



# NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak  
PO Box 51 · Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 · Phone (907) 442-1800

July 20, 2020

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

At the July 14, 2020 Special Board Meeting, the Board approved the first reading to the proposed revisions for the following Board Policies:

- **Board Policy (BP) 6141, Instruction, Curriculum Development and Evaluation:**  
The policy has been revised to reflect that Alaska Statute 4 AAC 05.080(e) requiring the review of content areas every six years was repealed in 2018.
- **BP 6146.1, Instruction, High School Graduation Requirements:**  
The policy has been revised to change Freshman Success (.5) credit from an elective to a required course effective School Year 2021; reducing PE (1.5) credits to align with State required (.5) credit to allow students to use the extra two .5 credits to enroll in CTE, other career exploration classes, or electives.

Board policy revisions must go through at least two readings prior to adoption. Therefore, it is now open to receive public comments to these proposed revisions.

Please send comments to Sandy Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent, NWABSD, Box 51, Kotzebue, AK 99752; FAX: (907) 442-2246; or email: [skowalski@nwarctic.org](mailto:skowalski@nwarctic.org).

The **deadline for sending in your comments is August 21, 2020 by 12:00 p.m.**

Board Policies with the proposed revisions are attached.

Explanation to the proposed revisions are:

- ~~Strikethrough~~ = deletions
- **Bold and underlined** = new language added

**CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION**

Note: 4 AAC 05.080 mandates that the Board formally adopt at a regular meeting a curriculum, as specified, describing what will be taught. The following sample policy may be revised to reflect district philosophy and needs.

The School Board shall provide a comprehensive instructional program to serve the educational needs of the district's students. The Board accepts responsibility for establishing what students should learn. Therefore, the Board shall adopt a district curriculum which to the extent possible reflects the philosophy and goals of the Board, desires of the community, the needs of society, and the requirements of law.

Curriculum development and improvement is of primary importance and as such will be part of an ongoing process in this district. The Superintendent or designee and the Leadership Team shall have general coordinating authority over the design and development of curriculum. The Superintendent or designee shall develop a process for curriculum review and development which shall include the participation of teachers, administrators, students and parents/guardians. The Board recognizes that effective curriculum development requires the planned allocation of resources, staff time and inservice training.

*(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)*

Note: 4 AAC 05.080 requires that the adopted curriculum include a statement that the curriculum is a guide for planning instructional strategies, a statement of goals the curriculum is expected to accomplish, the content designed to accomplish the goals, and a description of the means of evaluating the effectiveness of the curriculum.

The curriculum shall be consistent with and aligned to established state standards and the philosophy, goals and objectives of the district. The Superintendent or designee shall keep the Board informed regarding current district curriculum efforts and student achievement. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all necessary assistance to the Board in reviewing reports, information and data on each curriculum area for evaluation and adoption by the Board. Prior to adoption of districtwide curriculum, the Board shall discuss its findings with the staff, community and students.

~~Note: 4 AAC 05.080 requires the review of content areas every six years.~~

The Board may adopt a curriculum review cycle for each area of the curriculum, which shall serve as the timeline for districtwide curriculum development. A curriculum review may be initiated at the request of the superintendent or designee. ~~The Board shall review each content area at least once every six years.~~

**CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION** (Continued)

Learning will be enhanced by an adherence to an integrated curriculum that promotes continuity and cumulative acquisition of skills and knowledge from grade to grade and school to school. Teachers are to align their teaching to district standards and curriculum.

*(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of Instructional Program)*

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.120 Education planning; reports

14.14.110 Cooperation with other districts

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 04.140 Content Standards

4 AAC 05.020 Definitions

~~4 AAC 05.080 School curriculum and personnel~~

4 AAC 06.885 School Recognition

4 AAC 51.310 Evaluation

*Revised: January 27, 2015*

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Note: Transfer students who have earned 13 unit credits in another district may, at the district’s discretion, be excused from the district’s subject area units-of-credit requirements. 4 AAC 06.075.

Note: The following sample policy reflects the minimum graduation requirements specified in 4 AAC 06.075 and should be revised to reflect district philosophy and needs. Unless otherwise stated in a student’s IEP, the district shall require all students in grade 11, and all students in grade 12 who have not previously done so, to take a college and career readiness assessment described in 4 AAC 06.717. However, failure to take one of these assessments shall not be grounds for withholding a diploma from an otherwise qualified student. At the request of a student, the district shall retroactively issue a high school diploma to a student who did not receive one because of failure to pass all or a portion of the previously required High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and instead received a certificate of achievement, provided the person takes a college and career readiness assessment. AS 14.03.075. A person may satisfy the assessment pursuant to the regulations in 4 AAC 06.718. The district is to mail a notice of this option to each such student who qualifies for a diploma to the student’s last known address.

The School Board intends that all District students graduate high school ready for college or a career. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare for Board approval a plan consisting of district graduation requirements. Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school only after meeting the following graduation requirements.

Subject:	Units of Credit:
Language Arts	4
Mathematics	3
Science to include a 1 unit of Life Science and 1 unit of Earth/Physical Science	2
Social Studies to include .5 unit of Inupiaq Studies, 1 unit of United States History, .5 unit of Alaska Studies and .5 unit of Government and .5 credit of Global Studies or another Social Studies or History course offered via online, and approved by the Director of Curriculum	3*
Health/Physical Education to include <del>1.5</del> <b>.5</b> units of Physical Education, .5 unit of Health, <del>and</del> .5 of Employability Skills <b>and</b> <b>.5 unit Freshman Success</b>	<del>2.5</del> <b>2</b>
Electives	<del>6.5</del> <b>7</b>

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

\*Note: The three units of credits in social studies must include one-half unit of credit in Alaska history or demonstration that the student meets the Alaska history performance standards. This requirement will not apply to a student who (1) transfers into your school after the student's second year of high school; or (2) has already successfully completed a high school state history course in another state. 4 AAC 06.075.

*(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*

*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance and Counseling Services)*

*(cf. 6146.3 - Competency Testing)*

*(cf. 6184 - Virtual/Online Courses)*

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA STATUTES

*14.03.075 College and career readiness assessment; retroactive issuance of diploma*

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

*4 AAC 06.075 High school graduation requirements*

*4 AAC 06.717 College and career readiness assessments*

*4 AAC 06.718 College and career readiness assessment after student received a certificate of achievement*

*4 AAC 06.721 College and career readiness assessment waivers*

*4 AAC 06.755 State-wide assessment program for students with disabilities*

*Revised: January 31, 2017*

*March 30, 2018*

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Adopted: April 28, 2004**