

**Fairbanks North Star Borough School District**

# **Teaching & Learning Department**



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

## **2023-24**

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Fairbanks North Star Borough School District  
Teaching & Learning Department  
520 Fifth Avenue  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite D  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Website: [www.k12northstar.org/TeachingAndLearning](http://www.k12northstar.org/TeachingAndLearning)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TeachingAndLearningFNSBSD](https://www.facebook.com/TeachingAndLearningFNSBSD)

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Phone: (907) 452-2000 ext. 11422

# ABOUT TEACHING & LEARNING

The Teaching and Learning Department provides support to both students and educators, and the department encompasses a variety of areas, including the following areas highlighted in this pamphlet.

- The research, revision, and implementation of new curriculum.
- K-12 curricula and textbooks/ materials.
- Alternative credit options for students, such as Challenge Exams and Outside Credit.
- Coordinating and providing support for districtwide and state assessments.
- Support for Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS).
- Instructional Coaches
- Instructional Technology
- Library Media Services
- Professional Learning
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Assisting schools with developing their School Improvement Plans, when needed.
- Coordinating some districtwide student events and highlighting other opportunities available to students.
- Student Supports such as early learning programs, support for military families, and programs funded through STEAM grants.

**Additional information is located on the Teaching and Learning website at [www.k12northstar.org/TeachingAndLearning](http://www.k12northstar.org/TeachingAndLearning).**



# WHO TO CONTACT?

## Teaching & Learning Department

(907) 452-2000 ext. 11422

<https://www.k12northstar.org/TeachingAndLearning>



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Executive Director  
Ext. 11263; [email](#)

### Curriculum & Instruction



**Mackenzie Staiger**  
Curriculum  
Coordinator  
(Elementary)  
Ext. 11436; [email](#)

- Curriculum, Instruction, & Textbooks
- MTSS & mClass
- AK Developmental Profile



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Coach  
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Instructional  
Coach  
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**Tara DeV Vaughn**  
Curriculum  
Coordinator  
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- Curriculum, Instruction, & Textbooks
- Alaska Performance Scholarship
- Outside Credit



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### Instructional Technology & Library Media Services



**Cathleen Edwards**  
IT/ LMS  
Coordinator  
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- Instructional Technology
- Library Media Services
- Destiny
- ClassLink



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**Megan Douglas**  
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**Jim Hameister**  
LMS  
Technician  
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### English Language Learner Program



**Virva Elliot**  
ELL  
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- English Language Learners Program



**Laura Capelle**  
Records  
Manager  
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**Monica Mellado Baltazar**  
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Assistant  
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**ELL Instructional Staff**  
ELL Tutors  
Language Interpreters  
ELL Specialists

### Professional Learning



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- Districtwide Professional Development

### Student Support



**Georgia Sundgren**  
Military Student  
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### School Improvement



**Mary Carlson**  
School  
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### Teaching & Learning Support



**Jen Morgan**  
Materials  
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- Curriculum Revision & Documents
- Board Curriculum Committee
- Course Catalogs
- MAP, AK STAR, & AK Science Test
- T&L website

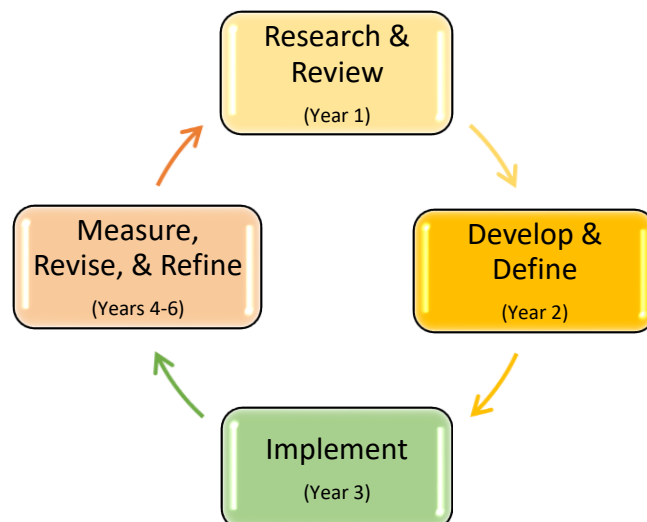


**Flora Rody**  
Admin  
Secretary  
Ext. 11422; [email](#)

- First contact for T&L
- Munis & Payroll
- Time Clock Plus
- Admin secretary duties

# CURRICULUM CYCLE

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's curriculum process is on a six-year cycle, as outlined in [Administrative Regulation 910](#). In year one, the research and review stage begins with community input and a research group meets to complete an in-depth study of the adopted curriculum, research trends in curriculum content and pedagogy, and develop competencies. Then, during the develop and define stage, a group of writers revise the curriculum. Drafts go out for public comment, and the writers review and consider all comments and suggestions. The Board Curriculum Committee also reviews each draft and provides input. After there is a general consensus on the proposed curriculum, a final draft is submitted to the committee for their recommendation, and then it is presented to the School Board for consideration for adoption.



Once the curriculum is adopted, it enters the implementation stage and professional development is provided to assist with the transition to the new curriculum. During the last three years of the process, the curriculum goes through the measuring, revising, and refining stage. Steps are taken to ensure the curriculum is implemented as intended. If needed, revision or refining are considered.

Content Area	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Science	Develop & Define	Implement	Measure- Refine- Revise		
Art	Research & Materials	Develop & Define	Implement	Measure- Refine- Revise	
Music	Research & Materials	Develop & Define	Implement	Measure- Refine- Revise	
World Language	Research & Materials	Develop & Define	Implement	Measure- Refine- Revise	
Health	Measure- Refine- Revise	Research & Materials	Develop & Define	Implement	Measure- Refine- Revise
PE	Measure- Refine- Revise	Research & Materials	Develop & Define	Implement	Measure- Refine- Revise
English Language Arts	Measure- Refine- Revise		Research & Materials	Develop & Define	Implement
Social Studies	Measure- Refine- Revise			Research & Materials	Develop & Define
Math	Measure- Refine- Revise				Research & Materials

## Who to Contact:

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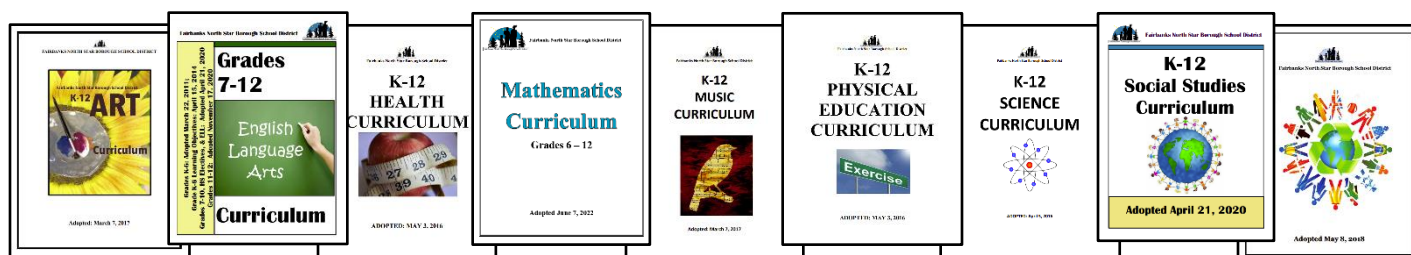
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# K-12 CURRICULA & MATERIALS

The district's curriculum goal is to provide all students with an excellent educational program that not only meets the basic academic needs, but also sets high expectations and provides opportunities for each student to excel and develop individual talents.



Through the adopted curricula, students are provided a guaranteed and viable curriculum that sets high expectations, provides supports for students' learning needs, and flexible and adaptive options. Adopted curricula are based upon state and national standards, including the Alaska English/Language Arts and Mathematics Standards adopted in 2012 and the Alaska Science Standards adopted in 2019. These academic standards clearly outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level, and build a foundation for college and career readiness.

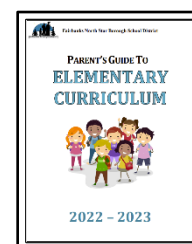


To view the adopted curricula and materials, visit the district website at [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8852](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8852).

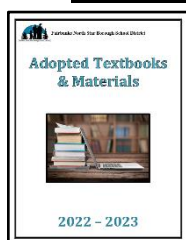
During the 2022-23 school year, the district research materials for K-6 ELA, Health, PE, Science, & High School Statistics. Check out the link below for the Adopted Textbook Catalog for a list of new material. During the 2023-24 school year, T&L will be revising the Science curriculum for grades 6-12, and conducting the research stage for Music, Art, and World Languages. For more information, visit [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8852](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8852).

## Parent's Guide to Elementary Curriculum

The parent's guide can be found at [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8829](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8829). It provides a general overview of the district's elementary curriculum for grades K-5. Information for each subject area is presented by grade level.



## Textbooks and Materials



A list of adopted textbooks and materials can be found at [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8838](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8838). In the spring of 2023, the School Board adopted new materials for K-6 ELA, grades 6-12 Health, K-12 PE, grades 6-12 Science, and 9-12 Statistics. Check out the [Adopted Textbook Catalog](#) for a list of new materials.

## Who to Contact:

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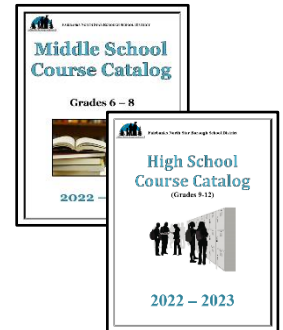
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# CREDIT OPTIONS

The FNSBSD offers students several options for earning credit; Teaching and Learning provides support for the following options.

## Secondary Courses Catalogs

The Middle and High School Course Catalogs list all current courses adopted by the School Board. To view these catalogs, visit [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8878](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8878).



## Challenge Exams

Students currently enrolled in the FNSBSD who have completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade and those in grades 9-12 may challenge courses for high school credit. This option is designed to provide students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery through exam. (It is not a process for credit recovery or course retakes.) Exams are administered several times a year at Teaching and Learning, and students scoring 80% or higher can earn high school credit. More information about these exams and how to register can be found at [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8824](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8824).

Exam	Registration Deadline	Exam Date	Start Times	Location
#1	Friday, July 14, 2023	Friday, July 28, 2023	10:00 a.m.	FNSBSD Admin Center Teaching & Learning (2nd floor) 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, AK
#2	Friday, October 20, 2023	Monday, October 30, 2023	10:00 a.m.	Nordale Education Center 397 Hamilton Avenue Fairbanks, AK
#3	Friday, February 9, 2024	Monday, February 19, 2024	10:00 a.m.	
#4	Friday, July 12, 2024	Friday, July 26, 2024	10:00 a.m.	FNSBSD Admin Center Teaching & Learning (2nd floor) 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, AK

## Outside Credit

Students interested in taking courses outside of the FNSBSD for high school credit may do so with prior administrative approval. Some examples of Outside Credit are courses taken at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, online classes taken from an accredited institution, or martial arts, music, or dance classes taken locally. A list of pre-approved courses and the process for submitting a request for Outside Credit is located at [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8880](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8880).

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## Who to Contact:

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# ASSESSMENTS

Teaching and Learning coordinates the districtwide and state assessments listed below, provides support during test windows, and facilitates professional development opportunities for educators to learn how to administer the tests and use reports to inform instruction. For more information about these assessments, visit the district website at [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8730](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8730).

## **iReady Diagnostic**

The FNSBSD has adopted *iReady Classroom Mathematics* materials for grades K-8. The diagnostic assessment provides data teachers can use to target instruction where it is needed most. For more information about this assessment and iReady materials, visit [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8729](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8729).

## **mClass**

mClass was developed by the University of Oregon's Center on Teaching and Learning. Amplify's mCLASS with DIBELS 8th edition is an universal screener and progress monitoring tool for grades K-3. It has been built on decades of research in curriculum-based measurement science, delivers a proven approach that screens for at-risk students, and provides insight into individual student's reading development. The comprehensive assessment system offers progress monitoring, a built-in dyslexia screener, intervention tips, and robust reports for teachers and administrators. The assessment does not diagnose dyslexia but identifies which students need additional evaluation to test for dyslexia.

## **Alaska Developmental Profile**

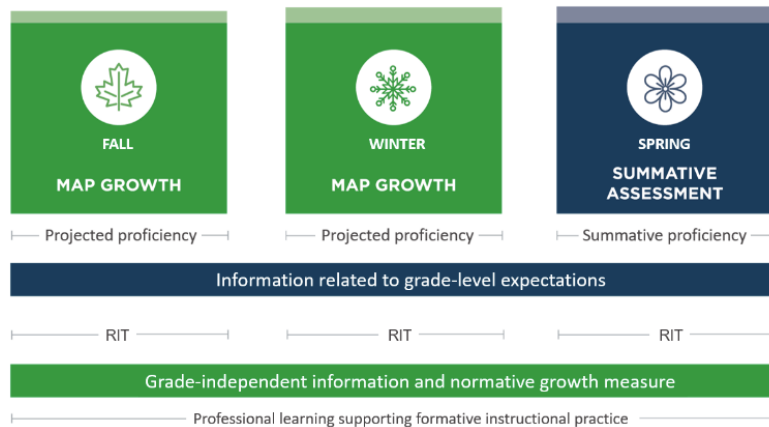
ADP is completed for each child entering kindergarten, as required by state law. The purpose is to identify, record, and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations. It provides summary information to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), and the results may be used to inform policy decisions made by DEED, other state agencies, and the Alaska State Legislature.



## **Alaska Innovative Assessment System**

DEED is developing a new approach to statewide assessments that better reflects learning throughout the school year and helps educators target instruction to students' needs. It streamlines testing by connecting the fall and winter interim tests with the spring summative assessment. It helps amplify student learning by giving educators, students, and families meaningful insights on student strengths and areas to support students in reaching their highest academic potential, and it increases the opportunity for students and schools to show growth. Under this new assessment system, the interim assessment (MAP Growth) is given in the fall and winter, and the summative assessments (AK STAR and AK Science) are administered in the spring.





### **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)**



MAP Growth is administered to students in grades 3-9, with the option for grades 10-12. It is a computer-based assessment that creates a personalized exam by adapting to each student's learning level. It provides information about what each student knows and is ready to learn in the areas of English Language Arts and Math.

### **Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) & Alaska Science Assessment**



In the spring of 2023, AK STAR will be administered to students in grades 3-9, and it will assess their understanding of the Alaska English Language Arts and Mathematic Standards adopted 2012. Students will receive a report with the results from the summative assessment, as well as a spring MAP score in order to provide the opportunity for students to show growth between the fall, winter, and spring test windows. Additionally, the Alaska Science Assessment will be administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 10, and it assesses their understanding of the Alaska Science Standards adopted in 2019.



### **Who to Contact:**

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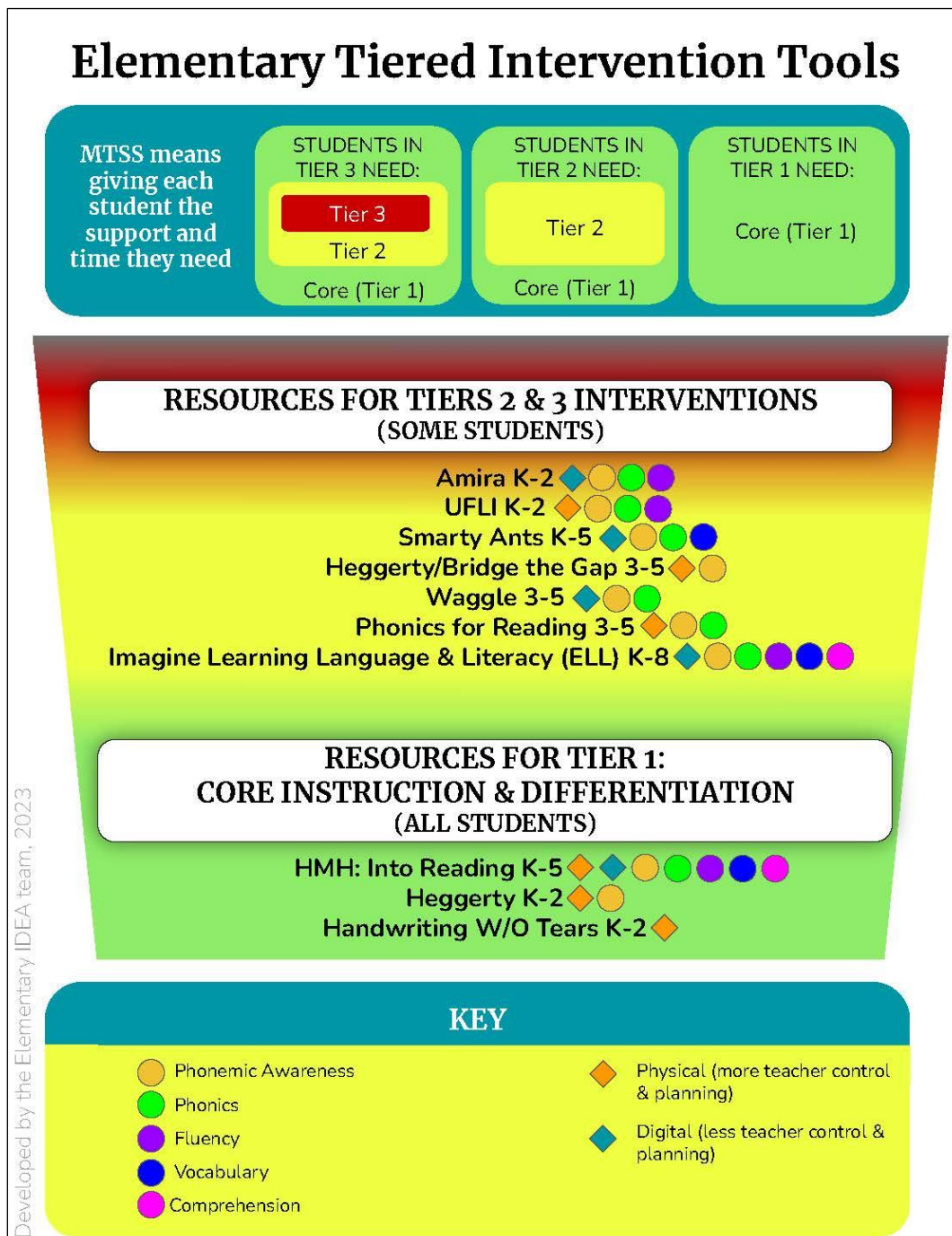
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# MULTI-TIER SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

The FNSBSD uses mClass (K-3 reading), iReady (k-8 math) and MAP Growth (3-9 reading, language, and math) universal screening tools. Visit [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8778](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8778) for more information. Below are a list of intervention tools available in the district.




## Who to Contact:

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# INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

FNSBSD Instructional Coaches help teachers do the challenging work of meeting the needs of all students. Below are some examples of how they help support teachers.

Instructional Coaches	
<b>Classroom support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-planning or supported planning</li> <li>• Co-teaching</li> <li>• Lesson or technique modeling</li> <li>• Observation with feedback</li> <li>• Supportive and encouraging listening</li> <li>• Data-informed instruction</li> <li>• Classroom management</li> <li>• Assessment</li> <li>• Technology integration</li> <li>• Navigating the evaluation process</li> <li>• Coaching cycles</li> <li>• Engage in reflective practices</li> </ul>	<b>Instructional support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train on materials, technology, and curriculum</li> <li>• Gather instructional resources</li> <li>• Provide research based strategies and/or content area best practices</li> </ul> <b>Districtwide support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate PLCs</li> <li>• Connecting teachers with potential collaborators</li> <li>• Identify and share success</li> <li>• Facilitate cross district collaboration</li> </ul> 
Instructional Technology Coaches	
<p>Instructional Technology Coaches support the professional growth and development of teachers to facilitate learning and independent integration of district supported technologies. They assist teachers in the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power Teacher Pro gradebook,</li> <li>• Google Classroom and other Google apps,</li> <li>• Class Link, and</li> <li>• Other district supported instructional technologies.</li> </ul> <p>Instructional Technology Coaches collaborate with teachers to design student experiences that focus on authentic learning and curricular objectives, promote and model digital citizenship and responsible tech use, and explore and pilot new and emerging technologies. Would you like help with Google Classroom, Power Teacher, or other district supported instructional technology? Reach out to Galina Bell or Eric Rush for assistance.</p>	



INSTRUCTIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY



## Who to Contact:

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# LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES

Library Media Services provides support to staff and students by:

- Maintaining a professional library collection for educators and families.
- Selecting and maintaining outstanding online resources.
- Providing on-going professional development to school library media staff.
- Participating in curriculum development, facility planning, personnel staffing, and task forces at the administrative level.
- Managing technical services for acquiring, processing, maintaining, and circulating district-owned materials and equipment.



LMS provides access to over 400+ STEAM, cultural, literacy, and art kits for use in the classroom. Above, LMS Technician Jim Hameister is holding a raven puppet from a puppet kit. Patrons may reserve kits through the Destiny catalog to be delivered to their school site, and they are also welcome to contact Jim and make arrangements to preview kits. Visit [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8698](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8698) for more information.



## **Birch Bark Basket Collection**

LMS has several kits with birch bark baskets, each featuring examples of beautifully constructed baskets. Also included in the kits are interviews with Native Elder basket makers and photos showing the process of harvesting materials and producing baskets.



## **When Will the Salmon Come?**

The goal of this kit is to engage students, teach them about traditional ecological knowledge of salmon, and provide an opportunity for teachers to invite Elders into their classrooms.

## **Who to Contact:**

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# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

The purpose of professional learning in the FNSBSD is to provide comprehensive and sustained learning opportunities to improve effectiveness of teachers, principals, and all staff, with the ultimate goal to increase student achievement and teach them skills needed for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. Professional learning activities are guided by the [Standards for Professional Learning](#), developed by Learning Forward.

Teaching and Learning, in collaboration with other departments, coordinates the districtwide professional development sessions. Throughout the year, the Professional Learning Coordinator also highlights other learning opportunities available to educators, both within the district and through other organizations.

For more information about professional learning opportunities, visit the district website at [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8665](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8665).



The image above is of a “Culturally Responsive Teaching and Alaska Studies” class offered in 2021-22. Teachers learned about different cultural groups and their values through masks and stories.



A small group of PE teachers took their archery training in April 2022. The Professional Development Coordinator, Alica Unruh, got in on the fun.

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## **Who to Contact:**

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# ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

The ELL Program supports schools in delivering an equal educational opportunity to students who speak a language or languages other than English, who speak another language in addition to English, or who have a language other than English spoken in their home, and who are academically achieving below grade level. The program focuses on helping students gain basic interpersonal communication skills and academic language proficiency in English, while developing and maintaining a healthy cross-cultural perspective.

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has approved the revised English Learner (EL) Plan of Service (POS) for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. The new EL POS is effective from 7/1/2023 through 6/31/2028. The EL POS may be revised annually, as necessary. You can view the [EL Plan of Service 2023-2028 here](#).

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## **Who to Contact:**

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# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Teaching and Learning assists schools with developing their School Improvement Plans, when needed.

## **Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)**

In 2022-23, two schools/programs were identified for Comprehensive Support based on graduation rates:

- Alternative Learning Systems (This program includes CEC, Midnight Sun Academy, YESS, SMART, and Star of the North.)
- Effie Kokrine Charter

These schools have engaged their stakeholders through a comprehensive Needs Assessment process and identified intervention strategies to improve graduation rates. Each school has a CSI Improvement Plan; visit [www.k12northstar.org/Page/11601](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/11601) for more information and to see the plans.

## **Targeted Support & Improvement**

In 2022-23, eight schools were identified for Targeted Support for particular subgroups of students:

- Anne Wien Elementary
- Fairbanks BEST Homeschool
- Hunter Elementary
- Pearl Creek Elementary
- Ryan Middle School
- Ticasuk Brown Elementary
- Two Rivers School
- Weller Elementary

These schools have also engaged their stakeholders in a comprehensive Needs Assessment process and identified specific intervention strategies to improve academic achievement for the identified subgroup of students. Visit [www.k12northstar.org/Page/11601](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/11601) for more information.

---


### **Who to Contact:**

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# STUDENT EVENTS

Teaching and Learning assists with the organization of and provides support for the following student events:

- **Battle of the Books** is a statewide reading incentive program sponsored by the Alaska Association of School Librarians. This districtwide event is usually held in February.
- **College and Career Fair** is held in October, with the goal to provide high school students and families with a wealth of college and career training information, allow them to learn about different institutions, and provide the opportunity for them to ask questions of admissions counselors.
- **Interior Alaska Spelling Bee** is held in February and is open to all interior Alaska schools, public and private.  **Spelling Bee**
- **Interior Alaska Science Fair** is usually held in March for students in grades K-8.
- **Kids Voting** provides students with the opportunity to cast their own ballots in a mock election. They can also enter the Kids Voting Poster Contest.



Students also have opportunities to participate in other events. For more information, visit the website at [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8732](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8732).

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# STUDENT SUPPORTS

Teaching and Learning manages the following grants and the programs that result from the funding.

## **Military Student Support**

The FNSBSD is a military-friendly school district and strives to help families transition in to schools as smoothly as possible. Georgia Sandgren, the Military Student Support Coordinator, provides guidance and support to military families in the district. More information about resources available to military families can be found at [www.k12northstar.org/Page/8637](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8637).

## **DODEA Grants**

Teaching and Learning also manages two Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) grants:

- **STEALTH Sciences** – The main purpose of the grant is to sponsor science, technology, engineering, arts, math (STEAM), and health science extracurricular activities. Some examples are clubs, competitions, and summer programs to spark students' interest in subjects linked to high demand and high wage college and career pathways. For more information, visit [www.k12northstar.org/Page/11059](http://www.k12northstar.org/Page/11059) or contact Georgia Sandgren.



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## **Who to Contact:**

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Military Student Support  
Coordinator

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Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

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