

**General Information Items
for the
Board of Education**



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Administrator Meeting Agenda
Challenger Learning Center
Wednesday, January 29, 2014



KPBSD – Working to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:00 AM	Coffee and Conversation	
8:30 AM	Superintendent’s Message	Dr. Atwater
9:00 AM	Effective Instruction	DIT
9:30 AM	Instructional Support	Dave Jones/HR
12:00 PM	Lunch	Provided
12:45 PM	Administrivia	Leadership Team
1:30 PM	Job Alike	DIT
3:15 PM	Evaluation Updates	Sean Dusek
3:45 PM	Closing comments	Dr. Atwater
4:00 PM	Adjourn	

Please bring

- **Laptops**

December 2013
Dawn Edwards-Smith

GOAL:

Investigate how the Lindsay Unified School District is implementing the performance based model and explore the feasibility of creating a partnership between our schools. If possible, then lay the foundation on which to build this partnership.

BACKGROUND:

Lindsay Unified School District has been working on implementing a performance based model for approximately five years. Currently, they are in the first years of a full scale implementation in grades K-12. Using Race to the Top Funds, Lindsay is currently beginning the work to create a base for the performance based model by using the Common Core Standards for ELA and Math and NextGen Standards for Science. Lindsay has also worked previously with Dr. Marzano on grading practices and utilizes many of David Langford's tools in their schools. Along with that, Lindsay is also a user of 3 Shapes Educate Software. Given all these factors, Lindsay has the potential to be a strong partner with RCA.

COMMON CORE ELA:

During our session with Joe Vagt, we discussed the current implementation of the ELA CC standards. Joe is working with a group to adapt the common core standards, write scoring guides, design assessments and write activities to meet these standards. Their greatest area of need currently is the Score 4 (Advanced) rubrics, activities or guides. They are looking to improve the use of "teaching others" as the advanced route. We discussed our use of quality rubrics in science and technology. These could also be adapted to create a variety of standard, level-band quality rubrics which must be met to achieve that Score 4. At the same time, we also discussed the creation of additional activities which require a more intense investigation of the standard, an application of the standard to another content area or a real world activity. Potential issues in the ELA standards currently are the split of the 9-10 and 11-12 grade levels. Teachers in Lindsay report that these are split based on the standard, with some standards being repeated in both levels and others being scaffolded according to difficulty.

COMMON CORE MATH:

Michelle Standlee is heading the math implementation for Common Core. Currently Lindsay is interested in designing a program which will meet the needs of the CC standards – traditional practice and practical application/understanding. In doing so, they are looking to improve their current program in math, which very closely resembles the different iterations of math that we have used at RCA over the years. The most challenging (and beneficial) part of this program will be to create more intricate and scaffolded skills in each standard. As in ELA, the current need is in the Score 4 activities. Traditionally, this is a strength of RCA. We routinely apply various math skills in science and technology activities.

NEXT GEN SCIENCE:

The work that KPBSD and RCA have undertaken this year is aligned with the direction where Lindsay is headed in science. They are currently in a holding pattern on the implementation of NEXT GEN due to restrictions at the state level. The future of this work lies in that Lindsay could benefit from the standards, scoring guides and activities that RCA has already created for half of the 7-12 science levels.

MARZANO GRADING PRACTICES:

In looking at the different grading practices, there are a few differences between Lindsay and RCA. Although some are superficial (Score 3 = Proficient), others represent a small shift in how we design curriculum and assessments. Lindsay relies more on the scaffolding of each standard in a progression of skills. This may be an area where RCA could improve our implementation of the model. This year we will use our Site Career Development Grant to work on the Marzano grading philosophy.

EDUCATE & EMPOWER:

Educate was often a topic of discussion in the different sessions. Tad and I were both very surprised to see that the use of Educate in Lindsay is more limited than at RCA. The reality is that the software needs a major update. During the session discussing Educate, we were able to preview the possible new features of Empower, which is the software being designed by Educate. The new upgrade would represent a significant shift into a stronger focus on pacing and progress with the standards and rubrics taking a less prominent role in the interface. The "engine" of Educate would remain the same, but the user interface would be an improvement. The uses that we have for Educate are similar to Lindsay's, as are the issues that we face. We also suggested a few additional features that would make Educate even more powerful as a tool for parents and students.

PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL:

There is a strong willingness and alignment in partnering with Lindsay. As part of the Race to the Top Grant, they are to share the model. With the experience that RCA brings to the table, Lindsay has been very interested in working together. These are the places where Lindsay has asked us to contribute to the work. In doing so, we will gain the work which they have completed, which can be used at RCA.

- ELA & Math Score 4 Activities, including the quality rubrics for teaching others, and standard project types
- Next Gen Science standards, scoring guides and activities
- Educate/Empower Review and suggestions

NEXT STEPS:

We will continue our communication with Lindsay and begin writing sample Score 4 Activities. We have already shared a rough draft of our Science Standards and will do the same with activities. In the realm of Math, we have begun discussions and resource sharing for the variety of projects needed to achieve the balanced instructional model. As a staff, RCA will complete the Marzano training to increase our knowledge of his practices. As a team, we are also looking for additional ways to bring our staff to Lindsay to visit, meet and share in the work they have going.



1/17/14

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

2013 - 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

ADM PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	TOTAL ADM	ADM DIFF +/-	ADM DIFF %	SCHOOLS	KDGN	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	7TH	8TH	9TH	10TH	11TH	12TH	Enrollment Total	Inc. P/S Enrollment Total
185.00	192.00	7.00	4%	Aurora Borealis Charter	24	23	22	24	24	24	21	18	12	0	0	0	0	192	192
105.00	108.00	3.00	3%	Chapman Elementary	20	15	13	11	10	11	6	13	9	0	0	0	0	108	126
857.00	786.00	-71.00	(8%)	Connections Program	46	55	42	48	50	45	52	63	58	58	75	96	98	786	786
15.00	14.00	-1.00	(7%)	Cooper Landing	1	1	2	3	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	14	14
107.00	102.00	-5.00	(5%)	Fireweed Academy	20	11	24	12	10	12	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	102
36.00	36.00	0.00	0%	Homer Flex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	17	12	36	36
407.00	373.00	-34.00	(8%)	Homer High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	96	98	81	373	373
179.00	186.00	7.00	4%	Homer Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	95	0	0	0	0	186	186
15.00	17.00	2.00	13%	Hope Elementary/High	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	17	18
375.00	393.00	18.00	5%	K-Beach Elementary	64	48	59	55	67	49	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	393	400
64.00	59.00	-5.00	(8%)	Kachemak Selo	4	2	4	6	6	7	4	6	6	3	3	5	3	59	59
252.00	251.00	-1.00	0%	Kaleidoscope Charter	36	36	37	36	36	38	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	251	251
85.00	65.00	-20.00	(24%)	Kenai Alternative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	14	47	65	82
546.00	500.00	-46.00	(8%)	Kenai Central High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	125	119	113	500	500
363.00	344.00	-19.00	(5%)	Kenai Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	136	117	0	0	0	0	344	344
10.00	3.00	-7.00	(70%)	Marathon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	3
133.00	132.00	-1.00	(1%)	McNeil Canyon Elementary	14	18	20	15	25	26	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	132	132
19.00	17.00	-2.00	(11%)	Moose Pass Elementary	2	3	3	3	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17
433.00	419.00	-14.00	(3%)	Mountain View Elementary	83	74	58	76	61	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	419	442
80.00	74.00	-6.00	(8%)	Nanwalek Elementary/High	4	5	10	11	10	4	7	3	5	3	3	2	7	74	74
389.00	400.00	11.00	3%	Nikiski Middle/High	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	67	53	66	60	56	40	400	400
345.00	342.00	-3.00	(1%)	Nikiski North Star Elementary	56	59	56	56	53	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	342	364
68.00	71.00	3.00	4%	Nikolaevsk Elem/High	4	3	4	4	10	7	9	2	9	4	8	4	3	71	71
140.00	125.00	-15.00	(11%)	Ninilchik Elementary/High	12	7	7	11	13	9	8	10	10	12	14	7	5	125	126
163.00	170.00	7.00	4%	Paul Banks Elementary	58	51	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170	202
22.00	23.00	1.00	5%	Port Graham	4	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	23	23
77.00	77.00	0.00	0%	Razdolna	3	15	4	9	10	8	5	9	1	4	5	4	0	77	77
385.00	370.00	-15.00	(4%)	Redoubt Elementary	53	42	47	61	52	64	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	370	389
75.00	71.00	-4.00	(5%)	River City Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	12	15	11	9	7	71	71
321.00	314.00	-7.00	(2%)	Seward Elementary	55	57	49	31	41	47	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	314	340
175.00	176.00	1.00	1%	Seward High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	42	54	42	176	176
77.00	75.00	-2.00	(3%)	Seward Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	42	0	0	0	0	75	75
340.00	266.00	-74.00	(22%)	Skyview High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	64	78	69	266	266
265.00	267.00	2.00	1%	Soldotna Elementary	42	37	45	35	43	32	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	267	304
475.00	514.00	39.00	8%	Soldotna High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	168	119	127	100	514	514
369.00	366.00	-3.00	(1%)	Soldotna Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	182	184	0	0	0	0	366	366
165.00	162.00	-3.00	(2%)	Soldotna Montessori Charter	23	24	23	23	24	26	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	162	162
	0.00			Soldotna Prep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
190.00	196.00	6.00	3%	Sterling Elementary	23	38	26	27	26	31	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	196	206
43.00	48.00	5.00	12%	Susan B. English	4	1	2	2	2	3	5	1	5	4	11	4	4	48	48
34.00	30.00	-4.00	(12%)	Tebughna Elementary/High	4	4	1	3	2	2	5	2	2	3	1	0	1	30	30
155.00	168.00	13.00	8%	Tustumena Elementary	25	28	25	21	23	24	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	168	180
97.00	95.00	-2.00	(2%)	Voznesenka	11	3	8	4	6	5	5	10	12	7	10	7	7	95	101
237.00	236.00	-1.00	0%	West Homer Elementary	0	0	0	62	54	57	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	236	236
8,873	8,633.00	-240.00	(3%)		696	666	656	653	663	665	640	666	634	686	661	705	642	8,633	8,864

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

2013 - 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

PART TIME STUDENTS

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

SCHOOLS	PRE-SCHOOL	KDGN	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	7TH	8TH	9TH	10TH	11TH	12TH	Enrollment Total	Inc. P/S Enrollment Total
Aurora Borealis Charter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chapman Elementary	18	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	22
Connections Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	9	9
Cooper Landing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	0	0	8	8
District Wide Program	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	22
Fireweed Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homer Flex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homer High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	9	10	8	32	32
Homer Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	8	8
Hope Elementary/High	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	3
K-Beach Elementary	7	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9
Kachemak Selo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kaleidoscope Charter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Kenai Alternative	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	18
Kenai Central High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	4	8	3	25	25
Kenai Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Marathon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McNeil Canyon Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Moose Pass Elementary	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mountain View Elementary	23	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	24
Nanwalek Elementary/High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nikiski Middle/High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	6	6
Nikiski North Star Elementary	22	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	28
Nikolaevsk Elem/High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ninilchik Elementary/High	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	7	8
Paul Banks Elementary	32	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	37
Port Graham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Razdolna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redoubt Elementary	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	21
River City Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seward Elementary	26	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27
Seward High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	3
Seward Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skyview High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	10	5	26	26
Soldotna Elementary	37	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	41
Soldotna High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	11	9	28	28
Soldotna Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	5	5	0	0	0	0	40	40
Soldotna Montessori Charter	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Soldotna Prep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sterling Elementary	10	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	14
Susan B. English	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tebughna Elementary/High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tustumena Elementary	12	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14
Voznesenka	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	7
West Homer Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553

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SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNICATION

Title:	Exhibit Revisions		
Date:	January 27, 2014	Item Number:	
Administrator:	Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent <i>Dave Jones</i> Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent <i>Sean Dusek</i>		
Attachments:	E 6141(a.1-2) Curriculum Development Process E 6141(b) Curriculum Content Review Cycle E 6141(c.1) New/Revised Course Development and Adoption Guide (New) E 6141(c.2) Approval for New or Revised Course/Programs (New) E 6141(d.1-3) Proposal for Curriculum Addition/Revision Outside of the Cycle (New)		

Action Needed For Discussion Information Other: _____

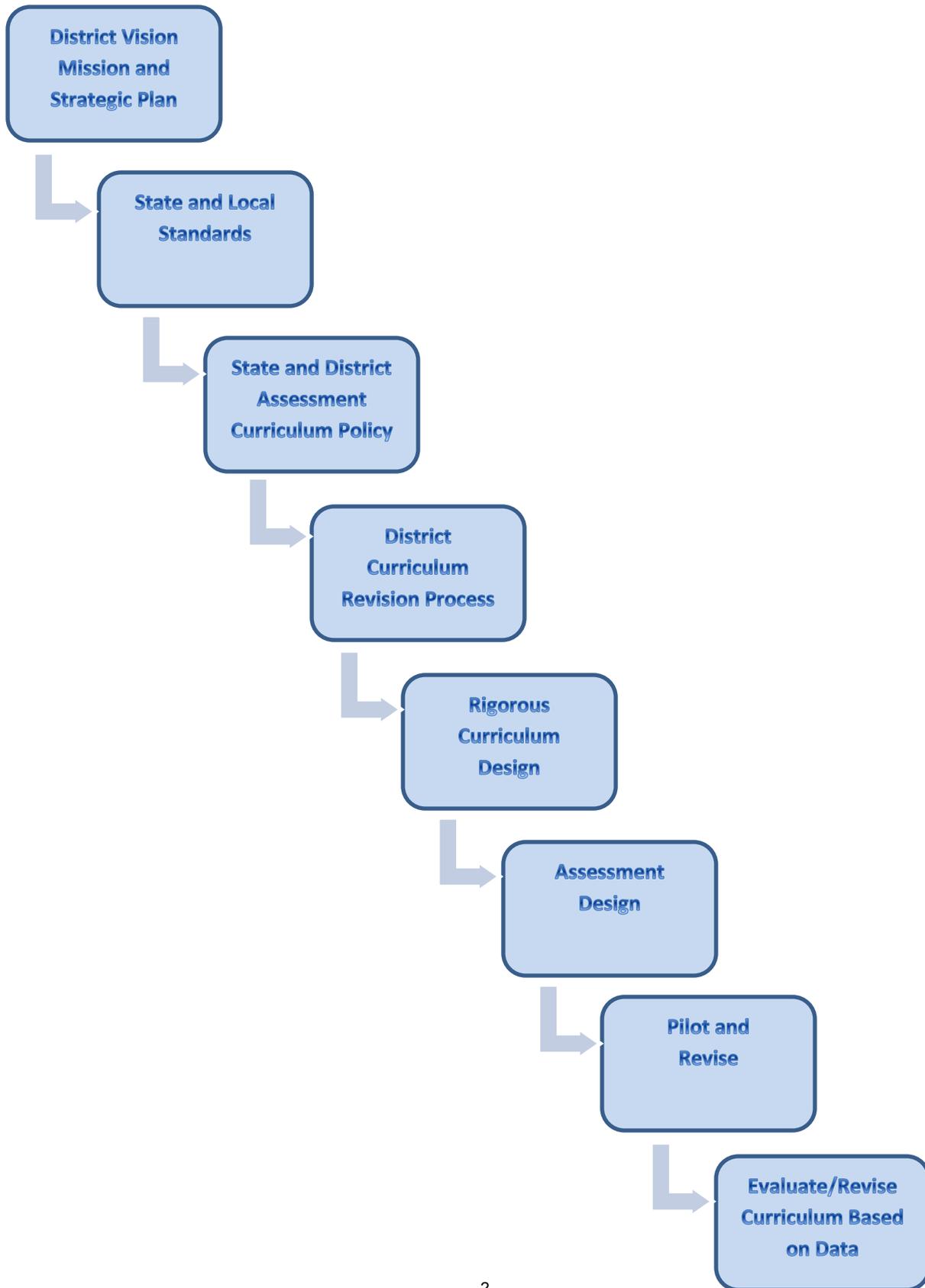
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Per BB 9313: "Exhibit pages are intended to be easily updated. They are provided as information items to Board members but are not subject to approval."

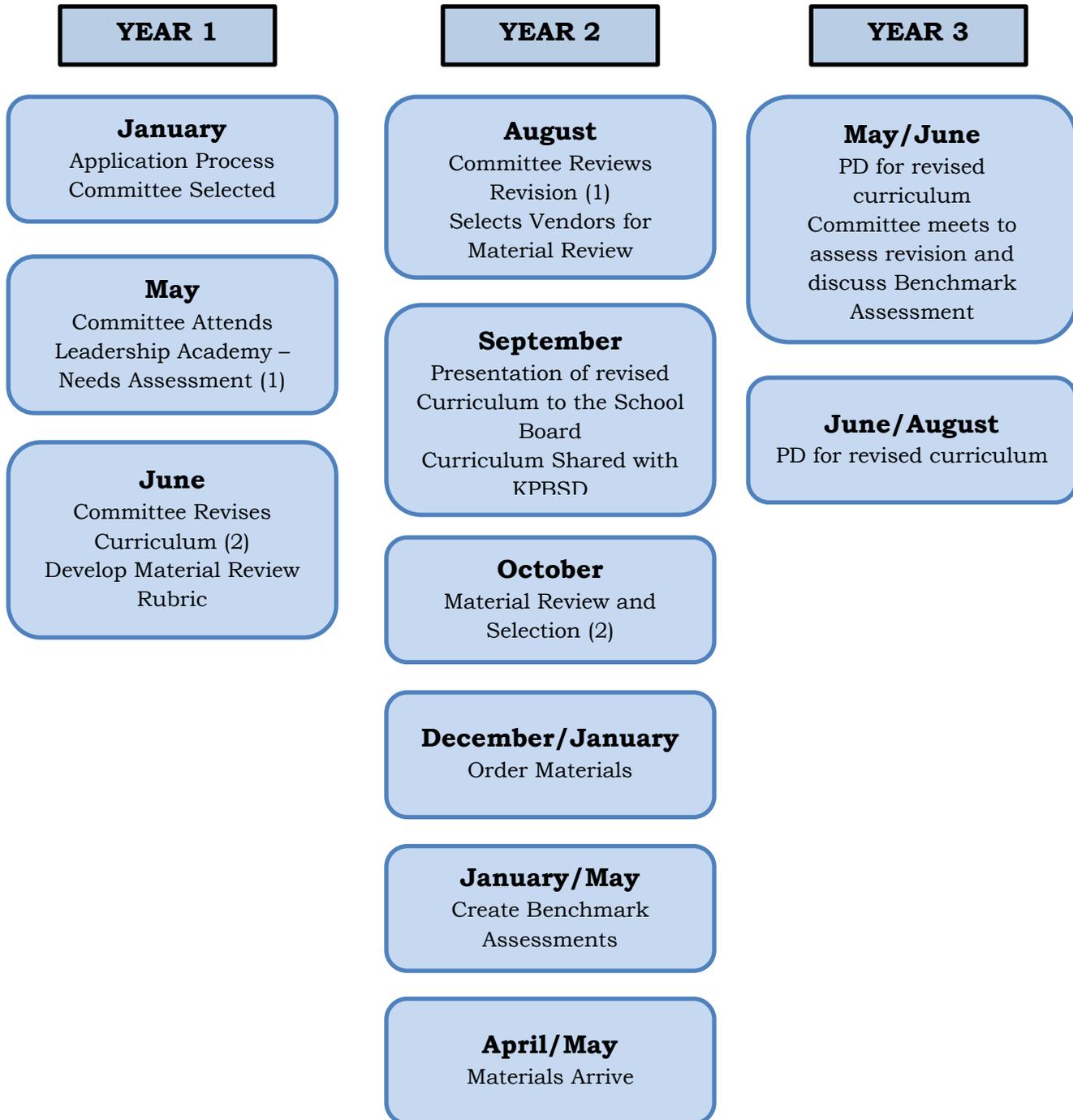
The attached exhibits are new and revised exhibits for our curriculum development process and for new or revised course development.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Curriculum Development Process



Curriculum Development Process



Curriculum Content Review Cycle

2013-15	2014-16	2015-17	2016-18	2017-19	2018-20
Science Physical Education Social Studies	Health English Language Arts	World Language Music	Vocational Education	English Language Arts	Math.

2019-21	2020-22	2021-23	2022-24	2023-25	2024-26
Social Studies Physical Education	Science Health	World Language Music	Vocational Education	English Language Arts	Math.

New/Revised Course Development and Adoption Guide

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has the responsibility of maintaining and insuring high quality courses and programs in the curriculum of its schools. Curriculum offerings must meet the rigorous requirements and standards of the Alaska Department of Education. The high school shall meet classification and accreditation standards for the North West Association of Accredited Schools.

Courses/programs recommended for adoption into the curriculum outside of the curriculum cycle (*E 6141 b Curriculum Content Review Cycle*) must be submitted in writing to the Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator no later than October 1 each year and contain a complete description with substantial support and justification. The proposal should include:

1. A statement of need
2. Department classification, length of course, and credit
3. A statement of purpose and/overview of goals and instructional objectives and aligned state standards
4. Course/Program outline
5. Research-based instructional methods and strategies for the course/program
6. A list of materials including core and supplemental resources – including the cost of such materials
7. Assessments to measure student progress – including formative and end of course (benchmark if applicable)
8. Available facilities and personnel
9. Other

Following the Curriculum and Assessment Committee's study (or the Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator) and approval, the new course/program will be recommended to the Director of Secondary Education. Following the Director of Secondary Education's approval, the new course will be recommended to the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for final approval.

2/14

Approval for New or Revised Course/Programs

New or revised course/program: A course or program that has not previously been taught in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. The course or program fulfills the requirements necessary to be accepted into the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Course of Studies

Step 1

Originator(s) contacts the Curriculum Coordinator to propose a new or revised course and to review the course proposal process. *(E 6141d)*

Step 2

Originator(s) completes New or revised course proposal form - *(E 6141d)*

Step 3

Curriculum Coordinator presents completed *E 6141d* to District Instructional Team.
Administration may request additional information from the originator before making a final recommendation to the Assistant Superintendent.

Step 4

Assistant Superintendent makes recommendation to School Board for final approval and implementation.

Proposal for Curriculum Addition/Revision Outside of the Cycle

School and Department: _____

Addition

Revision

Course Name: _____

Timeline: Department Heads/Teacher must complete the following and submit to your Principal by October 1st.

PROCESS (Each step must be completed)

Note: If applicable, a professional discussion and consensus among school administration, department members, faculty, or School Site Council members to support the addition or revision of a course.

1. Rationale/Need for course or change:

2. What are the possible impacts of this change?
 - o To your department?

 - o Other departments?

 - o To your school?

3. Course is for which grade level(s)? 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

4. Credit toward graduation: Required, or Elective

5. Semester, or Full Year Course

6. How will this course positively impact academic achievement on the Alaska SBA or HSGQE?
7. Write a two – three sentence course description to be published in the KPBSD Master Course Guide.
8. Are there any course prerequisites or recommendations? List and describe.
9. Check and explain any financial requirements for this course?
- Materials:

 - Equipment:

 - Staffing:
 - Existing Staff

 - Additional Staff

 - Professional Development
 - Staff Development

 - Curriculum/Assessment Writing
10. Types of Materials (check all that apply)
- Text Book Staff Development Software
 - Web Site DVD Assessments
 - Web-Based Other (please describe)

The materials submitted for approval include digital components* Yes No

**A copy of the Technology work order is required*

Describe the instructional materials:

Describe the intended use of the instructional materials:

11. How many students do you estimate will be impacted by this course or interested in this course?

12. When will this course be offered for the first time?

13. Who will be the primary teacher for this course?

Signatures of Approval from School

Date

Teacher

Date:

Department Head

Date:

School Principal

Date:

Curriculum Unit Organizers should be submitted with this application. Each Unit of Study for the course is required for final approval by the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. Final approval and notification will be decided on or before December 1 of the school year.



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KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEDIA RELEASE

KPBSD earns two financial reporting awards

Soldotna, January 14, 2014—the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has received two awards: a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE) and the prestigious Meritorious Budget Award (MBA).



One of 126 school districts nationwide, and one of only two school districts in Alaska, KPBSD has received the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International's prestigious Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for their 2012-2013 annual budget document. In a press release, ASBO wrote, "As recipients of the Meritorious Budget Award, these school districts have demonstrated excellence in budget presentation through understandable and clear budget guidelines; state of the art budget practices; short- and long-term goals; sound fiscal management practices; and professional growth for the school system's budget staff."

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) is proud to honor 126 school districts with the prestigious Meritorious Budget Award for their 2012–2013 budget submissions. The Meritorious Budget Awards (MBA) program, sponsored by ING, promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation and enhances school business officials' skills in developing, analyzing, and presenting a school system budget."

"Each year our finance department quietly works behind the scenes to efficiently manage the district's finances," said Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent. "The annual preparation of the district budget is an enormous task that once completed, is exemplary. All of us at KPBSD applaud the finance department for once again earning the meritorious budget award."

In addition, KPBSD is proud to receive the ASBO International's "[Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting](#)" (COE) award for having met or exceeded the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability. The district was recognized for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, and only one of five school districts in Alaska to receive this recognition.



KPBSD compiles a [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(CAFR\)](#) every year. A CAFR is a set of financial statements and information that complies with the accounting

KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT
GRAHAM RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

FOR RELEASE JANUARY 14, 2014

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requirements—Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)—put forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Each year the CAFR is reviewed by external auditors utilizing GASB requirements. This is the twenty-fifth year KPBSD has received this award.

Links:

[Meritorious Budget Award \(MBA\) Recipients](#)

[Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting \(COE\)](#)

[KPBSD Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(CAFR\)](#)

[KPBSD Annual Budget](#)

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SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNICATION

Title:	National Science Fund Grant-Engaging Underserved Students in STEM Fields		
Date:	January 26, 2014	Item Number:	General Information Packet
Administrator:	Steve Atwater, Ph.D.  Superintendent of Schools		
Attachments:			

Action Needed
 For Discussion
 Information
 Other: _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

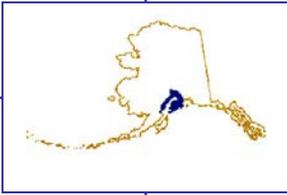
Last spring I helped a few UA faculty members with a National Science Foundation grant application that if funded, would benefit some of our students in Seward and Nikiski. I was pleased to learn last week that the grant was funded. The purpose of the grant is to help students develop an interest in STEM fields through the use of technology that can directly benefit the well-being of Alaska. Briefly, the grant secures funds for students to attend the UA Upward Bound Program. The program will offer instruction in STEM to help students improve their knowledge and skills in these four areas. The students will then apply their knowledge through field experiments using an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The UAF Geophysical Institute will support the grant and has taken the lead in developing and field-testing UAVs in Alaska for application such as; resource mapping, monitoring marine mammals, and fighting forest fires.

Over the course of the three-year project, students will take special elective classes during Alaska’s Upward Bound summer program, in which they will learn UAV operation and science material and methodology, as well as, science communication and leadership skills. They will return to their home communities where, with continued Upward Bound and university support, they will use UAVs to engage in simulated search-and-rescues, mapping exercises, and other engaging, hands-on activities. Each year’s cohort of students will then use their advanced UAV skills as the basis for a mapping project or other significant effort, which will be selected and designed in conjunction with community leaders. The project results will be presented to community members at a public meeting.

Fifteen students from Nikiski HS and fifteen from Seward HS will participate, as well as, a science teacher from each school. I will have more information on this after the next organizational meeting at the end of February.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

N/A



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

January 22, 2014

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol Room 429
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Supporting Comment on Senate Bill 111

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am writing on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) to support as introduced, Senate Bill 111 that repeals the secondary student competency examination and related requirements. When the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) was first put into place, it raised the graduation bar for some of KPBSD's students. In response to this, my district increased various student accountability measures and also did more to help our struggling learners. Today, more than 95% of our seniors pass the HSGQE. In reflection, the exam did what it was designed to do - provide more accountability - but, is now just a small hurdle in the myriad of KPBSD high school requirements.

As you know, our students are tested more today than ever before. While I don't dispute the importance of assessment, I do feel that there must be sensitivity to ensure that a formal exam is providing important student learning data. I believe that we are now at this point with the HSGQE. We gather the same student learning data through the state's required Standards Based Assessment.

A further consideration that supports this bill is the cost of administering the HSGQE. Although the cost of the spring administration is a part of the annual Standards Based Assessment, the fall retake of the HSGQE costs the district more than \$4,500 in substitute teacher costs. The other unseen costs of this exam, e.g., lost instruction time and administrative oversight, must also be considered when making this consideration. We welcome any reduction in expenditures to help us respond to a looming multi-million dollar deficit.

Please let me know if I can provide more information on why KPBSD supports SB 111. Passage of this bill will provide some relief to the numerous mandates that we face.

Sincerely,

Steve Atwater, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

January 16, 2014

The Valdez Star
Lee Revis, Editor
P.O. Box 2949
Valdez, AK 99686

RE: Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Revis:

Early in the afternoon of January 10, we learned that a bus transporting Kenai Central High School and Skyview High School students, coaches, and chaperones to a ski meet in Valdez, had been in an accident close to Thompson Pass. Soon thereafter we learned that, what seemed like, much of the Valdez community was responding.

Now that we can reflect on what took place, we recognize that the efforts of: Alaska State Troopers; the Valdez Emergency Services; Valdez City Police; the Valdez City Schools; personnel at Valdez Providence Medical Center; and the Valdez community at large, to help our students, coaches, and chaperones secure medical attention and find comfort after this terrible event, was extraordinary.

We are writing to thank each of these entities for embracing the spirit of community and working so hard to tend to those in need. Please know that all of the parents of our students are extremely grateful for the first rate response of the Valdez community to this accident.

Sincerely,

Joe Arness
Board President

Steve Atwater, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

January 16, 2014

Anita Fannin
School Board President
Valdez City School District
P.O. Box 398
Valdez, Alaska 99686

Dear Ms. Fannin:

Early in the afternoon of January 10, we learned that a bus transporting Kenai Central High School and Skyview High School students, coaches, and chaperones to a ski meet in Valdez had been in an accident close to Thompson Pass. The remote location of the accident did not allow us to speak to the coaches, leaving us dependent on secondary information coming from several sources. We did however; quickly establish a direct line of communication with Valdez City Schools Superintendent Lisa Stroh. Upon learning of the accident, Ms. Stroh went into high gear and became our voice on the ground. It was clear to us that she immediately made our students, coaches, and chaperones her number one priority for that afternoon.

We are writing to thank Ms. Stroh and all of those in the Valdez City School District who helped our students transition from the shock of an accident to the safe environs of your elementary school. I know that the students, coaches, and chaperones were impressed by the level of support and by the good organization of the response. We commend the Valdez City School District for working so well with the Valdez Emergency Services. Further, we recognize Superintendent Stroh for going beyond her assigned duties to treat our KPBSD students as her own.

Please know that all of the parents of our students are extremely grateful for the first rate response of the Valdez City School District personnel to this accident.

Sincerely,

Joe Arness
Board President

Steve Atwater, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools