



# Southwest Region School District

P.O. Box 90  
574 Kenny Wren Road  
Dillingham, AK 99576

(907) 842-5287 • Phone  
(907) 842-5428 • Fax

*Aleknagik*

*Clarks Point*

*Ekwok*

*Koliganek*

*Manokotak*

*New Stuyahok*

*Togiak*

*Twin Hills*

October 20, 2021

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

Southwest Region School District (SWRS) is excited to work with each of you to provide the best opportunities for your child(ren) as possible. Enclosed in this packet are four documents for the purpose of keeping you informed of the districts policies, educational programs, program evaluations, notifications, a survey, and the different ways that you can provide feedback. SWRS is asking for feedback regarding our educational programs. The documents enclosed include:

1. Parent Advisory Committee: SWRS is seeking parents/guardians to serve on a district-wide Parent Advisory Committee.
2. A Parent Survey: the survey will need to be completed online using the following link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY22Parent>  
The survey is asking for feedback for the following:
  - a. student access to educational programs; and
  - b. students educational needs; and
  - c. best methods of communication; and other topics
3. Consultation Packet: the packet provides information and offers the opportunity for feedback regarding district policy, programs, and funding. All of the following can be found at the district website at <https://www.swrsd.org/Page/13>
  - a. Indian Policies & Procedures
  - b. Educational programs/evaluations
  - c. State & Federal grant information
  - d. School improvement plans
  - e. Information about Equal Participation in programs between Alaska Native/Indian and non-Alaska Native/Indian students

Your input is very important to the improvement of programs. The district looks forward to hearing from you. Accessing the survey online that would be the best option, however, a pre-stamped envelope has been included to return a paper copy of the survey included in this packet.

Sincerely,

Jon Clouse  
Federal Programs Director  
[jclouse@swrsd.org](mailto:jclouse@swrsd.org)  
907 842 5287

# Southwest Region Schools is Seeking **Parent Advisory Committee Members**



## Parent Advisory Committee

Southwest Region School District is seeking parents/guardians to serve on a district-wide parent advisory committee (PAC). The purpose of the PAC is to provide recommendations regarding specific policies, special programs, review educational programs, assist in evaluation of programs, assess participation in programs of Alaska Native/Indian students, and act in an advisory role for other items as necessary. Initially, the PAC would meet once each year.

This is the next step to creating a better system of communication between you and the Southwest Region School District.

Some specific items that will be addressed by the PAC include but are not limited too:

- Indian Policies & Procedures
- Title IA, Migrant Education, & Indian Education
- Educational Program Review

## INTERESTED IN THIS OPPORTUNITY?

Contact *Jon Clouse, Federal Programs Director*, using any of the following methods:

- **Email - [jclouse@swrsd.org](mailto:jclouse@swrsd.org)**
- **Phone - 907 842 8216**

Thank you and we hope to hear from you!

# Southwest Region School District



October, 2021

## Parent Consultation & Feedback

The 2021-22 school year is well under way and Southwest Region School District (SWRSD) is happy that you are an active participant in your child(ren)'s education. SWRSD is working on increasing collaboration with parents and tribal organizations as educational programs continue to progress and develop. Communication is a key component to having more collaborative opportunities between SWRSD and parents. In addition, SWRSD recognizes the importance of making evaluations of programs, applications, program descriptions, and plans for improvement readily available.

SWRSD encourages parents to participate in the development of programs by reviewing the various documents and providing feedback. SWRSD will make the following documents available to the public on the district website at: [www.swrsd.org](http://www.swrsd.org). Simply click on the Parent Information tab.

- Indian Policies & Procedures
- Impact Aid application summary
- District curriculum guide
- School & district report cards
- Title IA Schoolwide & School Improvement Plans
- School & district state testing results
- Federal & state grant synopsis
- Indian Education annual performance report
- Migrant program evaluation

Your comments and questions are important to us. SWRSD wants to hear from you about the needs of your children and how educational programs can help meet those needs; your thoughts on the overall operation of educational programs; and how to increase parental participation the evaluation and development of educational programs.

There are a number of opportunities for parents to provide comments or ask questions including but not limited to the following:

- Public comment section of SWRSD School Board meetings
- Public comment section at local CSC meetings
- Complete questionnaire's or feedback forms
- Participate in the Parent Advisory Committee
- Contact your local principal
- Provide comment by email at [feedback@swrsd.org](mailto:feedback@swrsd.org)

If you are interested in being a member of a Parent Advisory Committee, please contact Jon Clouse at [jclouse@swrsd.org](mailto:jclouse@swrsd.org) or 842 5287.



# Southwest Region School District



October, 2021

## Parent Survey

### **Hello!!**

Southwest Region School District is excited for the opportunity to build partnerships with parents in an effort to provide the best and most relevant education possible for the children in your community.

In order to provide that support, the district is asking for your thoughts about four main areas including (1) the educational needs of the your children; (2) how to help parents/guardians support education in the home; (3) the overall operation of educational programs; and (4) opportunities for parents to be involved in the development of educational programs

Included in this packet is a short survey that will help the district gather your input. The information will be used to evaluate programs, procedures, and policies of the district.

### **Survey Completion**

There are a three of ways to complete the survey:

- mail survey back to the district using the provided envelope; OR
- **COMPLETE THE SURVEY ONLINE AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY22Parent>

### **Provide Feedback**

There are a variety of methods for which parents can provide feedback and/or ask questions about educational programs. These methods include:

- The public comment time at SWRSD School Board meetings (*contact Barbara Andrew at [bandrew@swrsd.org](mailto:bandrew@swrsd.org) or 842 5287*).
- The public comment at local CSC meetings (*contact your local principal*)
- Participate and complete survey forms
- Participate in a parent advisory committee (*contact Jon Clouse at [jclouse@swrsd.org](mailto:jclouse@swrsd.org) or 842 5287*)
- Provide comment to the district at [feedback@swrsd.org](mailto:feedback@swrsd.org)

In addition, information regarding equal participation in educational programs for Alaska Native/American Indian students compared to other students, will be presented at a School Board meeting this fall.

Jon Clouse, Federal Programs Director  
[jclouse@swrsd.org](mailto:jclouse@swrsd.org)  
842 5287



## 2021-22 SWRSD Educational Program Survey for Parents

### Overview

Southwest Region School District realizes the importance that parents play in their child's education. SWRSD is working on increasing collaboration with parents as educational programs continue to progress and develop. This survey will provide critical information for educational programs, parent participation, and supporting learning at home.

There are a variety of methods for which parents can provide feedback and/or ask questions about educational programs. These methods include:

- The public comment time at SWRSD School Board meetings (contact Barbara Andrew at [bandrew@swrsd.org](mailto:bandrew@swrsd.org) or 907 842 5287 to be put on the agenda)
- The public comment time at local CSC meetings (contact your local principal)
- Participate and complete survey forms
- Participate in the parent advisory committee (contact Jon Clouse at [jclouse@swrsd.org](mailto:jclouse@swrsd.org) or 907 842 5287 if interested)
- Provide comment to the district at [feedback@swrsd.org](mailto:feedback@swrsd.org)

In addition, information regarding equal participation in educational programs for Alaska Native/American Indian students compared to other students, will be presented at a School Board meeting this fall.

### **THIS SURVEY CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE AT:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY22Parent>

**Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated!**

1. Would you be interested in serving as a Parent Advisory Committee member?

This would be a commitment to attending two meetings each year with the purpose of review educational programs, district policies, and providing feedback. You would need to review information before the meetings.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If yes, please enter your name and contact information below (name, email, and phone number):

2. What do you feel are the main needs of your child(ren)?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Yup'ik Studies   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math Improvement    | <input type="checkbox"/> More parent participation opportunities  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing Improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Career & Technical Education (Shop classes, Medical classes, Commercial fishing classes, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science improvement  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling   |   |

Other (please specify)

3. What educational programs are working well for your child?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading and Writing Program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral/Discipline Program                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math Program                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration Weeks (Eweeks)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After School Program/Tutoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Bristol Bay Regional Career & Technical Education program (BBRCTE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling             | <input type="checkbox"/> CTE program (shop classes, fab lab classes, etc.)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yup'ik Studies Program        |   |

Other (please specify)

4. What educational programs are NOT working well for your child?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading and Writing Program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral/Discipline Program                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math Program                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration Weeks (Eweeks)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After School Program/Tutoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Bristol Bay Regional Career & Technical Education (BBRCTE) Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling             | <input type="checkbox"/> CTE program (shop classes, fab lab classes, etc.)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yup'ik Studies Program        |   |

Other (please specify)

5. How well do the activities offered at your child's school match his or her interests?

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A great deal      | <input type="checkbox"/> A little    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A lot             | <input type="checkbox"/> None at all |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A moderate amount |                                      |

6. What information, strategies, or activities can the district implement to help you support your child's education at home?

Examples including strategies to support reading, homework help, parenting tips, cultural activities, etc?

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.....



## 2021-22 SWRSD Educational Program Survey for Parents

7. How often do you visit or call your child(ren)'s teacher or principal to talk about your child(ren)'s education?

☐ Weekly or more

☐ Once or twice per year

☐ Monthly

☐ Almost Never

☐ Every few months

Comment (please specify)

8. In the past year, how often have you attended a public meeting at your child(ren)'s school (in-person or virtual)?

Examples include parent/teacher conferences, parent meetings, CSC meetings, etc.

☐ More than 10 times

☐ Once or twice

☐ Between 6 and 9 times

☐ Almost Never

☐ Between 3 and 5 times

Comment (please specify)

9. Please select the best way(s) for you to provide feedback about educational programs. Choose all that apply.

☐ Monthly School Board Meetings

☐ Parent Meetings

☐ Local CSC Meetings

☐ Surveys

Other (please specify)



10. In your opinion, the Native Alaskan/Indian students in your school are given an equal opportunity to participate in classes, programs, and education when compared to other students?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If no, please explain:

11. In your opinion, the Native Alaskan/Indian students in your school are given an equal opportunity to participate in sports and other after school programs when compared to other students?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If no, please explain.

12. In your opinion, does the district actively seek parental input for the educational programs in the district?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If no, how can this improve?

13. In your opinion, does the district provide meaningful opportunities for input concerning the needs of Alaska Native/American Indian students (i.e. open door policy, surveys, parent meetings, etc.)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If no, how can this improve?

14. Which school does your child(ren) attend?

☐ Aleknagik School

☐ Chief Ivan Blunka School

☐ Clarks Point School

☐ Manokotak Nunaniq School

☐ William Sonny Nelson School

☐ Twin Hills School

☐ Koliganek School

☐ Togiak School

15. What is the ethnicity/race of your child(ren)

☐ Alaska Native/American Indian

☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

☐ Asian

☐ White (Caucasian)

☐ African-American

☐ Multi-ethnic/Multi-race

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.....

16. What grades is/are your child(ren) in (check all that apply)?

☐

Elementary (grades K-5)

☐

Middle/High (grades 6-12)

**END OF SURVEY. THANK YOU!**



## 2021-2022 Annual Notifications

It is time for the annual notifications to all of the parents and guardians of the incredible students in Southwest Region School District. The District is looking forward to building stronger relationships with each of you through increased communication and through seeking feedback from you so educational programs can continue to be improved.

Included in this newsletter are the annual notifications to parents. There are a number of topics for which it is important to receive information about so that you are aware of the systems and process in place to support your child(ren).

There is quite a bit of information for parents on the district website. This information is available online at [www.swrsd.org](http://www.swrsd.org). Simply click on the Parent Information tab to access this information. Each school also has a Title I Schoolwide plan that includes a needs assessment, goals for the school year, and plans to address those goals. These plans can also be found online at the district website under the Parent Information tab.

You are encouraged to participate in the development of the school wide plan and to provide feedback about district and school programs. You can contact your local principal or Jon Clouse (contact information at the end of the letter).



# Other Important Information

## Request Teacher Qualifications



You have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s). If you request this information, the district or school will provide you with the information state licensing including grade levels, subject areas, type of license obtained and the specific content areas for which a teacher is licensed. You also have the right to request qualification information on paraprofessionals that are providing services to your child. Please contact the school if you would like to request this information.

## Schoolwide Title I Program Eligibility



All of our schools qualify to receive federal funds under the Elementary & Secondary Education Act, specifically Title I, Part A of the act. Schoolwide Title I programs allow the use of funds under Title I, together with other federal and state funds, in order to improve educational programs in the school. Please contact your local school or the district if you have any question or would like additional information or if you'd like to be involved in the schoolwide planning process.

## Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)



Students have rights regarding district surveys, collection and use of student information for marketing purposes, and certain physical examinations, including:

1. Consent before students are required to complete a survey that concerns one or more of the protected areas: political affiliations, mental or psychological problems, sex behavior or attitudes, critical appraisals of others of close family relationships, legally recognized privileged relationships, religious practices or affiliations, income other than is required by law to determine program eligibility, and illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
2. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of any other protected information survey, regardless of funding; any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening as a condition of attendance administered by the school or its agent not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Inspect, upon request and before administration or use, protected information surveys of students; instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales or other distribution purposes; and instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

When a student reaches the age of 18 or is an emancipated minor under State law, the parents' rights transfer to the student.



# Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that SWRSD, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, SWRSD may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the **SWRSD** to the contrary in accordance with SWRSD procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the SWRSD to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks or providing educational subscriptions.

If you do not want SWRSD to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the SWRSD in writing by November 15th, 2019. SWRSD has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems
- A student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge.



# FERPA Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal [or appropriate official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure

to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has outsourced services or functions that it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

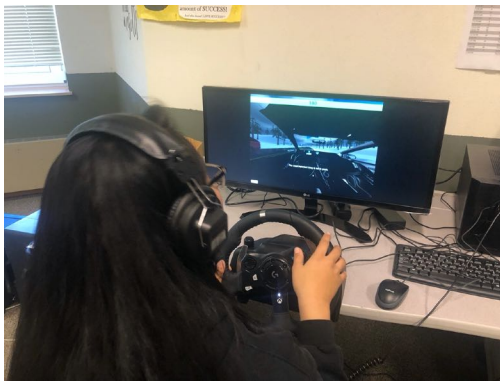
Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW





## Disclosure of Student Records

Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district or institution of post-secondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.



By September 15 of each year, the district will provide to the University of Alaska a list of names and addresses of students in the graduating class who meet scholarship eligibility requirements for each scholarship program. Release of a student's name to the University of Alaska will not be made if the parent or eligible student objects. An objection should be made in writing to the school principal.

By July 15 of each year, the district will transmit to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development an electronic version of each graduating student's permanent record that describes the student's eligibility for the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.

By January 15 and July 15 of each year, the district will provide to the Alaska Military Youth Academy, a report containing the name, address, and dates of attendance of prior students ages 15 through 18 who appear no longer enrolled in any educational institution and who have not received a diploma or GED. Release of a student's information to the Alaska Military Youth Academy will not be made if the parent or eligible student objects. An objection should be made in writing to the school principal or through the parent portal in PowerSchool.

## Disclosure of Assessment information to Parents/Guardians

The school will provide parents with information about your child(ren)'s level of achievement on the most recent state academic assessment. You have the right to request information regarding their parental right to opt the child out of assessments, and information on each assessment required by the State. For more information about the required assessments visit - <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/requiredassessments>

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## Have a Great Year!

We look forward to your involvement in school activities and your child's education. We also look forward to your attendance at school meetings to provide input. You are an important partner in our effort to provide the best education possible for your child. Thank you for your interest and involvement in your child's education.

Jon Clouse  
Federal & State Programs Support Director  
Southwest Region School District  
[jclouse@swrsd.org](mailto:jclouse@swrsd.org)  
907-842-5287

