

Mike Hanley
Commissioner

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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Alaska Schools are National Title I Distinguished Schools

JUNEAU – Chapman School and Nikolaevsk School in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District have been named National Title I Distinguished Schools by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Commissioner Mike Hanley announced today.

Chapman School was recognized for exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years. Nikolaevsk School was recognized for significantly closing the achievement gap between student groups.

Title I schools receive federal funds to support programs that supplement instruction to meet the educational needs of low-achieving students in high-poverty schools. The National Title I Distinguished Schools Program is a project of the National Title I Association. Selected schools must have a poverty rate of at least 35 percent and have been recognized by the state as a reward school in either the highest performing category or the highest progress category. Each state, using its own selection process, may select one school in each category for the honor.

“The educators, students, and parents of Chapman School and Nikolaevsk School believe that all students can achieve, and they prove it every day,” said Commissioner Hanley. “It is a great pleasure to congratulate these school-communities for their well-deserved recognition.”

Chapman School focuses on interventions and supports for grades K-3 in an effort to help decrease the learning gap between student groups. The foundation for these interventions is based on district-adopted and research-based curriculum partnered with strong data-based decision making for all students. The students at Chapman get a rich and varied education experience thanks to strong community partnerships.

“Through our Title I programs, Response to Intervention program, community involvement, and top-notch staff, we continue to make it possible for all of our students

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to achieve—our students continue to rise to the challenge and do just that,” said Principal Conrad Woodhead.

Nikolaevsk School is proud of its high expectations for students and consistent 100% graduation rate. All students at Nikolaevsk develop SMART goals based on their personal academic data and lead their own student-parent-teacher conferences. All Nikolaevsk teachers work as a cooperative team and operate under a shared philosophy that every student is everyone’s responsibility.

Principal Michael Sellers said, “as a result of the teachers’ efforts toward focusing on individual student needs, adopting programs that fit within those goals, and focusing on research-based methods in instruction, Nikolaevsk has seen years of success as a five-star school and a school with successful students.”

Alaska identifies eligible schools for the award based on their students’ performance on state standards-based assessments. Identified schools then must choose to apply for the honor, providing evidence of effectiveness in research-based instructional strategies, opportunities for all children to achieve, coordination of Title I with other programs, professional development of staff, and partnerships with parents, families and communities.

For more information about the National Title I Association Distinguished Schools program, see <http://www.titlei.org/ds>

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