

Tongass School of Arts and Sciences- Renewal Application

Summary

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District approved the Tongass School of Arts and Sciences renewal application on December 9, 2020, for 10 years, through the end of SY 2030-31. Tongass School of Arts and Sciences first opened in 2003 and last renewed for 10 years in 2011.

Program Information:

Tongass School of Arts and Sciences (TSAS) has a PreK-6 enrollment of 170 students, not including preschool. The current staff to student ratio is 1 teacher to 14.2 students. TSAS is located at 410 Schoenbar Rd. Suite 201, Ketchikan, AK 99901. The school shares a district-owned facility, Valley Park Campus, with another charter school. The two charter schools share a gym, parking area, playground, and athletic field. The TSAS portion of the building is 18,796 square feet with five joined classrooms, a multipurpose area, library, detached music room, SpEd support rooms, SpEd office and work area, conference room, storage areas, custodial room, school office, and three restrooms. Current expansion plans are to enclose a covered deck for a safe and secure double entrance for the front office. Due to COVID-19, the KGBSD used CARES Act money to rent additional space in a church for the TSAS for the school year to decrease class size. The school had an approved budget of \$2,028,341 for SY 2020-2021.

TSAS budgeted staff include 1 Principal, 1 Secretary, 1 Health/Office Para, 9 classroom teachers, 1 Special Education Teacher, 1 Music, 1 Counselor, .5 PE teacher, 1 Title I teacher, 1 Library Para, 6 Classroom Para, 1 Title I Para, 1 ELL Para, 9 special education Para, 3 Special Education PreK Para, 1 Speech Para, 1 Food Service, and 1 Custodian.

TSAS is a school-wide Title I school. The TSAS program uses Science focused curriculum guided by the Highly Effective Teaching (HET) framework aligned with Standards. Student knowledge and learning is presented through Art. Students are in team-taught multi-grade classes of PreK-K, 1/2,3/4, and 5/6. The school is proud of its joint teacher planning time, use of Conscious Discipline, and the recent inclusion of local indigenous languages. The positive and supportive environment encourages student's educational risks in core content and the equally important Music, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Physical and Health Education, Cultural Studies, and Social Skills development. TSAS ensures addressing standards through an integrated curriculum focusing on the Sciences and teacher lead exploration of topics directly tied to the Alaska State Standards. The use of various professional development resources support teachers reviewing and correlating curriculum, materials, and report cards to standards. Assessment occurs through state assessments, trimester standards-based report cards, portfolios, student evaluations, student-led conferences, exhibitions, and performances.

PEAKS Performance History:

- 2016-2017
 - ELA: 40.26% of students proficient or advanced
 - Math: 53.25% of students proficient or advanced
 - Science: 27.27% of students proficient or advanced

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- 2017-2018
 - ELA: 44.74% of students proficient or advanced
 - Math: 64.47% of students proficient or advanced
 - Science: 76.92% of students proficient or advanced

- 2018-2019
 - ELA: 35.56% of students proficient or advanced
 - Math: 64.04% of students proficient or advanced
 - Science: 55.00% of students proficient or advanced

School Mission:

The mission of the Tongass School is to provide an educational experience for students that:

- Fosters complex educational opportunities that include real-life and real-world experiences and builds on these related to the arts and sciences
- Effectively applies current educational research to school and classroom practice
- Respects, values and builds on the individual and unique strengths of students in order to foster a strong sense of responsibility and self-worth
- Creates an educational environment that provides positive relationships within the classroom, the school community, and the community at large
- Develops respect and appreciation for diversity of people, cultures, ideas, and perspectives
- Increases parental involvement in the education of their children

Goals:

- Incorporate and apply current educational research and Highly Effective Teaching (HET) into the instructional program
- Build and maintain a strong sense of school community
- Increase parental involvement and participation in the school community and in the education of their children
- Build community connections within the educational program
- Involve students in their learning process, using self-reflection and goal setting
- Gain in-depth knowledge and make connections through experiential learning and real-world experiences
- Develop creative avenues of interest and talent that strengthen individuality and self-worth
- Develop respect and appreciation for diversity of people, cultures, ideas, and perspectives

ESEA Title I-A School Goals:

- Alaska Native ELA: School-wide increase percentage of proficient/advanced students on ELA PEAKS by 5%.
- Math: School-wide increase % of students in proficient/advanced populations Math PEAKS by 3%-5%.