

# John Gregory O'Brien

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Passionate professional educator with twenty-seven years of demonstrated instructional leadership in a variety of educational settings. Committed to fostering a personalized, rich, supportive, and engaging learning environment for all students, staff, and stakeholders in the Kenai Peninsula educational community.

## CORE SKILLS

-Effective Instruction & Leadership	-Proven Community Builder
-Student Focused Instruction	-Professional Development
-Consensus Builder	-Curriculum Review
-Current Educational Law & Policy	-Staff Recruitment/Retention
-Policy Review & Development	-Change & Innovation Agent

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Interim Superintendent of Schools: 7/19-Present**  
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Chief executive officer of the school district. Provides direction and vision for overall direction of district educational and operational systems. Development of long and short term plans for district improvement. Oversight of educational standards and student achievement. General operational management of the school district, including budgets and allocation of resources. Oversight of implementation and enforcement of federal, state and board statutes, policies and regulations.

**Assistant Superintendent of Instruction: 7/15-6/19**  
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Provide oversight, direction, and support for all KPBSD instructional programs. Provide support and leadership to the districts directors of instruction, building principals, and all district administrators. Overseeing dramatic change in instruction to a “blended” more “personalized” learning approach involving digitization of district curriculum materials. Serve as a member of District Senior Management.

**Director of Secondary Education & Student Activities:** 7/11-6/15  
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Provided leadership and support to KPBSD Secondary Education programs. Implemented the use of Type M certified “industry experts” in district-wide CTE instruction expanding course offerings. Lead KPBSD “early college” initiative by collaborating with KPC to expand Jump Start to high school juniors and seniors. Helped facilitate exponential growth and improvement in the district distance learning program. Overseeing the digital technology initiative to build teacher capacity in blended learning.

**Principal:** 8/05 – 6/11  
Nikiski Middle/High School

Served as educational/instructional leader of the middle/high school. Successfully transformed a culturally troubled school with declining enrollment and academic programs into a highly functioning school with a new sense of pride and community support. Restored art and created a new musical theater class, co-taught by the drama, dance, and music instructors. Increased CTE offerings with relevant real world programs collaborating with community partners. Changed cultural practices restoring community faith and commitment to the school.

**Maine Distinguished Educator for Teacher Quality:**  
7/04 – 7/05  
Maine Department of Education

Served as Maine’s point person for all teacher quality issues. Provided district superintendents with technical assistance and consultation on The No Child Left Behind Act, “Highly Qualified Teacher” provisions. Responsible for administration and oversight of Federal Title IIA program monies and regulation interpretation. Served as the Department liaison to the Regional Teacher Development Centers, coordinated Maine’s mentoring and induction training programs, and assisted with policy development in higher education (teacher preparation) and certification.

**Maine Principal Experience:** 7/00 – 6/05  
Memorial Middle School & Hall-Dale Middle School  
\*On loan to Dept. of Education for 2004-2005

Served as educational/instructional leader. Implemented early stages of one of the nation’s first one-to-one laptop initiatives (Maine’s Learning Technology Initiative). Facilitated learning &

intervention team development and improvement efforts (precursor to RTI). Developed robust after school programs serving half the student body. District Curriculum Director in MSAD 16.

**High School & Middle School Assistant Principal & Athletic Director:** 7/97 – 6/00

Gardiner Area High School & Skowhegan Area Middle School

Chaired a highly functioning Student Assistance Team. Proactive positive discipline program oversight. Assisted principals with staff evaluations, attendance improvement efforts, building safety, IEP administration and curriculum oversight/development. Also served as the athletic director at Skowhegan Area Middle School.

**Special Education Teacher:** 8/93 – 6/97

Skowhegan Area Middle & D.R. Gaul Middle Schools

Intensive Needs Life Skills Program & Self-Contained Behavior Programs. Served and provided instructional programming for many special students with intellectual impairment, autism, learning disabilities, and emotionally disabilities and behavior issues.

**ACTIVITIES & HONORS:**

*National Principal Supervisor Academy, AASA & Center for Educational Leadership (University of Washington), 2018.*

Deep knowledge of the key aspects of the principal supervisor role with a focus on the CCSSO “Model Principal Supervisor Standards and development principal growth as instructional leaders.

*Executive Secretary of the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association 2012-2015.* Oversee athletic and all student co-curricular activities for KPBSD including policies, procedures, eligibility, and appeals. Also serve as the ASAA & Region III District Athletics/Activities Liaison

*Alaska Region III-Principal of the Year 2009-2010*

Recognized by colleagues in Region III as Principal of the Year. (Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, Cordova, Valdez, and the Kenai Peninsula).

*Kenai Administrator’s Association Executive Board Member (May 2006 – 2010):* Completed a four-year appointment to the Executive Board. Served as President of the KPAA in 2008-09 and lead negotiator for the KPAA work agreement.

2004-05 *Maine Distinguished Educator for Teacher Quality*:  
Selected by the Commissioner of Education to serve the  
Department of Education as a Distinguished Educator.  
Appointment consisted of serving as Maine's point person for all  
Teacher Quality issues. Responsible for Title IIA administration,  
state-wide. Appointment required a one-year leave of absence  
from the Principal's home district.

*Maine Principals' Association Board of Director (2001 – 2005)*:  
Served a three-year appointment to the Professional Management  
Committee/Board of Directors of the Maine Principals'  
Association.

## **EDUCATION**

**B.S.**--Secondary Education. University of Maine at Farmington

**M. Ed.**--Educational Administration. University of Southern  
Maine

**Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study Coursework--**  
University of Southern Maine, Muskie Institute for Public Policy.

**Certificate of Completion National Principal Supervisor  
Academy—AASA & Center for Educational Leadership.**  
University of Washington

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Association of School Administrators (Superintendents)  
Alaska Superintendents Association  
Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals  
American Association of School Personnel Administrators  
Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
International Society for Technology in Education