

Letter to the Editor / Public Recognition for Superintendent Michael Robbins

Submitted by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Board

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Board would like to recognize publicly and thank Superintendent Michael Robbins for his years of dedicated service to the students, staff, and families of our district.

Superintendent Robbins inherited numerous complex challenges, both known and unforeseen, when he assumed the role, and he navigated an extraordinary number of issues with steady leadership throughout his tenure. His contributions have made a meaningful and measurable impact on our students, staff, and the district as a whole.

During his tenure, Superintendent Robbins led with a clear focus on improving outcomes for all students. Graduation rates increased, especially among Alaska Native students. The number of students off-track to graduate was reduced by 50%, and suspensions declined. He brought the AVID program to Kayhi, strengthened intervention services through the implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports, and ensured that every school in our district had access to a social worker. He also worked to maintain Pre-K programs during funding challenges. Superintendent Robbins strengthened the partnership between the School District and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. Through that partnership, the district's nearly \$5 million healthcare debt is now nearly resolved.

He was also instrumental in advocating for increased funding for public education at the state level. In addition to testifying before several legislative committees, Superintendent Robbins spent time speaking directly with legislators from across the state. His consistent, thoughtful advocacy contributed to increased education funding in both 2024 and 2025.

These achievements were recognized at the state level when the Alaska Council of School Administrators selected him to represent Alaska and give testimony in Washington, D.C.

We are grateful for the foundation Superintendent Robbins has helped build and know that his next district will benefit from his continued leadership.

We wish him and his family good health, happiness, and success in the next chapter.

Respectfully,

Katherine Tatsuda

President

KGBSD Board of Education