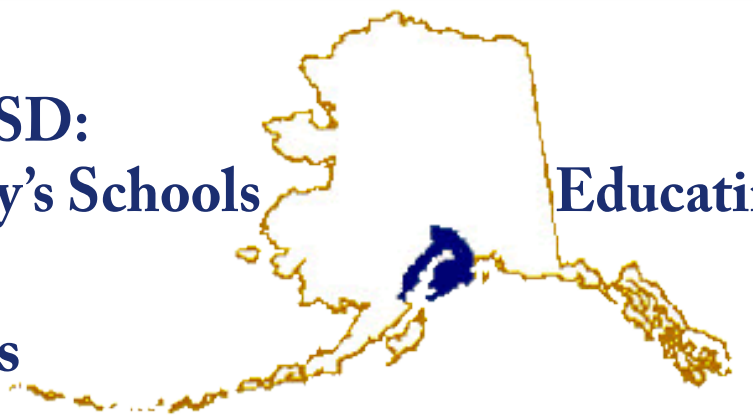


Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Annual Report 2011-2012

KPBSD: Today's Schools Educating for Tomorrow



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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



I am pleased to present KPBSD's 2011-2012 Annual Report. This publication reviews last year's accomplishments, celebrates our areas of success including students, staff and graduates, and shares what we are planning for our new school year.

When I think back to all that happened last year, I am overwhelmed by the many positives. From students being recognized for their academic achievement to teams winning championships in both academics and sports, to teachers being awarded for their excellence, it was clearly a good year for KPBSD. These successes reflect our staff's and stakeholders' intense dedication to our students.

Although the past school year was a success it was also a challenging one. Several of our improvements that are highlighted in the coming pages, e.g., implementing a new reporting system, required our staff to devote more time and energy to district level endeavors than is the norm. I am pleased that the staff met this challenge. In the coming year we will meet our students' learning needs by continuing our intense focus on effective instruction and collaboration.

I welcome our new hires to KPBSD and encourage everyone in our communities to help them settle in to their new jobs. To our retiring and departing staff, I wish you the very best with what is next in your lives; please know that you will be missed.

I am honored to serve as KPBSD's superintendent and look forward to working with you in the coming year to do all that we can to make our students' experience at school as good as it possibly can be.

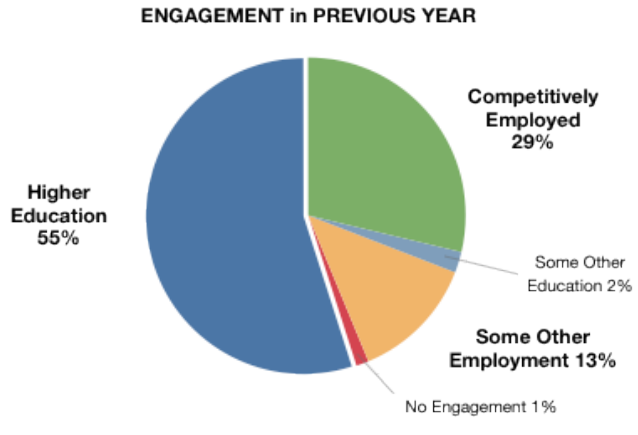
Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent



TEN-YEAR GRADUATE SURVEY

One of our on-going challenges is determining how well our K-12 experience is preparing our students for life after high school. With this in mind, we commissioned a graduate survey of the classes of 2001 and 2010. I chose the class of 2001 on the assumption that students ten years out of high school will be less transient and thus, able to more thoroughly reflect on their time at KPBSD.

We found that our graduates were generally satisfied with their education—most respondents did not see it as a limiting factor for them after graduating. We also learned of an opportunity for improvement with the finding that those students who are economically disadvantaged were less likely to enroll in a two or four year college or university or participate in any post–secondary educational activity.



The vast majority of our graduates (86% for both 2001 and 2010) live in Alaska, but the number living in our borough for the class of 2001 was only 58%. With the district's gradual decline in enrollment, this is an unfortunate statistic. Ideally we would like to see more of our grads return to make their home on the Kenai Peninsula. Let's hope that the recent upturn in the local economy will help change this. A summary of the report is at www.kpbsd.org.

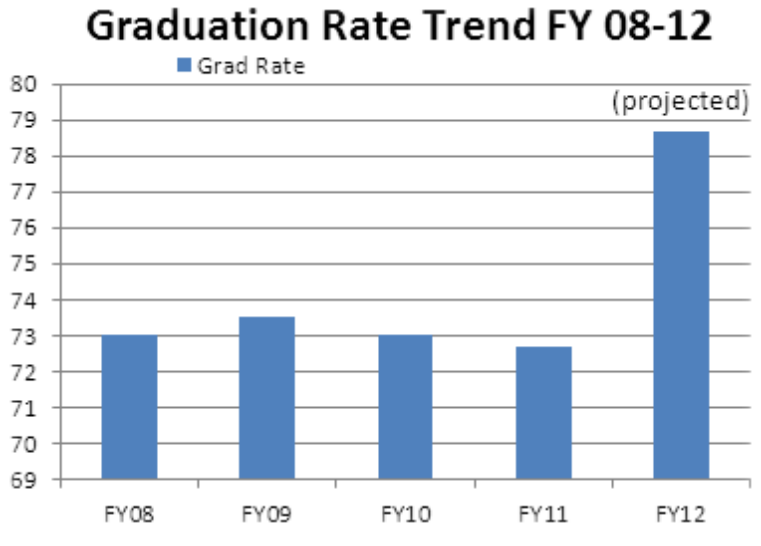
GOALS: STAYING THE COURSE

One of the mistakes that a school district can make is to regularly change direction in its quest to improve. While it may be appealing to want to start afresh or to do what another district is doing, such an approach invariably leads to changes that are rarely sustained. With this understanding of improvement as a guide, the district has maintained the same two goals for the past three years and will continue them for this coming year. We believe that the two goals (to increase student achievement though collaboration and to increase student engagement through effective instructional practices) are central to our mission and in reflection, our work toward meeting them is making us a stronger district. We are convinced that by building our internal capacity through the pursuit of the two goals that we will be able to help our students move up the learning continuum.

- *Increase student achievement through collaboration*

- *Increase student engagement through effective instructional practices*

The practices and processes that we now follow are here to stay and while the indicators of these improvements are not always apparent, I believe it is fair to say that the quality of our teachers' instruction is getting better and hence, the level of student learning is increasing. The spike this year in our graduation rate (the 2012 grads were ninth graders when we started working toward the goals) may be evidence that the goals are making a difference.



AASB 2011 Outstanding School Board of the Year



2012-2013 School Board Meeting Schedule

July 9, 2012
August 6, 2012
September 10, 2012 (Homer)
October 15, 2012
November 12, 2012
December 3, 2012
January 14, 2013
February 4, 2013
March 4, 2013
April 1, 2013
May 6, 2013 (Seward)
June 3, 2013
June 4, 2013 (Board Planning Session)

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

It is the goal, and the purpose, of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to provide the most comprehensive and fiscally responsible education experience that we can. Our job, as the Board of Education, is to see to it that the elements are in place: from the employees in the classroom, district office and all other ancillary services, to the infrastructure necessary to safely and comfortably provide a positive learning experience. Each year it is my privilege to watch this huge machine awaken in August to prepare for the coming year—and then my pleasure to watch it run all year delivering the services necessary for the children of our community.

This past school year was, by all accounts, a positive and productive year and we are planning and preparing for yet another year of the same. When operating an organization of this size and scope, there will always be problems which arise, but it is our hope that we will continue to be able to work with our various geographical areas to find mutually agreeable solutions that will allow us to strive for a greater good.

As always, we appreciate the support for our programs which is demonstrated by our community. We hope we can continue to be worthy of the staggering level of trust which parents demonstrate by allowing us to participate in the education of our borough's next generation.

Mr. Joe Arness, president

GOALS 2012-2013: BOARD OF EDUCATION

Support KPBSD's work to provide an innovative and flexible instructional approach at all its schools by May 2013. (support Strategic Plan Goal 1.6)

Examine KPBSD's student transportation system to identify inefficiencies and then develop a plan for improving district transportation by December 2013.

Define and document the KPBSD School Board's relationship with the Kenai Peninsula Borough regarding school facilities, their maintenance, and local funding by December 2012.

Improve site council effectiveness by developing a set of guidelines and responsibilities for site councils by March 2013. (support Strategic Plan Goal 3.1)

2011-2012 Task Force and Committee Membership

Joe Arness, president--Charter School Oversight Committee; Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

Marty Anderson--Career and Technical Education; Curriculum (alternate); Policy Review; Math Curriculum; State Assessment and Evaluation; State Workforce Investment Board

Sammy Crawford--AASB Board of Directors; Finance/Budget Review; Recognition

Liz Downing, vice-president--Project GRAD Liaison; Communications; Wellness Committee

Sunni Hilts--AASB Board of Directors; Title VII Liaison; Charter School Oversight; Policy Review

Lynn Hohl, treasurer--AASB Resolutions; AASB Advocates for Alaska's Youth Network; Charter School Oversight; Reapportionment Board; Recognition; Policy Review; Career and Technical Education Curriculum

Bill Holt--Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association Executive Board; School Calendar; Career and Technical Education Curriculum; Communications

Tim Navarre--Finance

Penny Vadla, clerk--Finance and Communications

Annaleah Ernst, student representative

ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS
ADVOCATES FOR ALASKA'S YOUTH



November 2011: Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) awards the 2011 Outstanding Alaska School Board of the Year award to the KPBSD school board for contributions to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. (L-R) Dr. Steve Atwater, Joe Arness, Penny Vadla, Sunni Hilts, Lynn Hohl, Liz Downing, Sammy Crawford

KPBSD: Where Kids Come First

PBIS

School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework schools use to define behavioral expectations for all students in a school, and then teach those behaviors to students. Students using correct behaviors are positively acknowledged, and the PBIS school-based teams use behavioral data to select and design behavioral approaches and interventions in the school. Three schools currently utilize PBIS. Sterling Elementary is in their fourth year of implementation, and their school-wide program is fully in place. They are now focusing behavioral efforts on smaller groups of students who require additional supports to be successful in school. Redoubt Elementary and Nikiski North Star Elementary are both finishing their first year of implementation, focusing on school-wide behaviors. Both schools have seen positive results, including fewer office discipline referrals. In the 2012-2013 school year two additional schools will begin implementing PBIS: Nanilchik School and Homer Flex.



DISTRICT DRAFTS NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

One of the difficulties that our large district presents is how to effectively plan to meet the learning needs of our students at our forty-three diverse schools. While certain commonalities among our schools exist, it is clear that what works in Soldotna may not work in Razdolna. With this in mind, in January we set out to create a long term strategic plan that will guide our improvement efforts for the next five years. Using input from community and staff members, the district's principals, administrators and school board drafted new mission and vision statements and then created a plan that is now out for public comment. Public comment can be made through our website www.kpbsd.org. In September 2012, the school board will consider the input, make final revisions and then if it is satisfactory, approve the plan.

The plan has three broad focus areas:

- *Academic Success*
- *Organizational Excellence*
- *Community and Family Engagement*

Each area has goals, e.g., increase the graduation rate by 3% annually and decrease drop out numbers by 5% annually. The goals will be met through action steps at both the school and district level. The reporting of the progress toward meeting the plan's goals will be made to the board at the end of each semester. While some of the goals will be met in the coming months, others are long term and will necessarily take two or more years to meet. Once the plan is approved it will be available at www.kpbsd.org.



INFORMATION SERVICES MAKES THINGS HAPPEN

The school district is fortunate to have a very talented and seasoned Information Services staff. Historically, the Information Services department has been a leading change-agent within the district. You might anticipate them being in the forefront of some new technology, but they can oftentimes be found behind the scenes—out of the spotlight—putting in place the infrastructure and foundational work necessary to bring advanced technology and services to our schools, helping ensure all students and staff will be successful in their work. With forty-three schools, 1,200 plus employees, and over 7,000 computers, technology support is a huge task in a district of our size and diversification.

This work is entrusted to a dedicated staff of thirteen technology professionals who practice using technology to make themselves more productive, and to drive their impact deeper into the organization. New this year was the implementation of a replacement student information system, PowerSchool. This required a major re-training effort by our teachers and instructional support staff who all stepped up to make sure this crucial software update was successful.

DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY

Mix a dedicated mother, a teacher, an adaptive physical education itinerant teacher and a powerful day emerged for students who attended Soldotna Montessori School and Soldotna Elementary School. Both principals were supportive of working together to offer experiential exercises to teach tolerance and compassion for all people, and create an opening for both schools to talk about these tough issues.

The event was organized grade-by-grade. Jordana Engebretsen, a vision teacher who participated from Kenai Middle School said, "I am a teacher with a disability. I believe most of the issues that a person with a disability experiences are due to ignorance and misconceptions. I think teaching our students about disabilities, or what I call *mix-abilities* is very important. I would like to see events like this organized district wide."



KPBSD Scores in Alaska School Activities Association ASAA



BASKETBALL

Class 4A state tournament

Kenai Central—Boys, ASAA Sportsmanship Award; AJ Hull, Bailey Beeson, Morgan Wensley 3rd team All-state

Class 3A girls state tournament

Seward High—Region III champions; Curtis Berry, Region III coach of the year; Meg Berry, Chelsey Clarke-Dick, Jessica Stallings, 1st Team All-Conference; Meg Berry, Region III most valuable player

Class 3A boys state tournament

Seward High—Jalen Terry, 1st Team All-Conference

Class 2A girls state tournament

Nikolaevsk—5th place; ASAA Sportsmanship Award; Coach Bea Klaich, Region II girls Coach of the Year; Kilina Klaich, 2nd team All-state

Class 2A boys state tournament

Nikolaevsk—Andre Tipikin, 1st team All-state

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

1-2-3A state girls championship

Seward High—3rd place

1-2-3A state boys championship

Seward High—3rd place; Miles Knotek state champion & Gatorade Alaska Cross Country Runner of the Year

4A state girls championship

Kenai Central—Ali Ostrander, Gatorade Alaska Cross Country Runner of the Year

Soldotna High—Bree Mucha, 4th place

FOOTBALL

Small-schools championship

Nikiski High School—state champions

Nikiski High School—Academic Award highest GPA in small schools state competition

Medium-schools championship

Homer High—state runner-up; Academic Award highest GPA in medium schools state competition

Kenai Central—state champions; AJ Hull, offensive player of the year, 1st team All-state; Daniel Carlson, 1st team All-state; Kyle Dougherty, 1st team All-state; Alex Nason, 1st team All-state; AJ Hull, Gatorade Alaska Player of the Year

Soldotna High—tied 3rd state championships; Auston Tennis, all-state football defensive player of the year; Garrett Bosick, outside linebacker; Tyler Marcuson, interior lineman; Zane Miller, inside linebacker; Auston Tennis, defensive back; Tyler Marcuson, long snapper & tackle; Auston Tennis, running back; and Garrett Bosick, 2nd team tight end

HOCKEY

Kenai Central—Zack Zulkanycz, 1st team all-state

NORDIC SKIING

Kenai Central—Girls' team, ASAA Academic Award

SOFTBALL

Small-school state championship

Homer High—girls softball state runner-up

SWIMMING

State swimming and diving championships

Kenai Central—Olivia Pfeifer, 6th 200 Yard Freestyle

Soldotna High—girls swim team, ASAA Academic Award & ASAA Sportsmanship Award

TRACK AND FIELD

Class 4A girls state championships

Homer—Tayla Cabana, 4th Long Jump

Kenai Central—Bailey Beeson, 3rd 800 Meters; 2nd 4x400 Meter Relay; 5th 4x800 Meter Relay

Soldotna—Lagi Wong, 1st Shot Put; Hannah Cristiano, 5th Discus; Jelly Nolden, 3rd Long Jump; Bree Mucha, 4th 400 Meters

Class 4A boys state championships

Skyview—6th 4x100 Meter Relay; Albert White, 6th 200 Meters; 3rd 4x400 Meter Relay

Soldotna—Jay Ulen, 6th High Jump

Class 1-2-3A Girls State Championships

Seward High—Tessa Adelmann won second back-to-back State Championship in shot put; Alice Pfeiffenberger, 5th 3,200 Meters; Tessa Adelmann, 6th Discus; 3rd 4x800 Meter Relay; Emily Brockman, 5th 100 Meter Hurdles; 6th 4x200 Meter Relay; 4th 4x100 Meter Relay

Class 1-2-3A Boys State Championships

Nikiski–Seth Carstens, 4th High Jump; Sayyid Parrish, 2nd Long Jump; Lincoln Johnson, 4th Discus; Sayyid Parrish, 5th 100 Meters; Stephen Hartley, 6th 100 Meters; 2nd 4x100 Meter Relay; Sayyid Parrish, 2nd 200 Meters

Ninilchik—Jack Wheeler, 5th Long Jump

Seward High—Miles Knotek, 3rd 3,200 Meters and 4th 1,600 Meters; 2nd 4x800 Meter Relay; Tannen Berry, 6th 300 Meter Hurdles; 5th 4x400 Meter Relay

WRESTLING

Class 1-2-3A state tournament

Nikiski High—3rd in state; Kaden Spurgeon and Lincoln Johnson, individual state champions in their weight category

Seward High—Jed Wilde, new Alaska record with best career pin percentage

Class 4A state tournament

Kenai Central—ASAA Academic Award



KPBSD: Teaching with Innovation and Collaboration

SEAN CAMPBELL [Homer High School]



A teacher of English literature and language arts at Homer High School, Sean Campbell encourages interaction between his students and the community. His AP literature class conducted a read-a-thon to raise money to support education for girls in India. His class outreach trips also help students learn about career opportunities. Named Kenai Peninsula BP Teacher of the Year at the Seventeenth Annual BP Teachers of Excellence awards in May 2012, Campbell explained, "I would like to thank my students. Clichés about teenagers abound; they are oftentimes pigeonholed, misunderstood, or even feared. However, my experience with my students over the past seven years has been just the opposite. Their thirst for understanding is bold. Their willingness to listen, to consider, to adapt, to question, and to change is truly inspiring. Sometimes I am asked why I teach high school students, and I can truly think of no better job in the world. I get to fill my days reading profound literature and discussing it with my students in a dynamic fashion. I get to help my students see that their words can be both beautiful and powerful. I get to create, to think, to laugh, to question, and to learn every single day. This truly is inspiring, and it is because of my students that I have a wonderful job."

Campbell thanks the families he has a chance to work with in Homer, explaining, "The value that they place on education is tremendous. They support their children, our community and me each day that they talk to their children about what we are reading, what we are writing about, what we are discussing, and what their children think about. These conversations, this process of sharing of stories, reminds their kids that what we do in school is important, that their education is important for the ubiquitous future, as well as the profound now. Through the sharing of stories, we begin to understand ourselves and one another better."

STEPHANIE CRONIN [Seward High School]

Years ago, her high school mathematics teacher predicted, "You will become a high school math teacher." Stephanie Cronin's response was to laugh, and say, "No way!" However, she didn't forget Mr. Sellnow's words to her, and although she initially went to college to "be an artist" and study economics, it was, "somewhere in those college years it struck me how mathematics became an awesome and powerful tool."



(L-R) Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education; Stephanie Cronin, Seward High School; Cora Marrett, deputy director, National Science Foundation

Cronin's favorite number is an irrational number, 3.14159265, commonly known as pi. When asked about a favored mathematical formula or equation, Cronin promptly replied, "Euler's formula. It's a beautiful formula, and shows an amazing connection between seemingly random numbers. Mathematics becomes interesting when we use mathematical theories to describe the world around us."

Recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, Cronin is one of two educators from the state of Alaska, and one of 97 in the nation who was recognized in Washington, DC, in June, 2012. In a press release, President Obama said:

"These teachers are the best of the best, and they stand as excellent examples of the kind of leadership we need in order to train the next generation of innovators and help this country get ahead."

When he learned about the award, Trevan Walker, principal at Seward High School said, "It's funny that the White House is finally figuring out what we've known all along. In all honesty, the reality is that as an instructional leader, there are certain teachers and staff I rely on. She is one of those teachers I depend on. Ms. Cronin is enthusiastic, progressive, and 'endearing.' Her students truly love her, and rightfully so. She is not only a great math teacher, but a reform leader as well. The fact that she joined and successfully completed the Aspiring Principals cohort training also demonstrates that."

ELAINE LARSON [Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science]

Alaska Arts Education Consortium (AAEC) named Elaine Larson a 2012 Champion of the Arts in Education. Larson is a music, movement and drama specialist in the Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science, a KPBSD charter school, which she helped to found.

Each year the AAEC honors individuals or organizations around the State of Alaska who champion the arts in education. This celebratory action highlights the positive impact of the arts in the lives of our children and youth. The efforts of these champions allow Alaskan students the opportunity to achieve greater academic gains and become effective communicators through the arts. AAEC Champions of Arts in Education carry the torch for arts education through high-caliber instruction, arts support, and ongoing arts promotion.



In 2011, Larson made a successful proposal to the school district, which allowed her to offer a Level I Orff Schulwerk training course to all KPBSD music teachers. The course was so successful that a level II training has been approved for the summer of 2013.

Hundreds of KPBSD students benefit as a result of Larson's Orff Schulwerk training for their music teachers. Through the Orff method, the teachers learn to guide their students to experience music through speech, singing, movement, playing instruments, listening and improvising. These activities, in turn, help students learn to create, understand and enjoy their musical experiences, fostering a lifelong love of music and the arts.

AVERAGE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH KPBSD

- Teachers: 10 years
- Support staff: 8 years

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

- 61% of KPBSD teachers have an advanced degree
- 82.7% of KPBSD teachers are Highly Qualified in the subject in which they teach.





HALEY KALLENBERG [Class of 2001, Homer High School]

She lives in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), debuted at Carnegie Hall as a composer performer, and at the IBLA World Music Competition she was awarded "Most Distinguished Composer."

Hallenberg is described as a contemporary improvisational artist, and has been studying music since the age of three. She was raised in the southern Peninsula, yet began traveling at a young age. Her music is compelling, spontaneous, and original. When interviewed by the Gulf News in Dubai, UAE, she described Spontaneous Composition and her strategy. She explains,

"Spontaneous Composition is music performed, occurring, or resulting from a sudden natural impulse, tendency, or inclination; without effort or premeditation; natural and unconstrained; unplanned."

There are three main requisites: always say 'yes'; divorce yourself from your ego; and think about the breath.

Saying 'yes' is important, in the same way as it's important to say 'yes' when ideas are thrown at you in improvisational theatre. Saying 'yes' and accepting the ideas that musicians playing with you are giving you also means you need to divorce yourself from your ego.

Breath is the third important element. 'The power of breath is really important. The rhythm we speak is all due to breath ... our language revolves around our ability to breathe, music is much the same.'"

After completing her Bachelor of Music in 2005, Hallenberg has done international teaching, performing, and works as a cultural and educational events promoter for music to develop an appreciation of arts around the globe. She will begin recording a solo piano album of original compositions this summer in New York.

COURTNEY LEWIS [Class Of 2012, Soldotna High School]

Senator Lisa Murkowski said of her 2012 summer interns, "These talented young Alaskans arrive in Washington with energy and enthusiasm as they watch Senate votes and hearings unfold first hand." Furthermore,"I enjoy having interns in my office, and my staff and I greatly appreciate their contributions. So many professionals in public service today, including myself, can trace their careers back to their internships."

Courtney Lewis may need to set her art supplies aside during her summer internship in Washington, DC, as an aide with Senator Murkowski—which could generate new inspiration for art and reading. After winning the Alaska 2012 PTSA Reflections competition [high school, visual arts category] her "Diversity is...an open book" piece is moving to the national competition. About her art, Lewis says, "In ninth grade I started taking art classes with Mrs. Cox. From there I explored ceramics, sculpture, and advanced art classes. More than painting, I enjoy creating mixed media collages. This art piece has watercolors and acrylic, but also newspaper, markers, pen, glitter, and so on."



Inspiration for "Diversity is ... an open book"
"I used to read all the time. In fact, in third grade I received a Bookworm Award. In the years that followed, life got busier and reading fell on the back burner. This year I became friends with a girl who reads all the time. She recommended book after book to me, and, once again, reading became more prevalent in my life. When I began working on this project, I saw picture after picture of rainbows and people standing around the earth holding hands, but I wanted something deeper. I kept the idea of using different media to add to the diversity theme. My favorite aspect of this painting is the layers. I've started to focus on mixed media collage, and almost all of my artwork has some sparkles, too.
I chose to represent the theme "Diversity is ..." with an open book because, to me, diversity means having an open mind, and being open to possibilities and opportunities. An open book portrays those thoughts for me. The books on the right hand side were specifically chosen to properly depict the theme. Everything from a contemporary read to a classic novel to a children's book to a love story is represented, and that was really important to me."
Lewis will attend Brigham Young Univeristy—Provo in the fall, and plans to pursue a double major in nursing and art.



Annaleah is pictured in the front left

ANNALEAH ERNST

The student representative for the KPBSD School Board of Education, Annaleah had an action-packed year, which is normal for her! During the monthly KPBSD school board meetings she learned and contributed to topics about school district policy, celebrations, concerns, budgeting, transportation, and the business of public education.
In addition to having served as the 2011-2012 Nikiski Middle-High School student body president, Ernst is an accomplished athlete—she likes to run—a volunteer in the community, and can be seen on stage with the Kenai Performers, and during her school drama productions. A trip to Juneau, and activities to advocate for responsible citizenship and legislation brought her valuable experiences.



Mikaela Salzetti, Drake Thomas, Ean Atchley, David Beck, Coach Thomas

DRAKE THOMAS

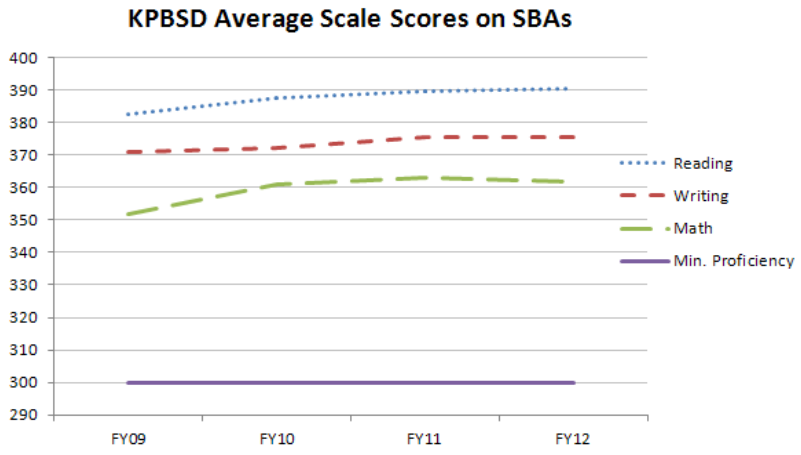
The sum: Drake Thomas and his Kenai Middle School (KMS) math team coached by David Thomas placed first in the statewide MathCounts competition! Additionally, Drake Thomas finished first in the individual competition thus earning the honor to represent Alaska at the National MathCounts competition on May 11, 2012, in Florida together with three other Alaskans.
He explains math is a life skill, and he's always been around math growing up. Thomas is excited about the life skills—even though winning is important. The more important part is the lessons he learns from practice and interaction with team mates and peers. His tip for success: "communication and teamwork!"



EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION MODEL

In 2008–2009, the school district, in partnership with its teachers, embarked on improving the teacher evaluation processes. Through research and collaboration, a team of teachers, school administrators, district administrators and association representatives chose to pursue the Charlotte Danielson Frameworks for Teaching as the foundation of a new system. Since that time the team has developed the necessary process, documents and training to implement a system that is designed to improve instruction. Input and feedback is continually being gathered to improve the system. This information, along with research and practical observations, has been used to refine the system. Collaboration between teachers and administrators has been an integral part of the process to provide a meaningful, reflective, and collaborative evaluation system that will directly and positively impact student learning.

Currently, our system and process of implementation has become a model that the state is reviewing for application across Alaska. KPBSD has taken the lead in setting the example of adult collaboration and providing a transparent, research based evaluation system designed to improve student learning through high quality instruction.





The Alaska Team (L-R) Ron Fuhrer, NEA-AK vice president and president elect; Mike Hanley, Alaska commissioner of education; Sean Dusek, KPBSD assistant superintendent; LaDawn Druce, KPEA president; and Carl Rose, executive director AASB during "Collaborating to Transform the Teaching Profession" conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

K–12 CURRICULUM AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Elementary music and physical education (P.E.) teachers across the district received specialized training in their fields. Music teachers learned together in the summer, receiving level one Orff training, a music methodology, and have decided to continue this learning in level two next summer. Physical education teachers received training in new curriculum and received new equipment. To continue consistent implementation of this new learning, both groups met throughout the year to collaborate and share ideas. They also met and designed a method for grading students which would demonstrate levels of participation and effort. It is believed that it is important for students to gain an appreciation for music and a desire to live a healthy life through physical activity.



POWERSCHOOL

What's all the buzz about PowerSchool? PowerSchool is the fastest-growing, most widely used web-based student information system, supporting 10 million students in 50 states and over 65 countries. The district converted from our existing student information system (SIS) to PowerSchool just in time for the 2011-2012 school year. An incredible amount of effort is necessary to migrate a SIS, especially in an environment so tightly focused around student data. Most KPBSD employees need access to at least some information stored within PowerSchool. With about 1,200 employees in the school district, a lot of people required retraining, all at the very busy beginning of the school year.

Five Information Services staff spent ten months configuring the system, programming, and converting data from the previous SIS software, but perhaps most significant is the teamwork displayed as KPBSD staff pulled together to learn the new software and ensure its effective use at all levels of the organization—and all on a very abbreviated timeline.

The new software is feature-rich and is being continually improved. PowerSchool's web-based Student and Parent Portal provides pertinent information about student progress in an easy and intuitive manner. For parents not already accessing this information, schools will be providing account setup information in the fall. PowerSchool provides great information for parents and the information is always current.

Parents:
Do you PowerSchool?

To access PowerSchool, go to www.kpbsd.org, and click the P icon at the top of every page.

SEWARD K-12 ALIGNMENT PROJECT

The Seward area schools took on the challenge of vertically aligning their writing, math, and special education instruction in a way that will guarantee and verify a continuum of learning for Seward students from kindergarten through graduation. The process they adopted and implemented:

- Identified essential skills at each grade level—eliminating skills instruction overlap and gaps
- Identified the common vocabulary used to teach the essential skills—reinforcing the language of the standards and state benchmark exams through grade levels
- Identified the materials and activities used to teach the essential skills at grade level—eliminating resource and activity overlap and gaps
- Will create common assessments for each identified skills at each grade level for the purpose of future structured collaboration

One District: Forty-three Diverse Schools



INTERVENTIONISTS MAKE THE GRADE

Beginning with the school year 2008-2009, the Alaska State Legislature passed a multiyear funding plan that provided schools with a substantial amount of new money for the first time in many years. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District used this money to invest in a newly created Programmatic Staffing Plan. This plan added staff in specifically targeted areas with the purpose of improving student performance. Interventionists were added at grades K-8 to assist students who were significantly below proficiency levels in reading and math. Subsequent student results have shown that the addition of interventionists was a wise investment of those new funds. Students working with interventionists have consistently shown "catch-up growth" that has brought them up to their appropriate proficiency levels.

STUDENT STATISTICS
ETHNICITY AND RACE

White	76.7%
Black or African American	0.5%
Hispanic or Latino	3.8%
Asian	1.4%
American Indian	1.1%
Alaska Native	10.1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.4%
Two or more races	6.0%



CLASSROOM WITHOUT WALLS

This year the CWOW teachers Rob Sparks, Gregory Weissenberg and Greg Zorbas set a goal to expose more teachers in the district to the use of live video conferencing technology. This goal has been met with great success. In all three central peninsula high schools the tenth grade language arts teachers worked with the tenth grade world history teachers on a project involving the book Animal Farm. In addition:

- Kenai Central High School (KCHS) and Skyview High School music classes performed live for a children's hospital in Minnesota
- Reluctant readers at Kenai Middle School (KMS) participated in a special event involving three other schools from the lower forty-eight, and the author of a book they read
- Physical education teachers at Skyview and KCHS used video conferencing to teach and motivate students
- Band teachers at KMS and Nikiski Middle-High School are teaming to do a live band practice together
- Seniors at KCHS and Skyview in the language arts classes finished their African literature reading with a special event live from Kenya with freedom fighter Field Marshal Muthoni Kirima, who led the fight against British imperialism in the 1940s
- Sterling Elementary students collaborated with students in the lower forty-eight and the Czech Republic
- Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science teachers Jan Darch and Kelli Stroh connected their students with an expert on marine life from New Jersey
- In February, the global education director from Polycom came to the Kenai Peninsula and offered a workshop for 40 teachers



Students experienced multiple events from locations such as Nazareth, Israel; Kabul, Afghanistan; the Manhattan School of Music; and a personal story of the Stalin purges live from Boston, Massachusetts. Students completed two groundbreaking projects involving small group collaboration from all three classrooms.

SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS JOIN NIKISKI MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL

Following two years of decision making and planning for the eventual move, the 2011-2012 school year marked the official move of sixth grade students from Nikiski North Star Elementary to Nikiski Middle-High School. Forty students made history in Nikiski by becoming the first class of students to experience their sixth grade year as middle school students at Nikiski Middle-High School.

The transition for this group of students was smooth due to a well thought out plan that was developed over two school years by a committee of parents, elementary teachers, middle school teachers, and administrators from both schools. Former Nikiski North Star Elementary teachers Linda Zimmerman and Terry Durrant moved with the students to assist in the transition.

Students benefit from an expanded offering of elective courses and more co-intramural club activities than were available to sixth graders in the elementary setting. Daily physical education classes and a rotation of computer, art, and band and music classes enriched the educational experience for these students. Additionally, the staff is excited by the smooth transition into the middle school by having the sixth grade students in the building.



PROJECT GRAD

Several different grants provide significant funding for Project GRAD Kenai Peninsula (PGKP) to offer professional development, programs, school support, activities, and scholarships. The Alaska Native Education grant allows PGKP to provide the on-going instructional coaching and campus family support programs to four of the seven schools served by Project GRAD (Ninilchik, Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Tebughna.) The federal Gear Up grant funds additional instructional coaching efforts in Razdolna, Voznesenka, Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Tebughna. Other funding sources include the Walmart Foundation, Homer Foundation, Rural Cap, Wells Fargo, and many local individual contributions.

Project GRAD works in partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to increase graduation rates, increase proficiencies in reading, math and science as measured by the State assessments, provide post-secondary exploration and access, and develop student leaders. Instructional coaches work closely with school administration and staff to develop best practices in classroom management, content organization, instruction, and assessment.

Campus family support works with the school and community to develop strong support systems for students while respecting and maintaining cultural traditions and ties. The goal is always to build confident and independent learners who are engaged in healthy choices and are ready to succeed in their post-secondary endeavors.





ALASKA CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAYS

Hundreds of KPBSD students participated in hands-on welding, surveying, building, residential wiring, cable cutting, and much more during the Alaska Construction Career Days, May 1, 2012. Held at the Soldotna Sports Center, students took the driver's seat in a variety of heavy equipment including a backhoe, bulldozer, excavator, and a semi-truck.

Education and Early Development Commissioner Mike Hanley wrote to students in the Alaska Construction Career Day booklet, "Make no mistake about this: your high school years—from the classroom to the playing fields, from the art studios and stages to the shops and labs—belong to you. Own them. Use them. Make them your path to success."

A day to explore future possibilities, students had the opportunity to meet with training and educational programs that could lead them to careers in construction. A number of future employers were present to talk with the students about the types of jobs they foresee in the near future.

SECOND ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR

Twelve Kenai Peninsula high schools sent junior and senior high school students armed with questions—some they didn't even know they had—to the second annual Kenai Peninsula College Fair. Four hundred and forty-eight students, seventy representatives from 70 colleges, vocational and technical education schools, dozens of counselors and staff make a commitment to one day, October 25, 2011, in Kenai, Alaska. The rationale was simple: a time for minds to blaze with educational ideas, vision, and dreams for the future. Looking forward: the third annual college fair will be October 23, 2012.





CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) CAREER PATHWAYS

In upcoming years, secondary students will have an opportunity to focus on their Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways and career clusters. Utilizing SB 84 funding, KPBSD will ensure that students district-wide think beyond high school graduation and develop their own Personal Learning and Career Plan (PLCP). Each student's PLCP will utilize the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) electronic portfolio to plan education and potential careers, offering students the necessary tools for a successful future.

The following people will work specifically to create this district-wide focus: Sara Moore, a former Soldotna High School counselor, is the new district-wide career counselor; Dan Bohrnsen, the career and technical education coordinator; Loretta Spaulding, career guidance liason; and school counselors.



The AKCIS Portfolio allows parents and students to track education and career plans, save assessment and search results, including information such as:

- View realistic salary and cost of living information
- Plan classes to take in high school and college
- Build custom resumes
- Link to projects on outside websites
- Store personal files in up to 5 MB of free space
- Share the portfolio online through visitor accounts

Each student's PLCP will be based upon one of the Career Pathways and areas of study. Students who focus on a Pathway acquire the skills necessary for entry into well-paid careers with high potential and increased levels of engagement. The four broad KPBSD Pathways are:

- Agricultural and Natural Resources
- Construction, Manufacturing, Engineering Services
- Business and IT
- Health and Human Services

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Finances



COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

In January, 2012, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) began contract negotiations with the Kenai Peninsula Education Association (KPEA), and the Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association (KPESA). After numerous meetings the two sides reached a tentative agreement on many, but not all of the items open for negotiations. The next step in the process is to have an arbitrator review the latest offers and then make an advisory recommendation. All parties in the negotiations are committed to keeping the district's students as their number one priority. Additional details, including the last best offers and financial comparisons between the two offers are posted at www.kpbsd.org.

TRANSPORTATION

During the 2011-2012 school year, KPBSD explored solutions to solve an approximate $750,000 transportation deficit caused by an increase in the transportation costs from provider First Student, and a further deficit of $2.1 million anticipated for 2012-2013. The deficit budget related to the Transportation Fund needed to be solved because funding for the deficit was being transferred from the General Fund. This resulted in a reduction of funds available to be spent directly on students in the classroom.

Beginning in November, 2011, several public informational meetings were held in the southern peninsula. Additionally, an online idea survey to explore positive solutions was open to parents and community members for five months. One solution presented was to shift from a one-tier bus system to a two-tier system in the southern peninsula. However, that option also meant school start and end times would change to accommodate one bus serving two routes each day in contrast to only one. Student transportation in the central peninsula and Seward area is already a two-tier system.

The ramifications of the proposed school start time changes were controversial, and led to frustration by parents and administrators. The end result: in mid-April, the leaders of the Alaska House Majority Caucus unveiled the Caucus' Fiscal Year 2013 K-12 education funding plan. Funding for transportation (related to SB 182 Pupil Transportation Funding) was included, and means that the actual cost of KPBSD transportation for the 2012-2013 school year will be specifically funded by the newly designated transportation funds. The funding was based on existing routes from the 2011-2012 (FY12) school year. Additionally, KPBSD will be reimbursed for the approximate $750,000 deficit that would have been paid in FY12 from the KPBSD General Fund.

REVENUES, EXPENDITURES

More than three quarters—77 percent—of the General Fund budget is spent on salaries and benefits. About 12% of that 77% is a payment made by the state of Alaska on behalf of the school district to pay down part of the unfunded liability in the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) retirement accounts. To comply with accounting requirements, this payment is reflected on school district financial statements both as revenue and expenditure. TRS and PERS on-behalf payments are made by the state for all participants in the programs and are scheduled to continue for 20 years.



In-kind expenditures by the Kenai Peninsula Borough are also reported as revenues and as corresponding expenditures on the school district financial statements, as required by accounting rules. The in-kind payments comprise 7% of the Expenditure budget and are devoted to property, liability and workers compensation insurance payments, maintenance on school buildings and audit services, as well as custodial services and utilities at the district office.

Of the remaining 16%, 4% is dedicated to utility payments for schools and departments, including electricity, water and sewer, fuel for heating and natural/bottled gas. That leaves 12% for supplies, software, contract services, phone, postage, travel, and other discretional accounts.

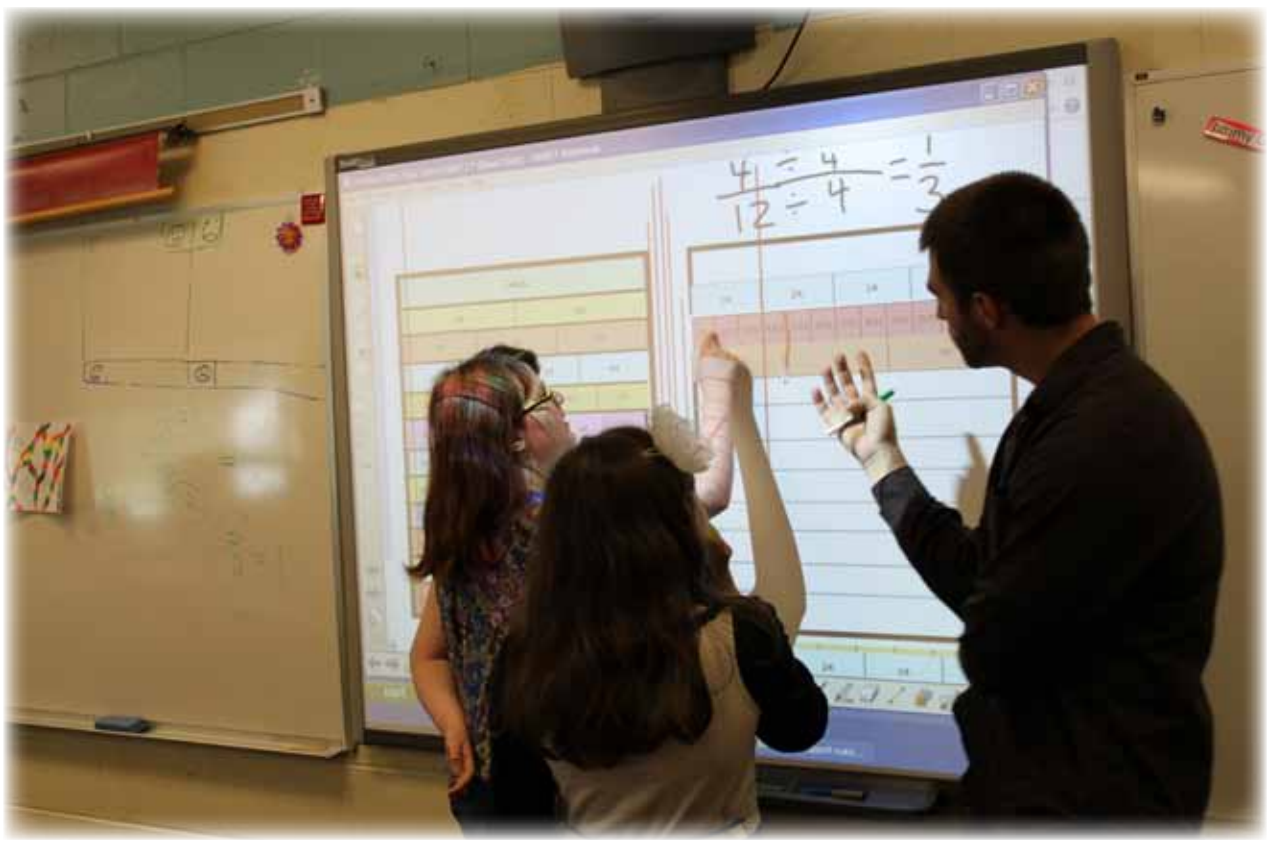
The state of Alaska requires that 70% of funding for education be spent on instructional functions. When the fiscal year 2012 budget is sorted by function, it shows that KPBSD exceeds that requirement, as 73.2% of the budget is dedicated to instruction.

FOR EVERY OPERATING DOLLAR SPENT IN THE GENERAL FUND IN 2011-2012:



- $0.65 was spent on salaries and benefits
- $0.12 was spent on TRS/PERS on-behalf retirement benefit
- $0.12 was spent on all other discretional accounts
- $0.07 was spent on in-kind services
- $0.04 was spent on utilities

= $1.00 from 2011-2012 General Fund



STAFFING RATIOS

Type of school, and pupil to teacher (PTR) ratio

- Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students:
  - Kindergarten 20:1
  - Grades 1-3 22:1
  - Grades 4-6 24:1
- Middle and high schools 24:1
- Small schools with less than 200 enrolled students:
  - Grades K-6 17:1
  - Grades 7-12 19:1



DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Dozens of courses are offered through the KPBSD Distance Learning program as online classes. Every class is taught by a highly qualified KPBSD teacher. Classes are delivered via the Internet (some classes require a textbook) and can be taken at any time of the day.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Straight-up Facts



MISSION

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, in partnership with its richly diverse communities, is to develop creative, productive learners who demonstrate the skills, knowledge and attitudes to meet life's challenges, by providing stimulating, integrated learning opportunities in a safe, supportive environment.

DISTRICT SIZE

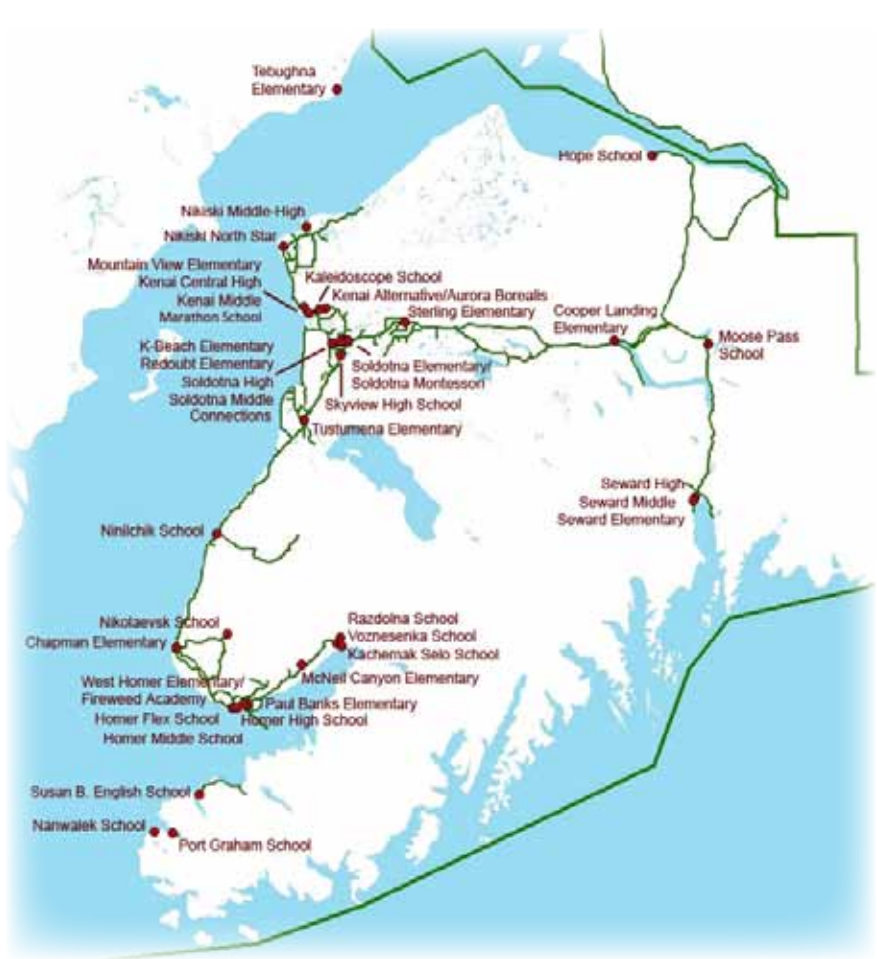
The school district has a total of 43 schools and covers a land area roughly the size of West Virginia (25,600 square miles).

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Each school day, more than 2,500 students are transported a total of 7,725 miles on school buses throughout the district.

ENROLLMENT, 2011-2012

Preschool	176
Kindergarten-6th grades	4,606
7th-8th grades	1,405
9th-12th grades	2,896
Total actual enrollment for 2011-2012 school year:	9,083





PERSONNEL

District administration: 16
Building administration: 48
Certified staff: 675; Support staff: 562
Total: 1,301

2012-2013 LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Steve Atwater, superintendent
- Sean Dusek, assistant superintendent, instruction
- Dave Jones, assistant superintendent, instructional support
- Doris Cannon, director elementary education and curriculum
- John O'Brien, director secondary education and student activities
- Clayton Holland, director pupil services
- Tim Vlasak, director K-12 schools, assessment and federal programs
- Tim Peterson, director human resources
- Dave Tressler, director planning and operations
- Jim White, director information services
- Laurie Olson, director finance
- Pegge Erkeneff, communications specialist

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCHES

A total of 3,462 KPBSD students, or 46% out of 7,608 students served, qualified for free or reduced-price meals during the 2011-2012 school year. Across the state roughly 44% of students enrolled in Alaska schools that sponsor school meal programs qualify for free or reduced price meals.

STUDENTS IN TRANSITION

On May 10, 2012, 237 students were identified as homeless in the school district. This number reflects a 21% decrease from the number of students being tracked in May 2011.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
148 North Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
907.714.8888
fax: 907.262.9645
Facebook: KPBSD
Twitter: @KPBSD
www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us

kpbsd where kids come first



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