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***Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education***

Jerry Covey was appointed to the Commission by Governor Parnell in June 2013 as a representative of the general public. Mr. Covey is currently a managing partner for JSC Consulting, LLC. His extensive experience in K-12 education, both in teaching and administration, led to his appointment as Alaska's Commissioner of Education & Early Development from 1991-1995. His employment history includes tenures as teacher, counselor, principal and superintendent for various K-12 schools in both Michigan and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District in Alaska, and several years as Visiting Associate Professor of Education/Practitioner in Residence at the University of Alaska Southeast. He graduated from Central Michigan University with a baccalaureate in social studies and history and master's degree in guidance and counseling. He is active in a variety of community and professional organizations focused on education, strategic plan development, facilitation for governing boards and organizations, leadership team development, collective bargaining, conflict resolution and communication training.

UPDATE ON ALASKA'S SMALL RURAL HIGH SCHOOLS  
AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

FOR  
ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

JULY 2014

BY  
JSC CONSULTING, LLC

# SMALL HIGH SCHOOL SIZE DATA

Total high schools in sample: 126

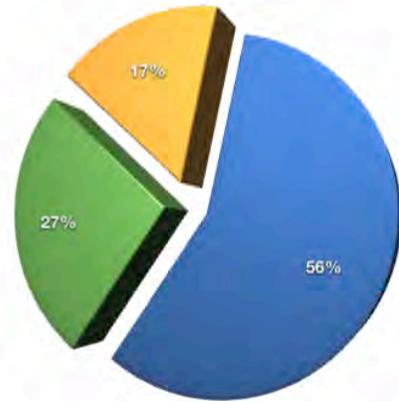
Total high school students: 1,286

OF THE 126 HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE SAMPLE,  
THE NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH...

1-10 students: 71

11-20 students: 34

21-30 students: 21



**FY 2013  
SMALL HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DATA  
GROUPED BY SIZE**

	9 <sup>th</sup>	<u>GRADES</u>		12 <sup>th</sup>	Total
		10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>		

**Alaska Gateway**

Graduation Rate: 34.48% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 40/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Dot Lake School	1	4	0	0	5
2. Eagle Community School	0	1	1	2	4
3. Mentasta Lake School	2	0	0	0	2
4. Tetlin School	2	0	0	0	2

**Aleutian Region**

Graduation Rate: 66.67% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 45/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Adak School	0	1	0	0	1
2. Yakov E. Netsvetov School	3	1	1	0	5

**Aleutians East Borough**

Graduation Rate: 72.73% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 23/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Akutan School	0	2	1	1	4
2. False Pass School	0	0	1	0	1

**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Sand Point School	6	4	6	6	22
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**Bering Strait**

Graduation Rate: 60.87% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 46/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Diomedede School	2	2	2	2	8
2. Wales School	2	1	5	1	9

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Aniguiin School	6	5	2	6	19
2. Martin L. Olson School	4	3	2	3	12
3. Shaktoolik School	2	5	4	4	15
4. White Mountain School	5	1	3	5	14

**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Anthony A. Andrews School	11	5	2	12	30
2. Brevig Mission School	9	5	8	7	29
3. James C. Isabell School	9	7	5	3	24
4. Koyuk-Malemute School	6	8	3	5	22

		<b>GRADES</b>				
		9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Total

**Chatham**

Graduation Rate: 50% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 32/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Gustavus School	2	3	1	1	7
2. Klukwan School	3	0	1	0	4
3. Tenakee Springs School	0	2	0	0	2

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Angoon School	7	6	2	4	19
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**Chugach**

Graduation Rate: 84.21% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 27/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Chenega Bay School	0	0	2	2	4
2. Tatitlek Community School	1	1	3	4	9
3. Whittier Community School	1	1	0	3	5

**Copper River**

Graduation Rate: 68.42% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 8/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Slana School	0	1	0	2	3
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**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Kenny Lake School	6	8	5	6	25
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**Delta-Greely**

Graduation Rate: 66.18% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 15/54

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. New Horizons High School	1	3	5	6	15
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**Denali Borough**

Graduation Rate: 57.14% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 7/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Anderson School	4	4	0	2	10
2. Cantwell School	2	2	2	1	7

**Hoonah City**

Graduation Rate: 60% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 37/54

**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Hoonah Jr/Sr High School	9	4	8	9	30
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**GRADES**

	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Total
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**Hydaburg City**

Graduation Rate: 75% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 44/54

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Hydaburg School	7	1	4	3	15
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**Iditarod Area**

Graduation Rate: 44.44% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 36/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Blackwell School	0	1	0	0	1
2. David Louis Memorial School	1	1	3	1	6
3. Holy Cross School	2	0	0	3	5
4. Innoko River School	1	0	0	1	2
5. Takotna Community School	1	1	0	0	2
6. Top of the Kuskokwim School	1	0	0	0	1

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. McGrath School	5	4	2	2	13
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**Kake City**

Graduation Rate: 77.78% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 24/54

**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Kake High School	10	6	6	8	30
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**Kenai Peninsula Borough**

Graduation Rate: 78.40% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 9/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Copper Landing School	0	1	0	0	1
2. Hope School	1	1	3	2	7
3. Marathon School	1	1	0	1	3
4. Port Graham School	1	1	2	1	5
5. Tebughna School	2	2	2	0	6

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Kachemak Selo School	3	7	5	2	17
2. Nanwalek School	5	5	7	3	20
3. Razdolna School	4	4	5	1	14
4. Susan B. English School	11	3	4	0	18

**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Nikolaevsk School	9	3	4	6	22
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**GRADES**

	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Total
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**Kodiak Island Borough**

Graduation Rate: 83.51% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 17/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Akhiok School	3	0	2	1	6
2. Chiniak School	1	0	0	0	1
3. Karluk School	0	1	0	2	3
4. Port Lions School	1	3	2	1	7

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Ouzinkie School	2	5	3	6	16
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**Kuspuk**

Graduation Rate: 38.89% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 47/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Crow Village Sam School	0	1	2	5	8
2. Gusty Michael School	0	1	1	0	2
3. Jack Egnaty Sr. School	2	0	0	1	3
4. Johnnie John Sr. School	0	3	2	1	6

**Lake and Peninsula Borough**

Graduation Rate: 70.97% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 29/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Chignik Bay School	2	1	1	1	5
2. Chignik Lagoon School	0	1	0	4	5
3. Chignik Lake School	1	3	2	2	8
4. Egegik School	2	1	1	3	7
5. Igiugig School	0	2	3	0	5
6. Kokhanok School	1	3	0	5	9
7. Levelock School	1	1	3	2	7
8. Nondalton School	3	2	1	2	8
9. Pilot Point School	1	1	2	3	7
10. Tanalian School	4	1	2	2	9

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Meshik School	2	4	1	4	11
2. Newhalen School	4	3	6	7	20
3. Perryville School	3	3	3	2	11

**GRADES**

	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Total
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**Lower Kuskokwim**

Graduation Rate: 37.04% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 51/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Arviq School	1	0	0	0	1
2. Nuniwarmiut School	3	2	1	0	6
3. Qugcuun Memorial School	6	0	1	3	10
4. William Miller Memorial	4	1	0	0	5

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Akiuk Memorial School	4	2	3	2	11
2. Negtemiut Elitnaurviat School	12	1	2	3	18
3. Rocky Mountain School	6	6	2	2	16

**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Akula Elitnaurvik School	10	5	6	6	27
2. Anna Tobeluk Memorial	14	8	2	4	28
3. Ayagina'ar Elitnaurvik	12	12	2	3	29
4. Eek School	14	3	0	9	26
5. Joann A. Alexie Memorial	6	7	6	4	23
6. Kwigillingok School	5	12	4	4	25
7. Z. John Williams Memorial	12	6	4	6	28

**Lower Yukon**

Graduation Rate: 47.33% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 33/54

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Sheldon Point School	3	2	1	7	13
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**North Slope Borough**

Graduation Rate: 70.37% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 42/54

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Harold Kaveolook School	4	4	3	4	15
2. Kali School	2	5	6	4	17
3. Meade River School	7	2	2	5	16
4. Nuiqsut Trapper School	5	4	5	4	18

**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Nunamiut School	5	7	8	3	23
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	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	GRADES 11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Total
<b>Northwest Arctic Borough</b>					
Graduation Rate: 65.09% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 48/54					
<b>Enrollment 1-10</b>					
1. Kobuk School	2	3	3	2	10
<b>Enrollment 11-20</b>					
1. Ambler School	8	4	3	1	16
2. Deering School	5	3	1	2	11
3. Shungnak School	6	1	4	3	14
<b>Enrollment 21-30</b>					
1. McQueen School	8	5	9	2	24
<b>Pelican City</b>					
Graduation Rate: 100% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 25/54					
<b>Enrollment 1-10</b>					
1. Pelican School	2	1	3	2	8
<b>Pribilof</b>					
Graduation Rate: 90% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 30/54					
<b>Enrollment 1-10</b>					
1. St. George School	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Enrollment 21-30</b>					
1. St. Paul School	7	9	1	9	26
<b>Skagway City</b>					
Graduation Rate: 100% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 1/54					
<b>Enrollment 11-20</b>					
1. Skagway School	3	2	3	7	15
<b>Southeast Island</b>					
Graduation Rate: 72.22% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 20/54					
<b>Enrollment 1-10</b>					
1. Edna Bay School	1	1	0	2	4
2. Hollis School	1	0	0	0	1
3. Howard Valentine	1	1	0	0	2
4. Naukati School	0	1	3	2	6
5. Port Alexander School	3	3	0	3	9
6. Port Protection School	2	1	2	1	6
7. Whale Pass School	0	1	1	3	5
<b>Southwest Region</b>					
Graduation Rate: 63.64% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 49/54					
<b>Enrollment 11-20</b>					
1. Koliganek School	2	5	5	4	16

	GRADES				
	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Total

**Tanana City**

Graduation Rate: 100% (2012) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 43/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Maudrey J. Sommer School	2	6	1	1	10
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**Yukon Flats**

Graduation Rate: 21.43% (2013) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 50/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Arctic Village School	2	3	1	2	8
2. Circle School	3	1	0	4	8
3. Cruikshank School	1	1	0	2	4
4. Tsuk Taih School	1	0	0	0	1

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. John Fredson School	9	1	0	3	13
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**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Fort Yukon School	7	11	7	1	26
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**Yukon-Koyukuk**

Graduation Rate: 44.23% (2012) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 35/54

**Enrollment 1-10**

1. Gladys Dart School	4	1	0	0	5
2. Johnny Oldman School	1	2	2	1	6
3. Kaltag School	0	1	1	2	4
4. Merrelaine A Kangas School	0	1	0	1	2

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Allakaket School	4	2	4	2	12
2. Andrew K. Demoski School	4	1	1	6	12
3. Minto School	2	7	1	1	11

**Enrollment 21-30**

1. Jimmy Huntington School	9	9	5	5	28
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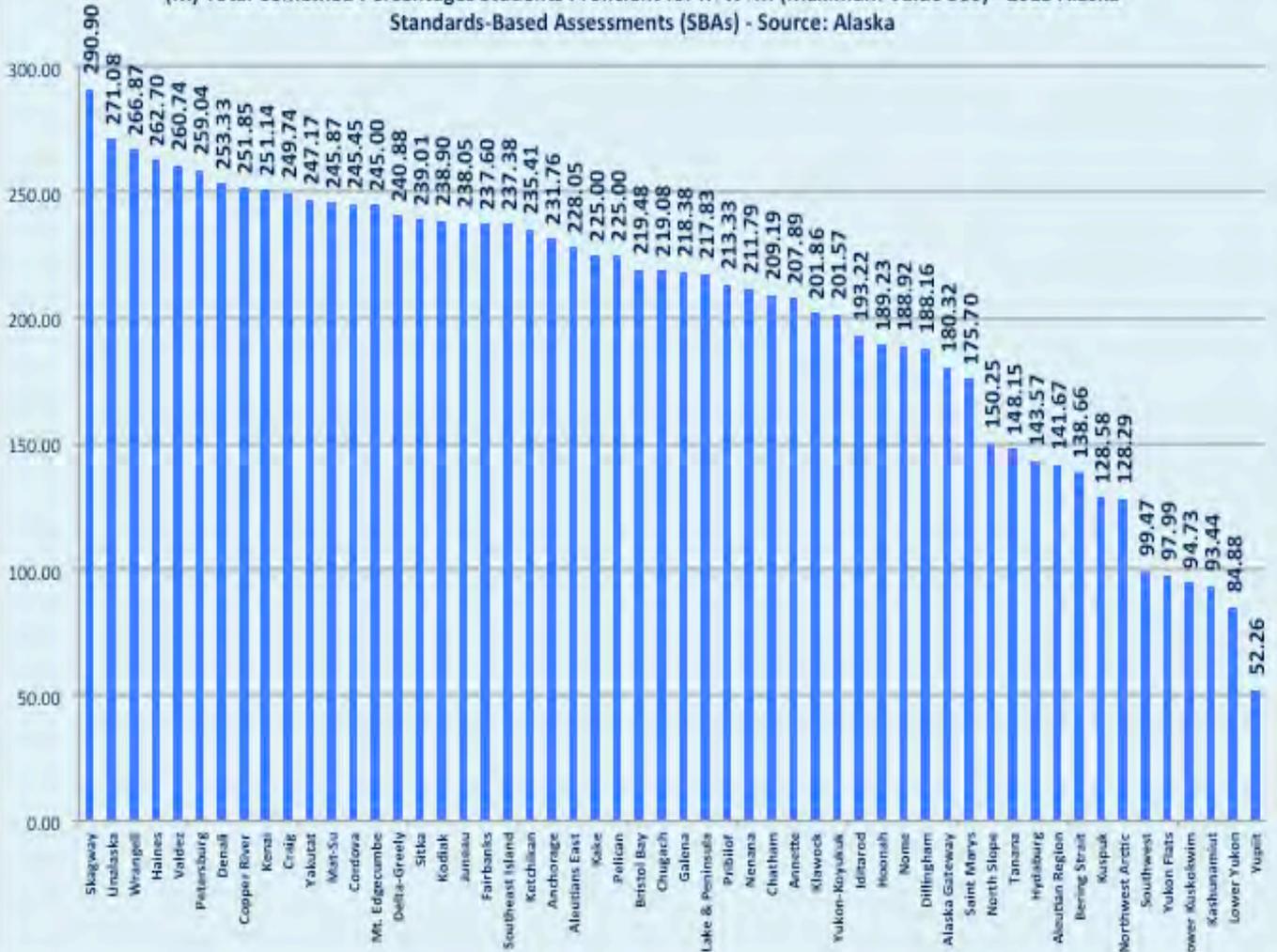
**Yupiit**

Graduation Rate: 23.08% (2012) Statewide District Achievement Rank: 54/54

**Enrollment 11-20**

1. Akiak School	7	7	4	1	19
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Ranking by Districts of District-as-a-Whole Students Proficient in Reading (R), Writing (W), and Mathematics (M) Total Combined Percentages Students Proficient for R+W+M (Maximum Value 300) - 2013 Alaska Standards-Based Assessments (SBAs) - Source: Alaska



# **ALASKA RESIDENTIAL HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE**

**PRESENTED TO**

**ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
JULY 2014**

**BY**

**JSC CONSULTING, LLC**

# RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL LANDSCAPE

## STATUTE AND REGULATION CHANGES

AS 14.16.200 amended to allow:

- Stipend for variable-length programs even if serving students within school district boundaries;
- Annual open period for residential school applications;
- Increased stipend funding.

4 AAC 33.090 was amended to allow:

- Variable-length and in-district residential programs to receive stipend funding.

# **RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE** CONTINUED

- 6 full-year residential programs
  - 3 variable-length programs
- 3 districts currently preparing residential school applications
  - 2 districts in residential school planning phase
- 6+ districts expressing interest in developing residential schools

# **FULL-YEAR PROGRAMS**

## **Estimated Enrollments**

- **Mt. Edgecumbe High School, 400 students**
- **Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA), 210 students**
- **Nenana City School, 88 students**
- **Kuskokwim Learning Academy, 75 students**

# SAMPLE GRADUATION RATES

2013

Sample Graduation Rates  
Rural School Districts

2013

Sample Graduation Rates  
City and Road-System  
High Schools

Aleutians East Borough	72.73%
Bering Strait	60.87%
Chatham	50.00%
Galena City	75.00%
Iditarod	44.44%
Kuspuk	38.89%
Lake & Peninsula	70.97%
Lower Kuskokwim	37.04%
Lower Yukon	47.33%
Northwest Arctic Borough	65.09%
Yukon Flats	21.43%
Yupitit	23.08%
Average	50.57%

Anchorage	76.40%
Copper River	68.42%
Cordova	91.67%
Delta-Greely	66.18%
Denali Borough	57.14%
Fairbanks	73.95%
Juneau	79.34%
Mat-Su	73.50%
Petersburg	80.00%
Unalaska	90.32%
Valdez	82.69%
Wrangell	88.57%
Average	77.35%

# RESIDENTIAL HIGH SCHOOL 2013 GRADUATION RESULTS

## Full-Year Programs

Mt. Edgecumbe	97.18%
Nenana	72.73%
Galena Interior Learning Academy	78.38%
Kuskokwim Learning Academy	14.29%

# **VARIABLE-LENGTH PROGRAMS**

## **ESTIMATED ENROLLMENTS**

- **VOYAGE TO EXCELLENCE (VTE), 260 STUDENTS**
- **LOWER KUSKOKWIM READY PROGRAM, 20 STUDENTS**
- **NORTHWESTERN ALASKA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER (NACTEC), 400 STUDENTS**

# RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

- **Estimated 700 students in full-year residential programs**
- **Estimated 700 students in variable-length residential programs**

# What is driving the interest in residential schools?

- Limited capability of small high schools
  - Demand for access to opportunities
    - Population shifts
    - Closure of small schools
- Success rates of residential schools
  - Public interest and awareness

# **A CLOSER LOOK AT SMALL HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Lack of access to opportunity is the largest single factor impacting the success of students in small remote rural high schools.**

# **SMALL HIGH SCHOOL REALITIES**

- Limited enrollments
- Diseconomies of scale
  - High costs
- Competition from state-funded programs
  - Workforce issues
- Limited resources/scant programs
- Generally lower graduation and lower achievement rates

# **2013 LARGE RURAL DISTRICT GRADUATION RESULTS**

**Barrow High School  
100%**

**NSBSD District Average  
70.37%**

**Kotzebue High School  
63.83%**

**NWABSD District Average  
65.09%**

**Bethel High School  
53.33%**

**LKSD District Average  
37.04%**

# **RESIDENTIAL HIGH SCHOOLS PROVIDE**

- 1. Student access to short- and long-term courses and programs that small high schools are unable to deliver.**
- 2. Option for in-district programs.**
- 3. Schools/districts collaborate on course delivery.**
- 4. Programs meet diverse student needs.**

# **RESIDENTIAL HIGH SCHOOLS PROVIDE** CONTINUED

- 5. Access to college courses, job shadowing, and guided internships with business, industry, healthcare, local, state, and federal government organizations.**
- 6. Options for year-round course delivery.**
- 7. Increased opportunities for Alaska Performance Scholarship, social development, and service learning.**
- 8. Access to increased infrastructure.**

# **NORTHWESTERN ALASKA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER NACTEC FY 08 – 13**

- Operated jointly by BSSD and Nome City Schools
- Both Nome and BSSD have had four superintendents during this five-year span
- Teacher and principal turnover has been typical of rural school districts
- Graduation rate at BSSD increased from 32% to 61%
- 89% of BSSD students participated in NACTEC programs during this time
- 77% of BSSD students attended one or more NACTEC program
- Unemployment in the Nome area dropped from 13.1% to 10.1% between Dec. 2009 and Dec. 2013

**Student #1: 12th Grader in a Village School Total HS Enrollment: 9**

<b>Course</b>		<b>Taught By Highly Qualified Teacher?</b>
1. Literature Lab A	Teacher A	Yes
2. Algebra 1B	Teacher A	No
3. Language Arts 1A	Teacher A	Yes
4. World History A	Teacher A	No
5. Biology A	Teacher A	No
6. Basic Foods	Teacher A	No
7. Yupik Language/Culture	Teacher B	NA

**Student #2: 12th Grader in RANSEP Program at Bethel Regional HS**

**Total HS enrollment: 306**

<b>Course</b>		<b>Taught By Highly Qualified Teacher?</b>
1. American Literature	Teacher A	Yes
2. World HistoryA	Teacher B	Yes
3. Engineering: 3D Solid Modeling	Teacher C	Yes
4. A.P. Biology	Teacher D	Yes
5. Pre-Calculus	Teacher E	Yes
6. Woodworking 1	Teacher C	Yes

# **What does RANSEP mean to me?**

**"It means that I have a chance for a better future and a better life. When I heard about RANSEP I knew it was the best opportunity to get a better education. And when you see an opportunity you either take it or let it slip away. I saw it and took it and here I am."**

**Andrew Fairbanks, Newtok**

# **COST VS BENEFIT OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**

## **COSTS**

- Current stipend amount approximately 6 million\*\*
  - Impact on small high-school programs
    - Impact on communities
      - Enrollment shift
  - Redistribution of formula funding

## **BENEFITS**

- Access to advanced academics and CTE programs
  - Increased achievement and graduation rates
    - High-support, high-control environment
      - Stronger high-school programs
        - Job shadowing, internships
          - Independent-living skills
            - Cohort opportunities
              - Role models

**\*\*Does not include Mt. Edgecumbe High School**

# LOOKING FORWARD

## The Future of Residential High Schools

- Demand is strong – interest is high
- Generally outperform small high schools
  - Can be located regionally
  - Can deliver specialized curricula
  - Partnership opportunities
    - Capital expenses
    - Tax credits
- Economic factors favor larger schools