



Craig City School District

P.O. Box 800, Craig, Alaska 99921
www.craigschools.com
Phone (907) 826.3274
FAX (907) 826.3322

Jackie Hanson, Superintendent
David Harris, Elem./MS Principal
Josh Andrews, HS Principal
Heather Mendonsa, PACE Principal

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Dear CCSD Parents, Families, and Community Members,

It's hard to believe the holiday season and new year are already amongst us! This time of year invites us to pause and appreciate the many wonderful things in our lives. In our schools, it's time to celebrate achievements, show gratitude, and embrace the joy of the holiday season as a school community.

With that said, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to CCSD's incredible staff for all their time, effort, and enthusiasm in supporting student activities as we approach the end of our first semester. From CHS's Elders' Luncheon, to CMS's Poetry Slam, to CES's Family Literacy Nights, to PACE's Family/Student Outreach Opportunities, as well as each school's musical concerts and classroom celebration days, the dedication and hard work from CCSD's Staff continues to inspire and create a positive impact on our students' lives. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to each of you - our parents, guardians, and community members. Your engagement and involvement in our schools and your steadfast support for our staff makes all the difference in the world.

On the District front, Governor Dunleavy unveiled his proposed FY 2026 budget during a press conference last week. Unfortunately, the proposal didn't include any increases in education funding, rather it maintained flat funding for both the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and Pupil Transportation. This news was extremely concerning as in November, CCSD submitted our student count to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED). While CCSD's budget was created on a total of 677 students, current FY25 counts show approximately 200 students in CES, CMS, CHS and 425 students in PACE Statewide Homeschool, for a total projected enrollment of 625 students. Unfortunately, this projection illustrates a difference of over 50 students. Since student enrollment directly affects the amount of state funding each school district receives, CCSD will receive less funding than originally anticipated and budgeted for this school year.

CCSD, like other school districts across the state, is facing significant budget deficits caused by years of flat funding, combined with rising inflation. Sadly, districts in Alaska are being forced to close schools, increase class sizes, and implement other difficult measures to balance their budgets. Now, more than ever, it is crucial for educators and supporters of public education to come together, advocate, and share how flat funding is impacting district decisions - and ultimately, our students. The first session of the 34th Alaska Legislature begins on January 21, 2025, and once the session begins, your voice will be important. This is an imperative time to connect with your legislators and highlight the urgent need for increased education funding through a permanent increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). By sharing the challenges our schools and students are experiencing, you can help ensure education funding remains a priority from the very start of the session.

Our students will be compassionate, resilient, self-sufficient, engaged members of their community.
CCSD will establish a community of learning that empowers the whole child to embrace life-long learning and a growth mindset.

To close, I would like to wish our entire community and island a safe and restful winter holiday break. May you enjoy this special time with family and friends. As we forge ahead into the new year, we are excited to continue working together to support our students and strengthen our school community.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at 907-826-3274 ext. 4003 or via email at jhanson@craigschools.com if you have any questions. Your input and involvement are always appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jackie Hanson
Superintendent, Craig City School District