores while complying with federal and state guidelines, and searching for funding in order to keep the school open for rural Alaskan students who have no school to attend.

? Student academic achievement, measured by the Terra Nova, Standards Based Assessments and Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Examination continues improving. 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 offered at GILA. A second health related training opportunity will be offered at the start of the school year of 2006-07. This class is a required GUR for all levels in the medical field at the university level, thus students have the opportunity to receive dual credit while in high school. This is the second year GILA has offered a dual credit medical class and with the increased enrollment we plan to begin offering two such classes per year in the future.
- ? Research indicates that students cannot read if they do not first comprehend the vocabulary words within the passage they are reading. Our staff received extensive training to implement vocabulary in their content areas. Vocabulary words are discussed in assemblies and students are challenged in recreational settings with new words. There has been a marked improvement in reading scores within the first year of implementation.
- ? Twenty minutes of daily "Silent Sustained Reading" has been implemented for all students and staff. After an initial period of adjustment, students and staff have adapted exceedingly well. 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 show that this approach is successful.
- ? Funding is an on going challenge for boarding schools in Alaska. This year the legislature endorsed our school as a viable option for students across the state by approving minimal funding to support our efforts. This milestone provides an additional 'choice' for Alaskan children and allows GILA to expand enrollment. Ongoing attempts will be made to provide more content area opportunities for the students. It is only with this state support that GILA can continue this educational opportunity for Alaskan children and whose families have shown appreciation for this governmental acceptance of our programs.



2006 Program Highlights

The 2006 school year proved to be the most successful year since the inception of the school. Our student retention rate was the highest of Alaska's three 9-12 boarding schools. *Achievement of ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS was the highlight of the year.* All program and teaching adjustments, staff development increases, and changes were implemented to increase student learning. Achieving AYP has shown that not only are we improving student learning, it's documented through state assessments.

Health and wellness is a focus nation wide as well as at GILA. Implementation of Medical Terminology classes for dual credit with UAF was very successful. A Health Education and Early Development summer program provided seven students with ETT certifications. Four additional students completed EMT certificates. Students participated in actual ambulance runs throughout the

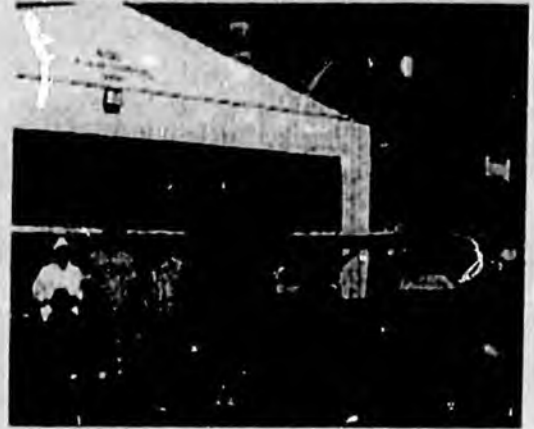
community to build experience and training. One participant has graduated and is enrolled at UAA furthering training in the medical profession.

Vocational course adjustments were made with introduction classes offered in each. These allowed students to get a taste of a profession without being totally committed as completers. Participation in these four career pathways remained steady compared with the past, along with a large increase in the Aviation program. Cosmetology had three graduates from the post secondary school achieving national certification and seven students who have advanced to working with live models moving into the graduate levels.

The aviation program has twenty-four students, with three completing their solo flights on their way to a FAA approved private pilot license. Additionally, three students completed their FAA written examination successfully and will be building flight hours to complete the FAA requirement for a private pilot licensure.

The automotive program participation held steady through reorganization of class structures. One automotive instructor for the multiple courses requires yearly restructuring to move the students forward through the program.

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 along with instruction in appropriate vocabulary in that content area.



A fantastic year was experienced in the year 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. Our "Wellness Week" provided cultural activities with fun events showing the enjoyable side life-participation was combined with the Galena City School. A Saturday Cultural day was held during spring where students could learn to snowshoe, cross country ski and complete in races. It was a great way to shake off the winter cabin fever.

The peer tutor program is showing its greatest success in the area of math. Students assisted the teachers in tutoring others in math. Success is evident on the assessments. A similar approach is planned for the vocational program.

2006 Student Highlight:

For the third year in a row, two GILA students competed in the Alaska State Science Fair. One project compared the anatomical muscle development in teenage males with females. The second project compared the Intelligence Quotient of a student to their Grade Point Average. These results showed that there is little if any comparison between IQ and GPA in high school. We are very proud to have students of this caliber in our program.

GILA students again participated with the Galena City School athletes and completed a very successful sport season. The combined team won the Basketball regional championships and went on to compete at state level. Success was had in mixed six volleyball, wrestling and Academic Decathlon. 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.

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. The money to support this has been donated by student groups and staff. 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. A GILA student won the "Miss Arctic Circle Princess" competition usually held in Kotzebue, bringing with it cultural responsibilities and benefits.

All these positive accomplishments were achieved by students while complying with the challenges of residential life and being far from their families. Sacrifices made for a better education not often available at home.

Goals for 2006-2007

The 2007 school year will be the ninth year that GILA is operating. We have improved in our assessment scores each year.

Our major goal will be to continue the improvement in our academic areas while adding to our already well attended vocational areas. We have completed the required processes to increase our vocational offerings into the health field. Our goal for the upcoming year is a higher level health course for more students and for both semesters. In time we hope to implement a complete health career pathway for students to begin employment directly from high school and jump start them into further learning if they choose.



Reading remains a nation-wide challenge and will also remain a targeted area for GILA. Reading comprehension is a crucial skill for all of our citizens. Our staff is refining the vocabulary instructional methods and searching for the best steps to promote good readers. This will be measured by the Alaska High School Qualifying Examination, Standards Based Assessment and Terra Nova scores.

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. 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 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 while adhering to all 31 subgroups for AYP.

Our mission at GILA has been and will continue to be to provide opportunities for students which they cannot receive for any reason in their home town. 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. Although we are challenged with the Air Force leaving Galena, losing that long standing partnership requiring GCSO to find funding to fill that void, Galena never avoids such challenges where children could be negatively affected.



Within the next five years, we have the opportunity to grow from seventy three students to three hundred students, providing greater opportunities than presently available, that is, should we be able to secure methods for more classroom space as well as living space for the students in a boarding school setting.

These goals will not be within reach for these children from all over the great state of Alaska without space and the financial ability to support heat, supply power, water, sewer, living, and teaching supplies. It is our goal to secure all necessary items with our motto being "Our Kids are Worth It - It Ever It Takes".

Interior Distance Education of Alaska

Introduction

The IDEA program is the home schooling support program of Galena City School District, serving the needs of Alaska's homeschooled students since 1997. IDEA is the largest homeschooling program in the State of Alaska; with enrollment remaining around 3,400 K-12 students. IDEA is fully accredited with the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.

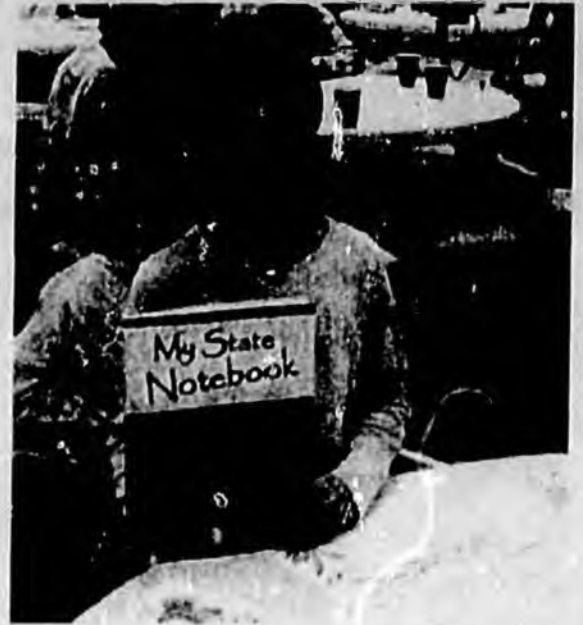
"Correspondence" programs have traditionally been limited to simply providing textbooks, structured lessons, and a grading service. Our mission is to provide resources and support to parents who have chosen to educate their children at home.

In our home schooling program, parent teachers take an active role in the education of their children on a daily basis. The parent teacher is supported by a vital combination of certificated teachers, and Field Representatives who are experienced in homeschooling, and field offices located around the state.

The certified teaching staff works in partnership with the parent teachers to provide the individualized education that is most appropriate for each student. IDEA provides support through advice and assistance at any time to the parent teachers through the Internet, telephone, and conveniently located regional field offices.

Partnered with the delivery of materials, technology, and teacher resources to parents is the role of the Field Rep. These experienced homeschooling parents work as a bridge between the administration and the home school parent. They conduct orientations for families new to IDEA, informing the parents of the many resources and expertise available to every family.

They help parents by explaining state requirements, state curriculum standards and testing expectations in everyday language. They communicate regularly with the parents through e-mail newsletters of upcoming workshops and opportunities for students and parents. The combination of certificated teachers, parent teachers and the homeschool experienced Field Reps forms the unique core of IDEA.



Enrollment

IDEA serves all ethnicities. The 2005-2006 enrollment was 3,457 students, with 815 high school students and 2642 K-8 students. IDEA serves students across the State of Alaska with five Field Offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Soldotna, and Juneau.

Graduates

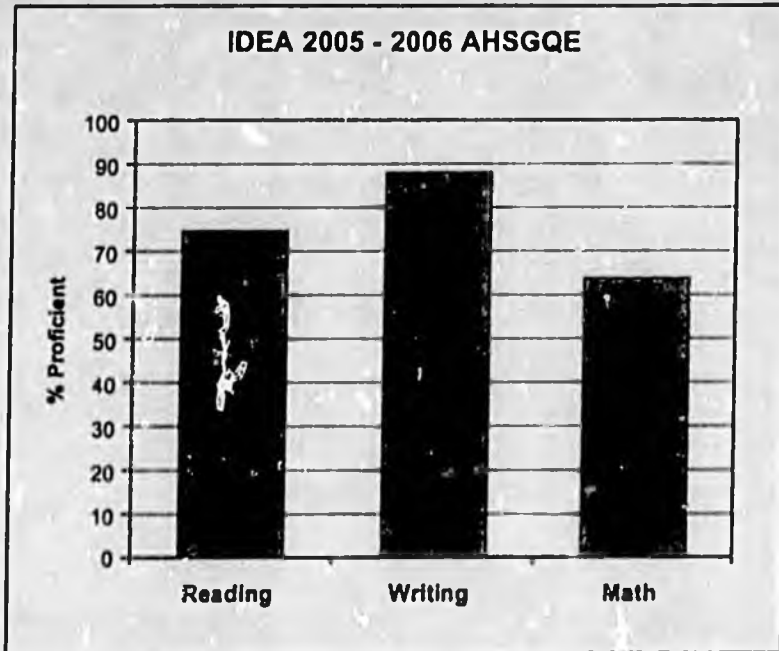
IDEA had 151 students who received diplomas and 30 students who received Certificates of Attendance in the 2005-2006 school year.

IDEA had three graduation ceremonies; one in Juneau, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

The graduation ceremonies are unique in the fact that the homeschool parent teacher presents the diploma to their student. Each ceremony has a distinct spirit that represents the graduates, whether it is a showcase of artistic talent or a

sincere appreciation for the sacrifices made by the family and a tribute to the familial bonds created through the homeschool experience.

IDEA: Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam



During the 2005-06 school year, students in grades 10 through 12 participated in the Alaska HSGQE exam which consists of three tests.

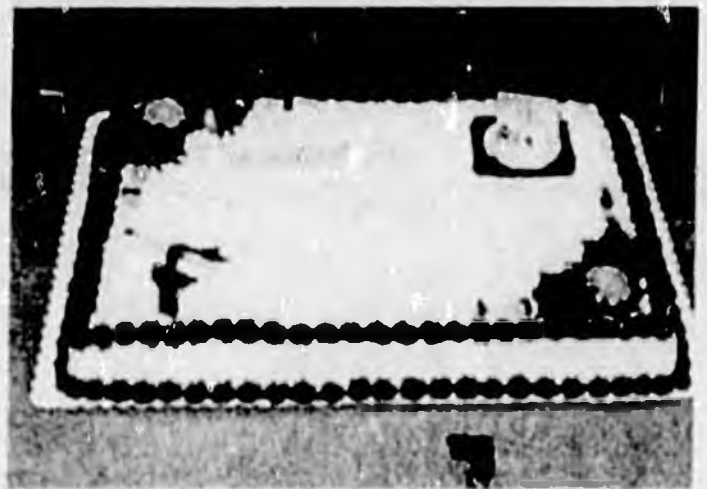
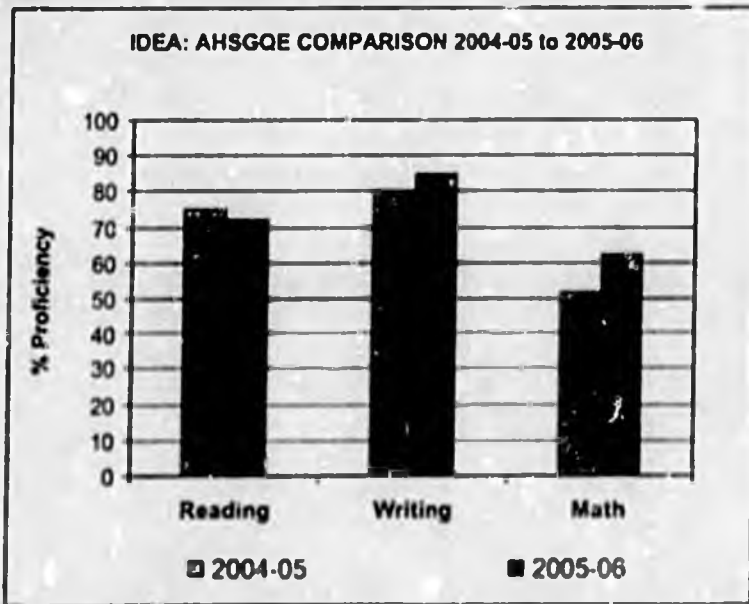
During the 2005-06 testing session, the IDEA students performed as follows: Math: 317 tested and 64% passed; Writing: 257 tested and 88% passed; and Reading: 275 tested and 75% passed.

In comparing past performance, IDEA showed progress in both writing and math from school year 2004 to 2005.

AHSGQE 2005 - 06	% Proficient
Reading	75%
Writing	88%
Math	64%

Students are required to take the exam in 10th grade. They have the opportunity to re-take tests they did not pass each fall and spring of grades 11 and 12.

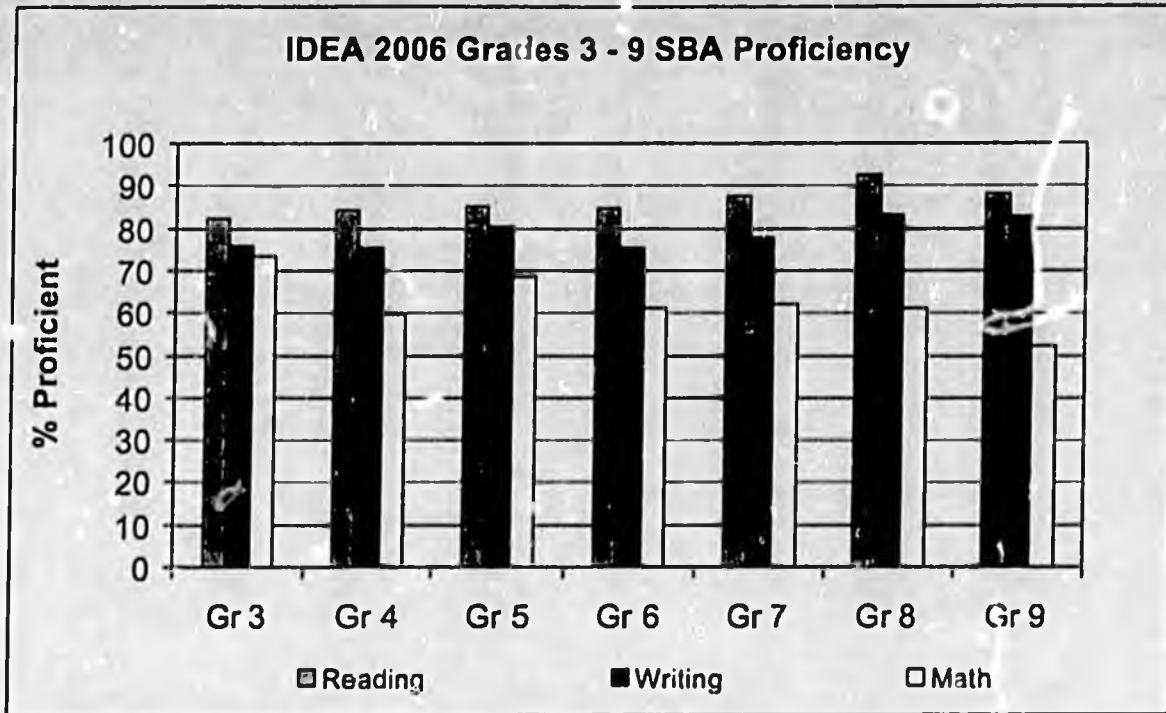
Students in the IDEA program continue to make gains in passing the AHSGQE. Credit can be given to the Following the Leaders program which provides targeted help for students as they prepare for the test.



IDEA: Alaska Standards Based Assessments

The Standards Based Assessments measure student proficiency on basic skills in reading, writing and math. All students in grades 3 through 10 are required to take this test.

The 2005-06 school year was the first year 10th grade students were required to take the SBA. Scores for this year are not available at this time. Scores for the SBA have remained stable over the years with improvement being shown in several areas. Scores of the IDEA students are solid, with high proficiency in the reading and writing subject areas.



IDEA: Alaska Standards Based Assessments: Spring 2006							
% Proficient	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9
Reading	82.1	84.1	85.2	84.6	87.9	92.4	88.3
Writing	75.7	75.6	80.2	75.2	78.0	83.4	82.8
Math	73.5	59.5	68.4	61.1	62.3	61.3	52.3

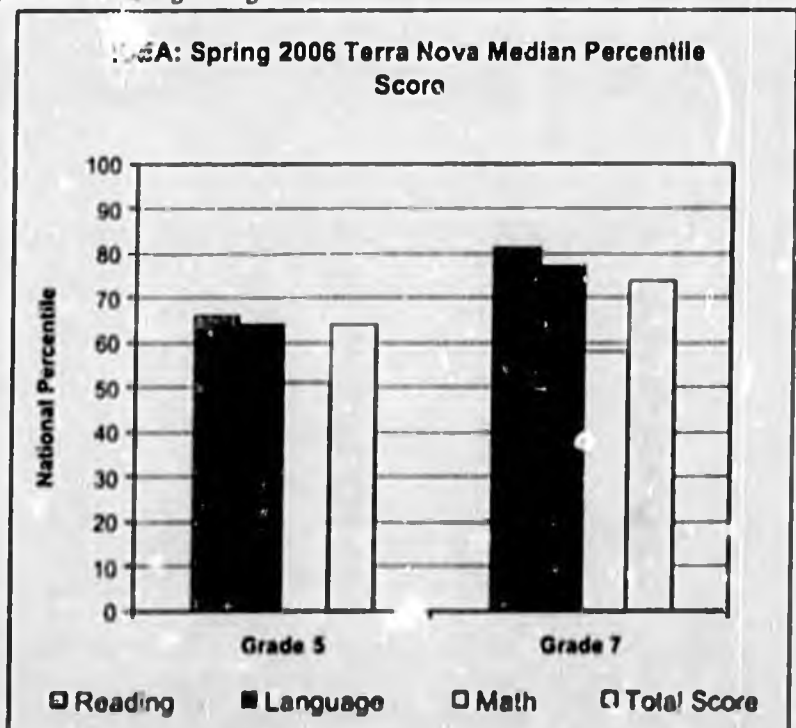
IDEA: Terra Nova Scores

The Terra Nova is a standardized norm-referenced test that measures student achievement in language arts, reading, math, science, and social studies. Norm-referenced percentile scores show how well IDEA students compare to their grade level peers nationally. These scores show improvement for the IDEA students as they advance through the grades.

Alaska only requires testing with the Terra Nova test in grades 5 and 7. Because of this, tracking progress must be done over time. The graph below shows the scores of the students in Grade 5 and Grade 7 in the spring of 2006. A solid improvement is attained from 5th grade to 7th grade.



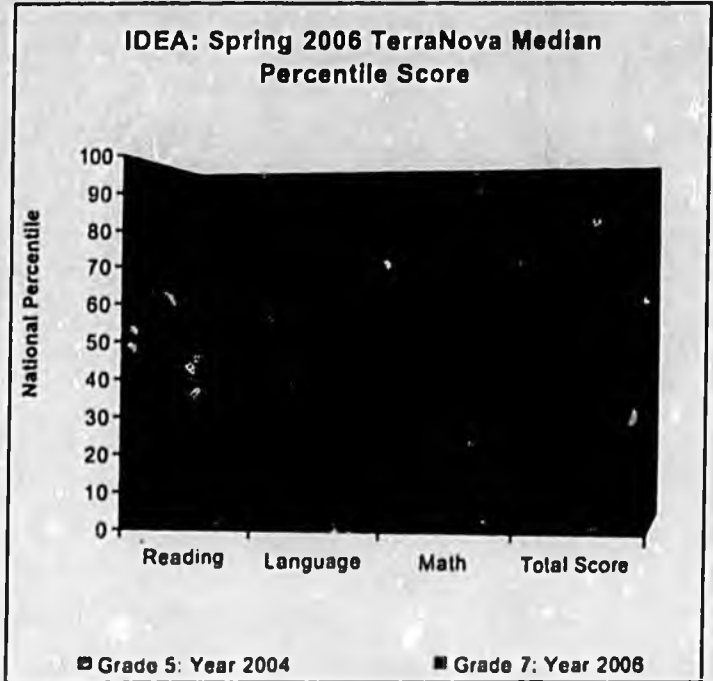
Terra Nova Median Percentile Scores Spring 2006		
	Grade 5	Grade 7
Reading	66	81
Language	64	77
Math	51	58
Total Score	64	74



The chart below shows the progression of students who were in 5th grade in 2004 and were tested as 7th graders this past spring. This chart clearly shows upward progression for these students.

IDEA Terra Nova Scores Showing Progression from 5th to 7th Grade

	Grade 5: Year 2004	Grade 7: Year 2006
Reading	66	80
Language	64	74
Math	47	56
Total Score	57	73



Staff

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 Tracy Culbert, Director of IDEA.

The IDEA program has 33 certified staff, 2 administrators who work directly with the program and 3 part-time support administrators that we share with the district at large. Our 28 contact teachers are all highly qualified in their subject areas, 18 of which are highly qualified in multiple areas. Supporting the operation of the program statewide are 31 classified support staff that work throughout the different field offices.

For further information regarding what defines a "highly qualified" teacher please refer to the federal definition http://www.ecd.state.ak.us/nclb/pdf/teacher_and_paraprofessional_requirements.pdf

Surveys

Parents and student surveys were conducted to assess how well IDEA is serving the needs of its families. IDEA parents and students uniformly and overwhelmingly approve and support the IDEA program and operations. A summary of survey results is provided below.

Family Survey: IDEA families were asked to complete an on-line survey in May 2006. A total of 396 out of 1,786 families responded, approximately 22%. Each family responded to a detailed questionnaire consisting of twenty-eight questions, grouped into six topical areas: local office, local staff, business office, other services, new or unique services, and three final questions. This was a new survey that targeted many specifics, enabling us to evaluate the IDEA program on every level, both program-wide and regionally.

The families generally rated IDEA very high, particularly in the areas of customer service. 95.6% chose "always" or "often" when asked questions related to their office experiences: feeling welcome and finding the help and services they need. Over 96% gave similar ratings to the staff in their local office. Customer service from the business office rated very high as well. Only four of the twenty-eight questions received lower than 85% approval rating, and three of these were for services that the parents had not yet taken advantage.

We were very pleased to see the responses to the questions that we felt were most important: whether they feel welcome in the offices (96.9%), whether they feel that the IDEA staff truly care about them and their children (96.5%), and whether they are satisfied with IDEA's overall ability to assist them in meeting their children's educational needs (97.2%).

Student Survey: IDEA students were asked to complete an on-line survey in June 2006. A total of 287 students responded. The average student response on ten factors indicated overall student satisfaction with the welcoming atmosphere in the offices, the helpfulness of the staff, freedom to use a variety of materials for learning, use of computers and Internet access, and extra-curricular opportunities provided by IDEA.

Fifty one percent of the students took advantage of the opportunity to make additional comments. Most of the comments expressed appreciation for the opportunities provided by IDEA. They requested more opportunities for students to get together, especially the students that are not in the bigger cities. Many students commented that they liked the opportunity to learn at their own pace, the flexibility of their schedule, using materials that are best suited to their learning style, and being able pursue studies of interest to them.

Input from families has been the cornerstone of IDEA's development and expansion. Families are given the opportunity to suggest new things for IDEA through multiple avenues and are encouraged to provide feedback about existing services.



Principal's Report

IDEA students shined this past year in athletic, fine arts and academic endeavors. Some of the numerous highlights are:

- ? Two IDEA wrestlers took first place in their weight division during the SE Invitational tournament, second place in the Juneau Regional and one went on to win fourth place at the state championship.
- ? Several students participated in the 2006 Arctic Winter Games in their individual sports.
- ? One student won the Free Skate competition.
- ? Another student earned an Honorable Mention in The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest for the US Fish & Wildlife Service for her submission.
- ? An IDEA student won the local area GEICO poster contest. His poster went on to compete at the national level.
- ? Five students earned the opportunity to perform at the State High School Solo and Ensemble festival. One student was able to compete in 4 events, the most possible and was selected to perform in the Command Performance.
- ? IDEA students competing in the Academic Decathlon received 3rd place in the large school division.
- ? IDEA had an outstanding year in the Battle of the Books state competitions. The high school team tied for first place, the 7th/8th grade team received second place, the 5th/6th grade team won first place, and the 3rd/4th grade team took fifth place.
- ? An IDEA student placed 1st in the state in the Geography Bee and went on to place 11th at the national level.



IDEA met the goals that were outlined for the 2005-2006 school year.

- ? We continued making on-going assessments available to parents through *Following the Leaders*. *Following the Leaders* is a powerful resource that identifies "learning gaps" and provides tutorials to teach those specific skills.
- ? IDEA became fully accredited by Northwest Association of Accredited Schools. This is beneficial to all the high school students that transfer to other institutions as their credits are now fully transferable.
- ? The on-line Individual Learning Plans are in its final stages of development and should be available for families to use in 2006-2007 school year.

During the 2006-2007 school year IDEA will align the parent workshops with the testing results. Our goal is to provide on-going support to the parent teachers through workshops based on best practices that will improve instruction and student knowledge.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-Chair:
Joint Armed Services Committee

Vice-Chair:
Legislative Council

Member:
Judiciary Committee
Oil and Gas Committee
Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Community and Regional Affairs Committee



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Juneau, AK 99801-1182
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Fax: (907) 465-2293
Toll Free (877) 460-3783

Interim:
10928 Eagle River Road
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
Phone: (907) 622-3783
Fax: (907) 622-3784

REPRESENTATIVE NANCY DAHLSTROM

ELMENDORF AFB • FORT RICHARDSON • BIRCHWOOD • FIRE LAKE • GOVERNMENT HILL • MULDOON

Representative_Nancy_Dahlstrom@legis.state.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Bob Lynn, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Nancy Dahlstrom 

DATE: May 1, 2007

SUBJECT: Hearing Request

I respectfully request a hearing on House Joint Resolution 23, "r-use of Galena Air Force Base" at the committee's earliest convenience.

Thank you.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HCR 23
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HCR23-LEG-COU-03-14-08 Dept. Affected: Legislature
 Title "Proposing amendments to the Uniform Rules of the" RDU Legislative Council
 Alaska Legislature relating to withdrawing measures, to sponsors... Component Council and Subcommittees
 Sponsor Representative Gruenberg
 Requester House State Affairs Component Number 783

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director
 Division: Legislative Affairs Agency
 Approved by: Pamela Vaini, Executive Director
 Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone 465-6626
 Date/Time 3/14/08 11:47 AM
 Date 3/14/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HJR23
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title Reuse Galena Air Base RDU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Representative Dahlstrom Component No. _____
 Requester House State Affairs Committee

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type-Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Nancy Manly, Committee Aide Phone 465-2794
 Division House State Affairs Committee Date/Time _____
 Approved by: Representative Bob Lynn Date 5/2/2007
 Agency Chair



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Office of the Chief Clerk

State Capitol, Room 216
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3725
Fax: (907) 465-5334

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Gruenberg

FROM: Suzi Lowell, Chief Clerk *SL*

DATE: March 26, 2008

SUBJECT: HCR 23 UNIFORM RULES: MEASURE SPONSORS/READINGS

You asked my opinion on Sections 4 and 5 of HCR 23 that you introduced this session.

Section 4 and 5 amend Rule 39(b) and (d) concerning the three readings of a bill. I am concerned that suspending the reading of bills is a contradiction to the three readings required by the Alaska Constitution, Article 2, Section 14 "No bill may become law unless it has passed three readings in each house on three separate days ..." Reading of a bill is defined in Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure under section 720(4). Further, Mason's section 721 states reading may be suspended if provided for in the constitution and the Alaska Constitution does not. I spoke to Tam Cook and she agreed suspending any of the readings would be in violation of the Alaska Constitution. She further commented that there was no case law in Alaska so the legislature would not find out the outcome of suspending a reading until there was litigation.

I've worked in the Clerk's office for many years and I recall there was an objection to suspending the third reading of a bill and the requirement in the constitution was cited. The motion to suspend has not taken place since that time.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

cc: Tamara Cook, Legal Services Director