

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of Kacy Lou Leyba and her continued service in her role as Itinerant Student Support Services Coordinator and Sources of Strength Trainer within the Lake and Peninsula School District (LPSD).

In her position, Kacy Lou provides essential support to students and staff across a wide network of schools and communities. Her work requires not only professional expertise, but also a deep commitment to relationship-building across geographically remote and culturally rich communities, something she has demonstrated with care and consistency.

While Kacy Lou will be relocating to Soldotna this summer, I fully support her continuing in her role. The itinerant nature of her position, combined with her proven ability to effectively deliver services remotely, ensures that her move will not diminish the quality or impact of her work. In many ways, her existing model of distance delivery reflects the realities of serving rural Alaska and highlights her adaptability and dedication.

Kacy Lou has built strong, meaningful relationships with students, families, and school staff throughout LPSD. These connections are foundational to student success and well-being, particularly in rural communities where trust and continuity are critical. High turnover rates in education disproportionately affect rural districts, disrupting student support systems and weakening school-community ties. Retaining a skilled and trusted professional like Kacy Lou is not only beneficial- it is essential!

As President of the Alaska School Counselor Association, I recognize the importance of educators who lead with compassion, cultural responsiveness, and a deep commitment to student well-being. Kacy Lou embodies these qualities in her work every day. Her leadership in student support services and her newer role as a Sources of Strength Trainer further amplify her positive impact across the district.

I strongly encourage LPSD to support Kacy Lou Leyba in continuing her role. Her dedication, expertise, and established relationships make her an invaluable asset to the district and the communities she serves. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Noel Bowe
President, Alaska School Counselor Association