



Graduation Rate Improvement

A proposal from the Graduation Rate Improvement Working Group

Alonso Escalante, Bob Hewitt, Kim Hodne, Jason House, Kurt Lindemann, Lori Ortiz, Bill Whicker, Todd White, Suzanne Williams





Overview

Ketchikan School District is facing substantial and lasting effects from school closures and student absences due to the past months of the pandemic. With the reality of the CoVID-19 pandemic and the uncertain budget issues in Alaska, this working group (task force) recommends immediate proactive planning and action to provide basic instruction, as well as specific , targeted interventions to at -risk students. This group also recommends an expanded program to support the increased number of families currently using homeschool.





Goals

1

Coordinate with the District's systemic RTI/MTSS process which intervenes when students are at risk of dropping out because they fail to keep earning high school credits, or they slow down in their rate of completing credits.

2

Adjust personnel to provide dedicated, specialized staff to support identified students at risk of failing and/or not graduating.

3

Reimagine and increase support for online and digital learning students.

4

Combine and leverage existing resources into our traditional school models. Eg. Digital Academy, Virtual School becoming part of regular operations rather than standalone programs.



Understanding the trends



Graduation Rate Explained

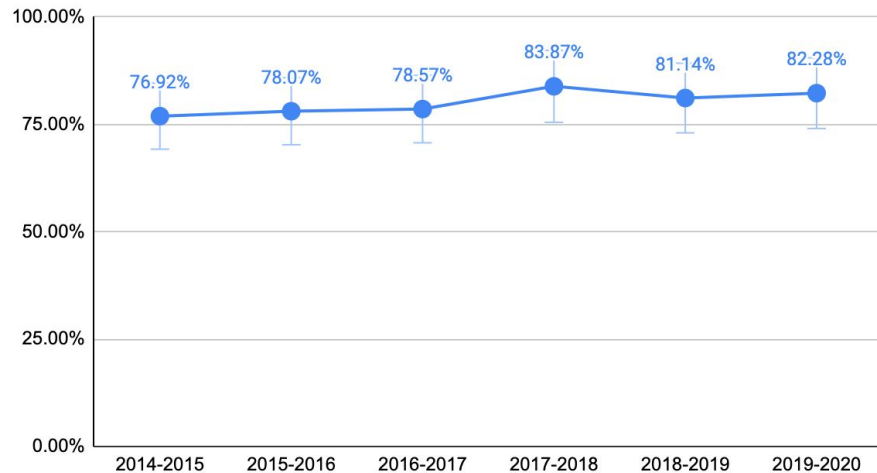


- Federal Mandate for all 50 states
- Cohort graduation year assigned to each ninth grade student in their initial entry year
- Expectation is to graduate in 4 years
- Transfers are added upon enrollment or removed from the cohort upon transfer to another education program with a secondary school track.
- Graduate is defined as a student who has received a regular diploma from school authorities.

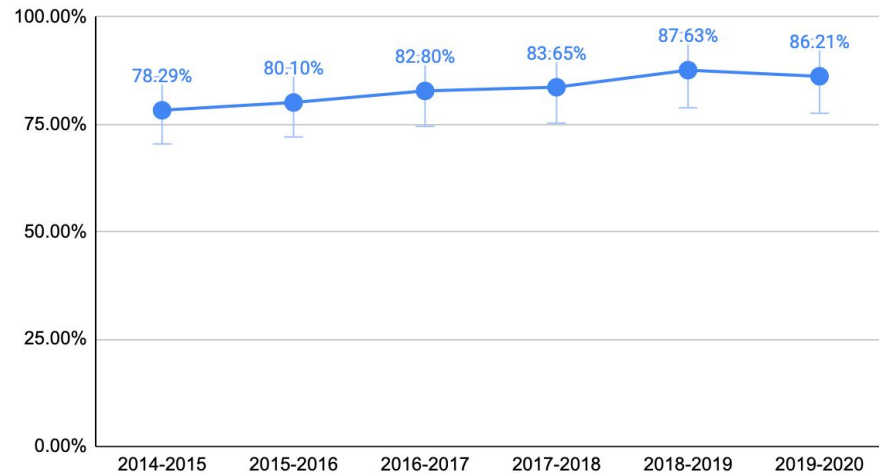
District Graduation Rates



KGBSD 4-Year Graduation Rates



KGBSD 5-Year Graduation Rates



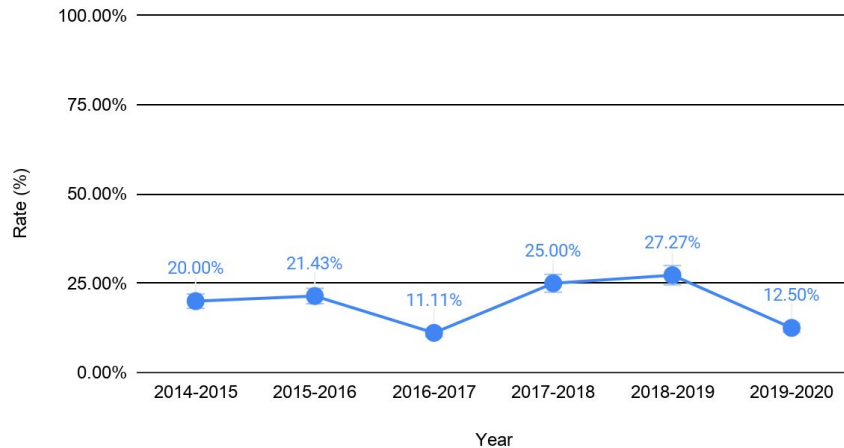
Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development;
<https://education.alaska.gov/data-center>



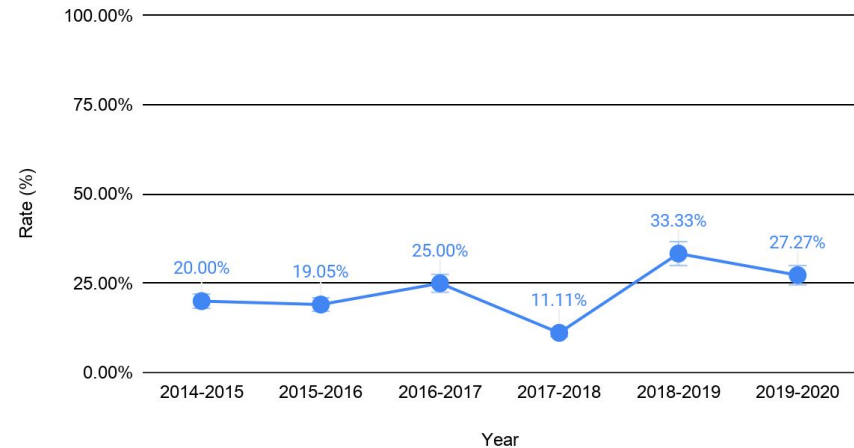
Fast Track Graduation Rates



Fast Track 4-Year Graduation Rate



Fast Track 5-Year Graduation Rate

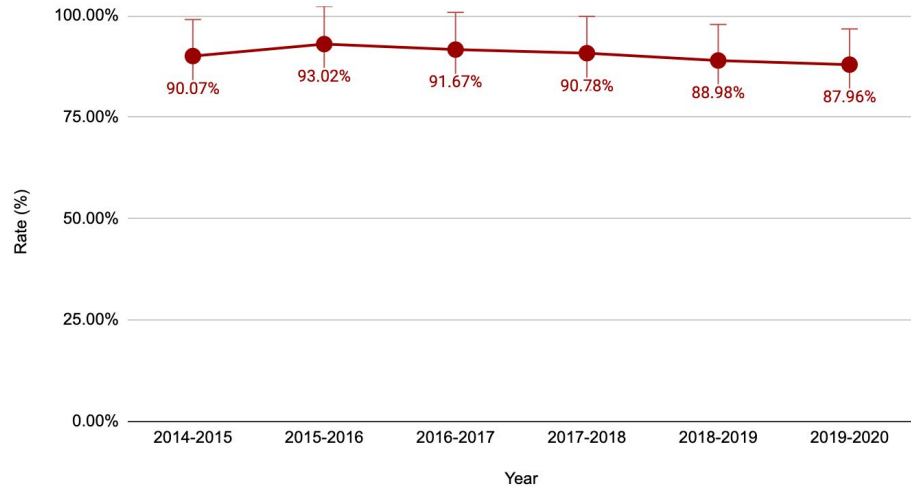


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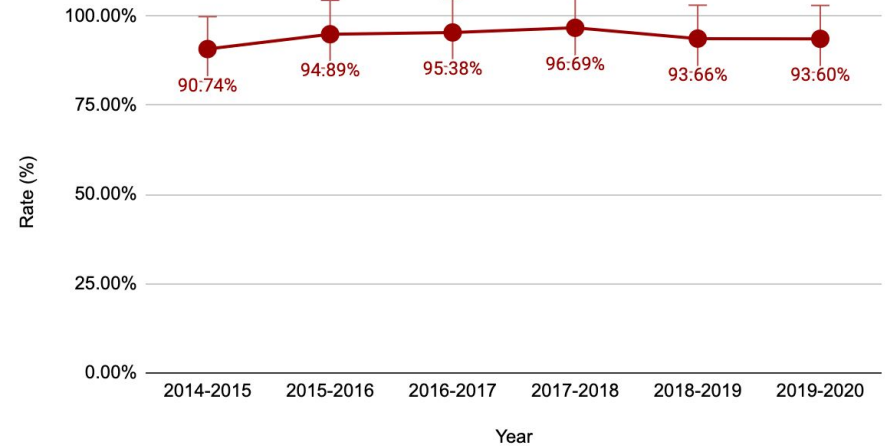
Ketchikan High School Graduation Rates



Ketchikan High School 4-Year Graduation Rate



Ketchikan High School 5-Year Graduation Rate

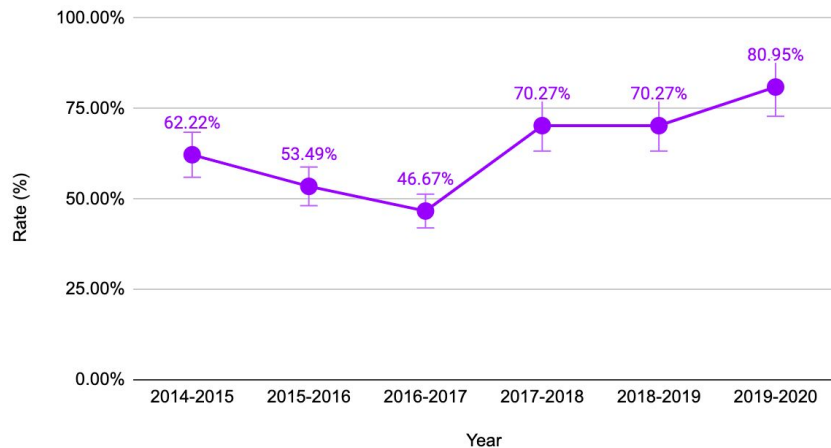


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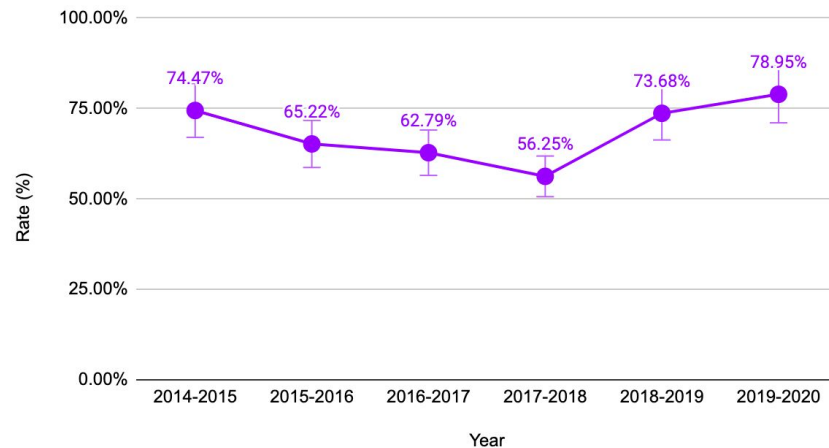
Revilla Jr./Sr. High School Graduation Rates



Revilla Jr./Sr. High School 4-Year Graduation Rate



Revilla Jr./Sr. High School 5-Year Graduation Rate



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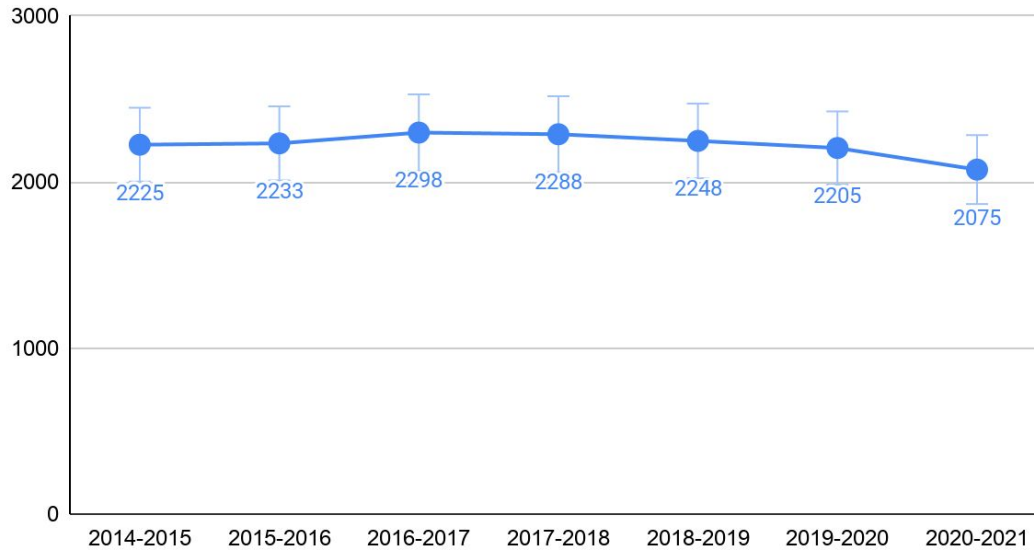


Graduation Rate Summary

Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Fast Track	4-Yr - 20% 5 Yr - 20%	4 Yr - 21.43% 5 Yr - 19.05%	4 Yr - 11.11% 5 Yr - 25%	4 Yr - 25% 5 Yr - 11.11%	4 Yr - 27.27% 5 Yr - 33.33%	4 Yr - 12.5% 5 Yr - 27.27%
Ketchikan High School	4 Yr - 90.07% 5 Yr - 90.74%	4 Yr - 93.02% 5 Yr - 94.89%	4 Yr - 91.67% 5 Yr - 95.38%	4 Yr - 90.78% 5 Yr - 96.69%	4 Yr - 88.98% 5 Yr - 93.66%	4 Yr - 87.96% 5 Yr - 93.6%
Revilla Jr/Sr High School	4 Yr - 62.22% 5 Yr - 74.47%	4 Yr - 53.49% 5 Yr - 65.22%	4 Yr - 46.67% 5 Yr - 62.79%	4 Yr - 70.27% 5 Yr - 56.25%	4 Yr - 70.27% 5 Yr - 73.68%	4 Yr - 80.95% 5 Yr - 78.95%
KGBSD	4 Yr - 76.92% 5 Yr - 78.29%	4 Yr - 78.07% 5 Yr - 80.10%	4 Yr - 78.57% 5 Yr - 82.80%	4 Yr - 83.87% 5 Yr - 83.65%	4 Yr - 81.14% 5 Yr - 87.63%	4 Yr - 82.28% 5 Yr - 86.21%

Enrollment Changes

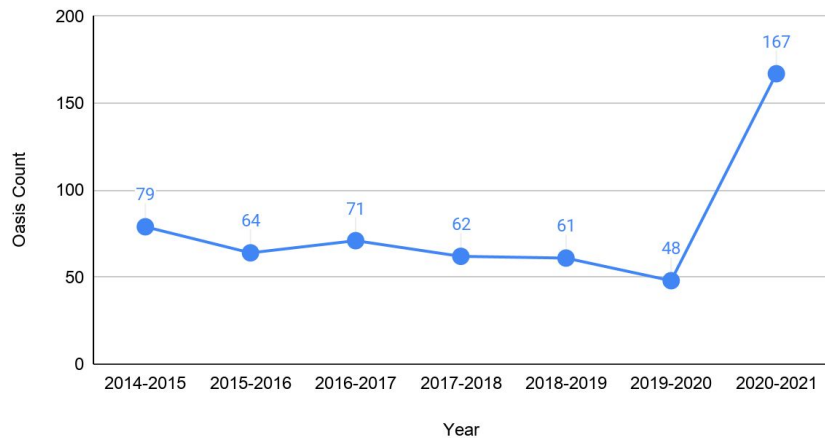
KGBSD Enrollment Changes



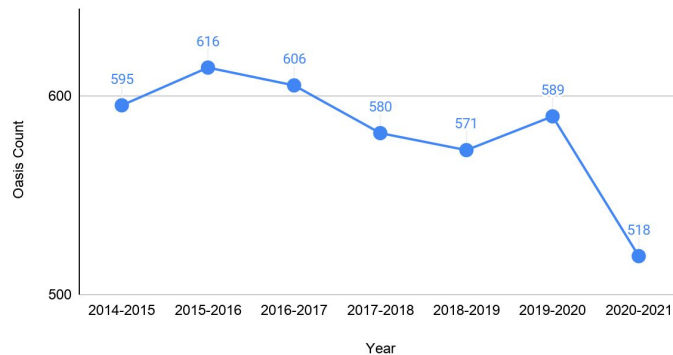
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Enrollment Changes

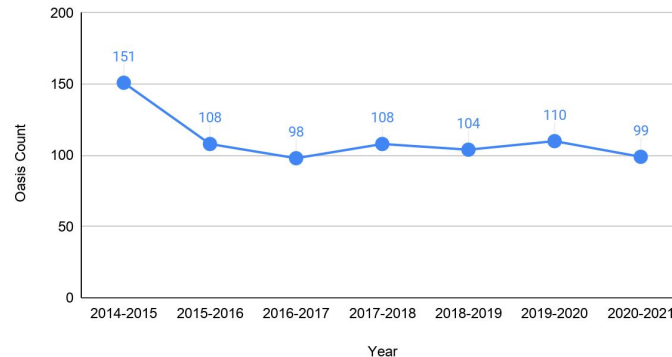
Fast Track Enrollment Changes (K-12)



Ketchikan High School Enrollment Changes (9-12)



Revilla Jr./Sr. High School Enrollment Changes (7-12)



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development;
<https://education.alaska.gov/data-center>



Enrollment Changes by School

School	19-20	20-21	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Fast Track	48	167	119	248%
Ketchikan High School	589	518	-71	-12%
Revilla Alternative School	110	99	-11	-10%
Houghtaling Elementary	358	315	-43	-12%
Schoenbar Middle School	241	253	12	5%
Fawn Mt. Elementary	251	207	-44	-18%
Point Higgins Elementary	270	213	-57	-21%
Ketchikan Charter School	194	153	-41	-21%
Tongass School of Arts & Science	159	127	-32	-20%
District Total	2220	2052	-168	-7.57%

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development;
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Notable Trends

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fall OASIS	76	63	70	60	67	49	169
Summer OASIS	150	138	105	114	131	106	
% Chg during school year	97.4%	119%	50%	90%	95.5%	116.3%	TBD%

Fast Track-Enrollment Changes During the Year

Fast Track is the District's homeschool support program. Student programs and approved curriculum are supervised by a certified contact teacher. Parents provide the bulk of the instruction. A trend for secondary has been to enroll students in online courses that have a certified, content area teacher tied to it.

Constant contact is essential for student success.

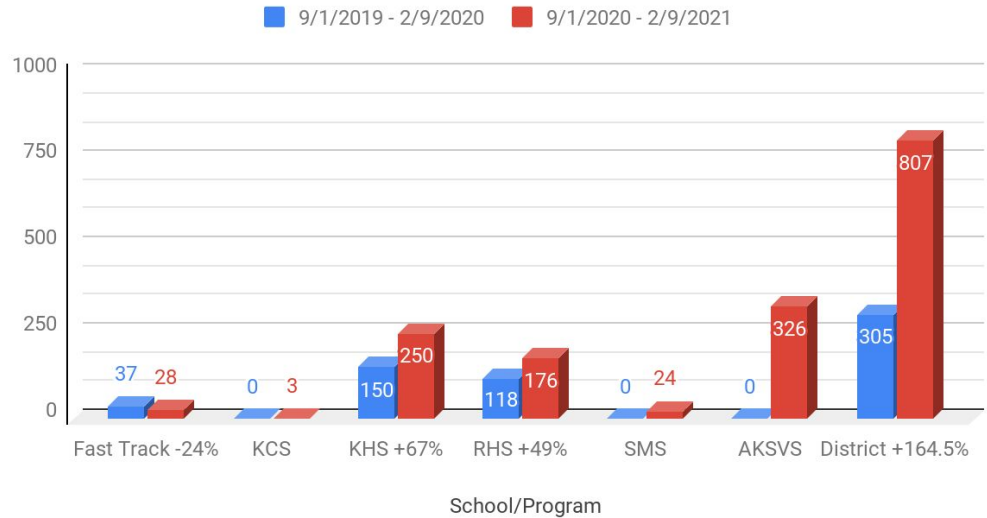
Notable Trends

Virtual Courses

With CoVid, enrollment in virtual courses has increased by 73% when comparing two school years.

Currently, for schools other than Revilla, these courses are served by extra-duty teachers. Revilla assigns their teachers to serve as teachers of record for online courses.

Increase in Online Courses



164.5% increase Districtwide

9/1/2019 thru 2/9/2020 vs. 9/1/2020 thru 2/3/2021



Trend Analysis and Concerns

Dropping Success Rates



Success rates of online students is dropping drastically. In the Alaska Digital Academy course, completion rates have dropped from 86% plus to its current rate of 66%.

Students not ready for the current online environment



Some students chose virtual school or AKDA curriculum and they simply did not have the skills, environment or home support to complete their courses. Additionally, some students did not pass their in-person full credit block courses.

Bubble of Credit Deficient Students



For this year as well as some years into the future, we are facing a bubble of students who did not receive enough credits to be in a position to graduate within 4 years.

Proposed solutions

- Add additional Full Time Fast Track Teacher (2 total). Time for increasing communication with students and families. Time to work with families in the summer. Must have flexible schedule.
- Full Time Online Teachers (2) - Must have flexible schedule to serve multiple programs including Kayhi, Revilla, FT, Tribal Scholars) Time for academic support and intervention.
- One Special Education Teacher (housed at Fast Track) who serves FT, RYC, Tribal Scholars.
- District MTSS/RTI Model including Credit Recovery System. Must monitor with dedicated staff.
- Year-round school model with flexible scheduling of staff
 - Homeschool Coordinator
 - Extend Summer School or multi summer school sessions
- 1 Paraprofessional - (currently exists)
- Clerical Admin Assistant - Online school
- Updating Administrative Regulations to reflect current practices.
- Improving communication around pathways to graduation.



KGBSD Pathways to Graduation



Pre-K

- Houghtaling
- Pioneer Home (Kayhi)



Elementary School

K - 6

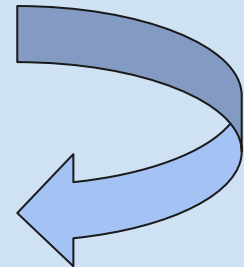
- Traditional District Elementary schools
 - Point Higgins
 - Houghtaling
 - Fawn Mountain
- District Charter Schools
 - Tongass School of Arts and Sciences
 - Ketchikan Charter School
- District Home-School Programs
 - FastTrack Home School
- District Online Learning Courses
 - Alaska Digital Academy
- Summer School



Middle School/Jr. High

(7-8)

- Traditional District Middle School
 - Schoenbar Middle School
- District Charter School
 - Ketchikan Charter School
- District Alternative School
 - Revilla Jr. High
- District Home-School Program
 - FastTrack Home School
- District Online Learning Courses
 - Alaska Digital Academy
- Summer School



Portrait of a KGBSD Graduate



High School (9-12)

Earning Credits Toward Graduation

- Traditional District High School
 - Ketchikan High School
- KIC Partnership Program
 - Tribal Scholars
- District Alternative School
 - Revilla High School
- District Home-School Program
 - FastTrack Home School
- District Online Learning Courses
 - Alaska Digital Academy
- Course Challenge
- Summer School
- Credit Recovery
- Blended Options

Budget Implications

Certified Teaching Staff Costs

???

5 FTE

- 1 FTE - Existing Teacher
- 1 FTE - New for FT
- 2 FTE - New for online support
- 1 FTE - SPED

Classified Staff Costs

???

3 FTE

- 1 FTE - Existing Admin Asst.
- 1 FTE - New Admin Asst.
- 1 FTE - Paraprofessional (existing)

Administrative Costs

???

1 FTE(?)

Currently, the Curriculum Director is serving as Fast Track administrator. Online admin duties are split several ways.

Conclusions

Covid 19 has both shed a light on critical areas of need and opened doors to new models.

This is what we know:

- Smart Start kept our kids in schools with the help of annexes and smaller class sizes.
- Our online programs absorbed a great number of students which made room in the traditional schools for social distancing.
- Fast Track doors were open in the summer and staff served as navigators to families who wanted to learn about all of their options: FT, Virtual School, AKDA, dual enrollment
- 100 learning plans were written for Ketchikan students before the first day of school
- 340 semester credits were earned in semester 1 through AkDA (June 1,2020 - Jan 29, 2021).
- 98 of kids were served by virtual school in first semester
- BUT
- We have 9 (47%) FT, 30 (7%) KHS , and 16 (20%) in Revilla, kids at critical risk of not graduating on time in the next 3 years.
- We have 21 homeschool and approximately 25+ virtual school students who are at risk of missing at least this year's education.
- 57% of AkDA courses are currently below the "F" status (2/15/21).



Conclusions

- Bubble of students in programs gr. 9- 12 at risk for insufficient grades.
 - Suggested Action: Add learning labs to support online learners **on site** using teachers with flexible schedules who can make multiple contacts for tracking and guidance. (Much of this work occurs in the evenings and on weekends.)
- Fast Track Population remains larger until pandemic winds down.
 - Suggested Action: Add a full time teacher for upcoming year. Make a plan for the provision of special services. Create flexible schedule for teachers so that families can use Fast Track support throughout the summer.
- Fast Track, RYC, and Tribal Scholars need more special education support.
 - Suggested Action: Hire full time sped teacher at FT to serve all.
- Distance Education evolving and used more regularly.
 - Suggested Action: Add administrative assistant and para for expanded needs.