Board of Education

Monday, February 9, 2026 Regular Session 7pm
Valdez City Council Chambers, 212 Chenega Ave (corner of Chenega & Fairbanks), A-frame building behind City Hall, Valdez, AK 99686

A.	**PRELIMINARIES**
1.	Call to Order
2.	Pledge of Allegiance
3.	Roll Call
4.	Review of Minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting on Jan 26, 2026
B.	**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
1.	Public Comment Guidelines
C.	**AWARDS, HONORS AND CELEBRATIONS**
1.	United States Senate Youth Program
D.	**REPORTS/INTRODUCTIONS**
1.	Superintendent Report
2.	VHS Student Representative Report
3.	VHS Principal Board Report
4.	GMS Board Report
5.	HHES Board Report
E.	**CONSENT AGENDA**
1.	Approve Personnel Action Report
2.	Approve Budget Amendment #26-5
F.	**NEW BUSINESS**
1.	Approve FY26 Scheduled 1:1 Program Device Inventory Replacement
2.	Approve Purchase of 12 Welding Booths
3.	Approve 5th Grade Field Trip to Cordova
G.	**BOARD BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**
1.	Comments From Board Members
H.	**INFORMATION ITEMS**
1.	AASB Completed Policies—See Public Content Notes
2.	DEED Flex Friday FY27 Calendar Approval Letter
I.	**FUTURE MEETING DATES**
1.	Feb 10, 2026 Board Retreat/Meeting 6pm
2.	Feb 16, 2026 Policy Review Committee Meeting 6pm
3.	Feb 23, 2026 Work Session 6pm/Regular Meeting 7pm
J.	**EXECUTIVE SESSION**
1.	Go Into Executive Session • Superintendent Evaluation and Q2 Check in • Update on Final Dolores Gard Award Winner after last minute entry and next steps
2.	Come Out of Executive Session
K.	**POSSIBLE ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**
L.	**ADJOURNMENT**
1.	Adjourn the Meeting

Board of Education
Monday, January 26, 2026 Work Session 6-7pm, Regular Session 7pm

Valdez City Council Chambers
212 Chenega Ave (corner of Chenega & Fairbanks)
A-frame building behind City Hall
Valdez, AK 99686

Sonya Ash-Selanoff:	Present
Kalin King:	Absent
Scott McCumby:	Present
Dr Kyra Meyer:	Absent
Dr Kathleen Todd:	Present
Bryan Vincent:	Absent
Carey Wade:	Present

Present: 4, Absent: 3.

A. **WORK SESSION**

A.1.

- Curriculum
- MAP Testing Data

Work Session called to order at 6:03pm and adjourned at 6:54pm

B. **PRELIMINARIES**

B.1. Call to Order
Meeting Called to order at 7:02 pm

B.2. Pledge of Allegiance
Carey Wade led the pledge of allegiance.

B.3. Roll Call

B.4. Review of Minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting on Jan 12, 2026
No meeting minute edits needed.

C. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

C.1. Public Comment Guidelines
Student Government rep Raina Wells shared data as to why students consider or switch to homeschool options:

Why have you considered homeschool?	144 total responses				
Reason	Count		Reason	Percent	
Get a job	66		Get a job	45.83	
Heard homeschool is easier	58		Heard homeschool is easier	40.28	

Faster graduation	52		Faster graduation	36.11	
Other	31		Other	21.53	
Class choices	30		Class choices	20.83	
Worried about school safety	24		Worried about school safety	16.67	
Can play sports through homeschool	23		Can play sports through homeschool	15.97	
Dissatisfaction with currriculum	19		Dissatisfaction with currriculum	13.19	
Dislike one or more teachers	16		Dislike one or more teachers	11.11	
Religious reasons	2		Religious reasons	1.39	
What do you like most about VHS?					
Reasons	Count	Percent			
Seeing friends	129	89.58			
Sports	79	54.86			
Hands-on opportunites	69	47.92			
In-person teaching	63	43.75			
Teachers	59	40.97			
Extra curricular opportunities	46	31.94			
Breakfast and Lunch	29	20.14			

D. **REPORTS/INTRODUCTIONS**

D.1. Superintendent Report
Jason Weber gave his report, no questions

D.2. Director of Technology Report
Megan not present

D.3. Director of Business Services Report
Amber Cawley gave her report, no questions.

D.4. Director of Facilities and Operations Report
Dan Bryant gave his report, no questions.

D.5. Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Report
Jon Berkeley gave his report, no questions.

D.6. Director of Special Education & Federal Programs Report
Rylee Ownbey gave her report, no questions.

E. **CONSENT AGENDA**

E.1. Approve Personnel Action Report
I move that the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. This motion, made by Scott McCumby and seconded by Dr Kathleen Todd, Carried.
Kalin King: Absent, Dr Kyra Meyer: Absent, Bryan Vincent: Absent, Sonya Ash-Selanoff: Yea, Scott McCumby: Yea, Dr Kathleen Todd: Yea, Carey Wade: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

E.2. Approve 2nd Reading Board Review of Policies:
Move to approve as presented. This motion, made by Scott McCumby and seconded by Dr Kathleen Todd, Carried.
Kalin King: Absent, Dr Kyra Meyer: Absent, Bryan Vincent: Absent, Sonya Ash-Selanoff: Yea, Scott McCumby: Yea, Dr Kathleen Todd: Yea, Carey Wade: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

E.3.

- Budget Amendment 26-3
- Budget Amendment 26-4

I move that the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. This motion, made by Scott McCumby and seconded by Dr Kathleen Todd, Carried.
Kalin King: Absent, Dr Kyra Meyer: Absent, Bryan Vincent: Absent, Sonya Ash-Selanoff: Yea, Scott McCumby: Yea, Dr Kathleen Todd: Yea, Carey Wade: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

F.1. VHS and HHES Chair Purchase

I move that the School Board approve the expenditure of $52,724.50 for the replacement of VHS & HHES seating, including chairs, dollies, and shipping, to improve safety, aesthetics, and operational efficiency of shared spaces. This motion, made by Dr Kathleen Todd and seconded by Sonya Ash-Selanoff, Carried.
Kalin King: Absent, Dr Kyra Meyer: Absent, Bryan Vincent: Absent, Dr Kathleen Todd: Nay, Sonya Ash-Selanoff: Yea, Scott McCumby: Yea, Carey Wade: Yea
Yea: 3, Nay: 1, Absent: 3
Dr Kathleen Todd: Nay
Dr Kathy Todd asked how much this purchase is about getting all new matching chairs vs replacing them because they are old, worn and creating floor damage. Recommends buying the amount of chairs we need rather than replace them all. Jason answered that he does not have a number as to how many need to be replaced but by purchasing new chairs, it opens up more event seating in the future. Carey Wade asked where the money is coming from. Jason clarified undesignated reserves.

G. **BOARD BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

G.1. Comments From Board Members
Sonya ASh-Selanoff: Welco Susan Love!
Dr Kathy Todd: Are we on schedule for the Dolores Gard Award? Carey said yes, next at Executive Session. Think we should be recording Policy Review Committee policies reviewed with changes not made.
Carey Wade: Thank Jon for the Work Session tonight.

H. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

H.1. AASB Completed Policies—See Public Content Notes

H.2. December 2025 Warrants

I. **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

I.1. Feb 2, 2026 Policy Review Committee Meeting 6pm

I.2. Feb 9, 2026 Work Session 6pm/Regular Meeting 7pm

I.3. Feb 16, 2026 Policy Review Committee Meeting 6pm

I.4. Feb 23, 2026 Work Session 6pm/Regular Meeting 7pm

J. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

J.1. Go Into Executive Session

- Superintendent Evaluation and Q2 Check In
- Dolores Gard Nomination Review and Selection

Move to go into Executive Session at at 7:49pm. This motion, made by Dr Kathleen Todd and seconded by Scott McCumby, Carried.
Kalin King: Absent, Dr Kyra Meyer: Absent, Bryan Vincent: Absent, Sonya Ash-Selanoff: Yea, Scott McCumby: Yea, Dr Kathleen Todd: Yea, Carey Wade: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

J.2. Come Out of Executive Session

K. **POSSIBLE ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

L. **ADJOURNMENT**

L.1. Adjourn the Meeting
Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Valdez City Schools

PO Box 398 · 1112 West Klutina Street · Valdez, AK 99686
Telephone (907) 834-4701 · Fax (907) 835-4964
www.valdezcityschools.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - JANUARY 14, 2026

VHS Student Erik Vincent Selected for the 2026 United States Senate Youth Program

VALDEZ, ALASKA - Valdez High School senior Erik Vincent has been selected as one of two students representing the State of Alaska in the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP).

The U.S. Senate Youth Program is an extremely competitive, merit-based program that brings together 104 top student leaders—two from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity—for an intensive, week-long study of the federal government. During Washington Week, delegates attend meetings and briefings with Senate leadership, U.S. Senators and Congressional staff, senior cabinet officials, national media leaders, a Justice of the Supreme Court, an Ambassador to the United States, and the President. Each delegate is also awarded a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship.

Created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962, the program is sponsored by the U.S. Senate and fully funded by The Hearst Foundations. Its mission is to deepen students' understanding of the American political process and inspire a lifelong commitment to public service.

For Erik, the opportunity is closely tied to his upbringing and the values he associates with growing up in Valdez. "Valdez is built around the idea of community, as it stands for people being part of social structures larger than themselves and working to help and care for one another. Ideal governance should be built around these same tenets of community, and I believe that my background with such values has been seminal preparation for this opportunity."

His interest in government has grown through a passion for history and a developing focus on civic responsibility and public service. Erik recalls, "I've always taken a fascination in history, and government and politics initially developed in my mind as an offshoot of the former. As I learned more of our political processes, however, as well as policy issues and public service, I took up government as more of a distinct pursuit, one that I devote in my mind to making society better and people more prosperous."

Erik is the first student from Valdez ever to be selected for the U.S. Senate Youth Program, a distinction he views as both an honor and a responsibility. "No one else from Valdez has ever before been selected for this program, and it is important to me that I stand in our nation's capital as a representative for our school district, our city, and for all students of rural Alaskan communities."

Valdez City Schools congratulates Erik Vincent on this exceptional achievement and looks forward to following his experience as he represents our community at the national level.

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64th Annual
UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★
EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:
State Selection questions: Dr. Bjorn Wolter at bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov
United States Senate Youth Program: USSYP@hearstfdn.org Program Director: Wendy Wilk

Alaska Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program

Students Headed to Washington, D. C. and to Receive $10,000 College Scholarship

January 12, 2026, Washington, D.C. —The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is pleased to announce that high school students Mr. Erik Norman Vincent and Mr. Andy Zhang will join Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Daniel Sullivan in representing Alaska during the 64th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 7 — 14, 2026.

Erik Vincent of Valdez and Andy Zhang of Anchorage were selected from among the state's top student leaders. They will join the delegation of 104 outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity - for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it, meeting with Senators, the President, a Supreme Court Justice, and other high-level officials. Each delegate will also receive a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs.

About the 2026 USSYP Delegates:

Erik Vincent, a senior at Valdez High School, serves as President of the Student Body and has been a member of the Valdez High School Student Council since 2023. He was elected as the Regional Representative for the Alaska Association of Student Government, serves on the Valdez Youth Court and is able to make a difference in the juvenile justice system in granting restorative sentencing to those convicted of misdemeanors. He volunteers his time through the school music program, community fundraisers, and the National Honor Society. After college, Erik plans to attend law school, serve as an attorney for the state of Alaska or for a municipal government, and to eventually serve in elected public office.

Andy Zhang, a senior at Dimond High School, serves as the President of the National Honor Society. A lifelong Alaskan, he understands the vital connection between salmon, culture and community. Each summer, he participates in subsistence salmon fishing, helping share the catch with neighbors and local families. As Concertmaster of the Alaska All-State Orchestra and a violinist with Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra 2, he has found a home in the ensembles he loves, and coaches beginners in his school's symphony orchestra, helping them gain confidence and find their rhythm. He is the Captain of the varsity swim team, a volunteer swim coach, Founder of a small swim-instruction business and finds his greatest reward watching children transform fear into pure joy when they float on their own for the first time. Additionally, he tutors students worldwide through Schoolhouse SAT. Andy's bond with Alaska's environment drives his research with the U.S. Geological Survey on "rusting rivers," caused by thawing permafrost. He has presented his study to both local and national scientific communities. He hopes to study environmental science in college.

Chosen as alternates to the 2026 program were Mr. Francis Myers, a resident of Sitka, who attends Sitka High School and Ms. Madison Sophia Arreola, a resident of Eagle River, who attends Eagle River High School.

Delegates and alternates are selected by the state departments of education, including the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activities, after nomination by teachers and principals. The chief state school officer for each jurisdiction confirms the final selection. This year's Alaska delegates and alternates were designated by Deena Bishop, Commissioner of Education and Early Development.

About The United States Senate Youth Program

The 2026 United States Senate Youth Program Co-Chairs are Senator Katie Britt of Alabama and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts. The full USSYP Senate Advisory Committee consists of the Vice President of the United States and the Senate Majority and Minority leaders who annually serve as the program's Honorary Co-Chairs; two senators, one from each party, serving as acting Co-Chairs who each have keynote speaking roles, and an eight-member bipartisan senate panel, four senators from each party, who lend their names in support. Serving on the Advisory Committee for the upcoming program are: Senator John Barrasso, M.D. of Wyoming, Senator Steve Daines of Montana, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Senator Andy Kim of New Jersey, Senator Angus S. King, Jr. of Maine, and Senator Elissa Slotkin of Michigan.

The USSYP is a competitive, merit-based program created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 by the sons of William Randolph Hearst and the Senate leadership of the day - Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen, and Humphrey. The USSYP is designed to encourage America's most talented young people to consider public service as an important, life-long, and noble pursuit. Senate Resolution 324 passed unanimously.

The Hearst Foundations have fully funded the program since inception, as stipulated in SR 324, no government funds are utilized.

USSYP alumni now number more than 6,300 and many go on to build legacies of public service. The distinguished alumni include Senator Susan Collins, the first USSYP delegate to be elected U.S. Senator; former Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, the first to be appointed as a Cabinet Secretary; Representative Sarah McBride, the second to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former Senator Cory Gardner, the second alumnus to be elected U.S. Senator and the first to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first to be elected Governor.

For more information, please visit ussenateyouth.org

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Office of Superintendent Valdez City Schools

BOARD REPORT

Feb 9, 2026

Goals:

- We have not had a rifle team in a while. Conversations have continued around repurposing the space to be used by more VHS students. One idea would be to turn the space into a weightroom.
- VHS Desks are in transit and should be delivered in the next week. I am working with Dan and we are looking at a few options to get them into the classrooms as quickly as possible.
- We were able to fill our high school principal position for the 2026-27 school year. We are happy to welcome David Cronk to his new role. I thank Keriann Gilson , Amanda Tippetts , Sarah Hopkins , Kent Runion, Jesse Passin, Carrie Mercier, and Kate Gaudreau for their time and hard work through the interview process.
- Friday January 30th was the last day to turn in contracts. All open teaching positions are now posted externally and we are seeking applicants for Middle School Counselor, HS English, HS Science, MS Social Studies/Art, Secondary CTE/Shop, and Special Education.
- The DO/HHES project is in its final stages, during the substantial completion meeting there were a few mechanical and electrical issues that were identified which is delaying the handover of the project. Visually it looks completed, the front desk is in place etc. The city is working on ordering furniture. So our new timeline looks more like spring break.
- We received confirmation from DEED that our Flex Friday calendar has been approved for the 2026-27 school year. The letter is attached as an informational item.

Engagement

-

SEL

- This past week was national school counselor week and I would like to thank Gianna Guisti, Kate Goudreau and Shannon Major for their hard work and dedication to the students.

Concerns

- Hiring teachers will continue to be a challenge. There is a shortage of teachers statewide and nationally. We are being proactive and working hard to both advertise and get our name out through virtual job fairs, facebook postings, job boards, and reaching out to potential candidates to encourage them to consider Valdez.

Achievement/celebrations

-

VCS Legislative Update

- I am tracking several bills. It is still very early and will keep you posted as bills gain traction and momentum. Currently I am watching the bills on school funding, there is a bill (HB 261) that would average ADM (average daily membership) our count, using a 3 year average as well as counting intensive students that move into the district during the year. This would be a major change to how the count is administered. The bill is good and would benefit some districts more than others, I currently have not seen a major down side for Valdez.

Valdez High School
Student Representative Report
February 9, 2026

Recent Events

Student Council is sponsoring a Spirit Week and assembly for the Elks Tournament from 02/09-02/14.

Representatives from Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV) came to the school to discuss teen dating violence awareness on 02/04.

Upcoming Events

The Elks basketball tournament will be held this upcoming weekend (02/12-02/14)

The Nordic Ski team will be off to state next weekend!

Thursday 02/12 and Friday 02/13 are inservice days for teachers and students do not have class.

The Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG) spring conference is approaching, and we will be sending 6 delegates from our student government to Juneau.

Valdez High School

BOARD REPORT

Feb 09, 2026

Goals:

- Review Building Mission, Vision, Value and Goals of VHS with the goal of alignment with VCS Mission.
- Continue Leadership transition

Engagement/SEL

- Elks next week - Spirit week.

Concerns

- Furniture order is arriving from Anchorage and will be stored in the building as we await the assembly process with Mr. Bryant and Facilities.
- Reviewing RTI process for effective intervention now and in the future

Achievement/celebrations

- Congratulations to our own David Cronk who has accepted the role as Valdez High School Principal for the upcoming school year. As well as welcoming back Kate Goudreau who is returning as the School Counselor
- The ski team participated in the Region Ski event in Fairbanks this past weekend.
- AVV presented at VHS for the Alaska Safe Children's Act (Erin's and Bree's Laws) to students in the library.
- Cherish the Ladies will be at Valdez High School during 7th period, Monday, February 9th.
- International Guitar was present in the Library sharing cultural arts from around the world through the string instruments. This happened on the 20th of January

Gilson Middle School

BOARD REPORT

Feb 4, 2026

Goals:

- Continuing to structure the curriculum around the priorities gathered through surveys for the study skills classes year 2 (communication, reading, technology, Alaska Culture & Language).
- Similar to soccer, creating opportunities for students to play more sports & participate in more clubs. Partnering with the rec center.
- Hiring a new social studies teacher & modifying the master schedule for next year to maximize strengths of the teaching team.

Engagement/SEL

- Student athletes use the time after school to meet with teachers to ensure they are being successful in their classes. Coaches have been supportive of their academic work.
- **Kate Goudreau** organized for **AVV's Payton Sender and Rowena Palomar** to facilitate Bree and Erin's Law Presentations during our 7th and 8th grade social studies classes.
- Students and Staff are participating in a lunch time ping pong tournament during the month of February.
- The Student Council is planning a spirit week and assembly for the week of our home volleyball tournament with dress-up days and activities.
- The Wax Museum team, **Sarah Carter, Maddy Alexie,** and **Katy Rowland** met to nail down procedures and timelines for preparing students to complete and present their projects.

Concerns

- With vacancies in the district, we are turning our focus to recruitment and are concerned about finding quality candidates. We continue to encourage local educators and those interested in education to become qualified and apply to join the staff.
- Attendance continues to be a concern with families opting to take trips during school days and sickness.

Achievement/celebrations

- **Blair Bailey, Sarah Carter** and I were able to attend the MTSS/RTI Conference. Major takeaways with core instruction, engagement, and intervention were shared with staff by Blair, Sarah and **Larissa Williams** during the following Friday meeting.
- Students have gone 37 days without a cell phone incident as of today. Our celebration at 25 days included a school wide game of sardines, popcorn and popsicles on Flex Friday. Thanks to **Megan Gunderson** for working on a smooth roll-out of Minecraft Ed to iPads for a 50 day celebration that we anticipate in a few weeks. Teachers see more attention during classes and more positive social interaction during lunch.
- Cross Country ski was able to travel to Gakona with the high school team to compete. Volleyball took home championships in both Varsity and JV at the Delta tournament and will head to the Sweetheart Slam and Cordova for games later this month.
- Wrestling traveled to Redington and will host Cordova and Tok this weekend for our home meet. The team is strong with a lot of success in many weight classes.

Hermon Hutchens Elementary School

BOARD REPORT

February 9, 2026

Goals:

- HHES is participating in the IditaRead challenge to foster a love of reading and increase student interest in state events. As students track their reading minutes, they move along the Iditarod route together. Our goal is for every classroom to complete the course before spring break, celebrating both reading achievement and shared schoolwide participation.

Engagement

- The high school will host a Pep Rally for HHES students on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, strengthening connections across our school community.
- The After the Bell Ski Club continues to thrive, with over 30 students in grades 2–5 participating. Regardless of the weather, energy and enthusiasm remain high. Students are developing skills in both classic and skate skiing, and beginner skiers are now confidently getting back up on their own. Notably, six students have successfully summited Mighty Mite Hill, demonstrating perseverance and growing confidence.

SEL

- Bus safety presentations were conducted with students on January 19–20, 2026, helping reinforce safe behaviors and expectations while riding the bus.

Concerns

- The year-to-date average daily attendance is 92.77%.

Achievement/celebrations

- As a follow-up to the previous report, fifth-grade students who wrote to authors are now receiving replies, creating an exciting and meaningful connection to their reading and writing efforts.
- Battle of the Books competitions were held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, for students in grades 3 and 4, and on Wednesday, February 5, 2026, for students in grades 5 and 6. These events highlighted students' strong reading comprehension skills, teamwork, and enthusiasm for literature.

PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT FOR 2025-2026

Feb 9, 2026

EMPLOYMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

David Cronk
VHS Principal
Effective 7/01/26

RESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATION

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Shannon Major
VHS Counselor
Effective 05/2026

Desiree Bryan
GMS Special Education Teacher
Effective 5/2026

Kathryn Rowland
GMS Art Teacher
Effective 05/2026

EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

Christine Brandon
Executive Administrative Assistant
Effective 03/20/26

OTHER CONTRACTS

Jessica Gillam
After the Bell Reading HHES
Effective 02/02/26-04/30/26

Allison Cox
After the Bell Reading HHES
Effective 02/02/26-04/30/26

Katie Burns
Head VHS Volleyball Coach
Effective FY27

2025-2026 School Year

Teachers	51
Classified*	56
Principals	3
District Administration	6
Total Employees	**116**

(*This is the number of classified personnel working for the district. Several of the employees have part-time hours)

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST
 # 26-5

Justification for Amendment

Board approved on 1/26/26 board meeting replacement chairs for middle school and high school.

SUBMITTED ON: February 2, 2026

REQUESTED BY: Jason Weber

Actions to be taken:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	LINE ITEM DESCRIPTION	CURRENT BUDGET	INCREASE	DECREASE	AMENDED BUDGET	NARRATIVE JUSTIFICATION FOR EACH CHANGE
100.099.100.510	Equipment	$0.00	$52,725.00		$52,725.00	Funded by undesignated reserve
	ESTIMATED OPERATING FUND UNDESIGNATED RESERVE	**$1,203,170.78**			**$1,150,445.78**	

Memorandum

TO: VCS School Board

THROUGH: Jason Weber, Superintendent

FROM: Megan Gunderson, Director of Technology

DATE: February 5, 2026

SUBJECT: FY26 SCHEDULED TECHNOLOGY INVENTORY REPLACEMENT

This is a technology purchase for your review. Because the purchase exceeds $25,000, it requires school board approval. Apple is a single-source vendor (see enclosure), so additional bids are not required.

The items below are scheduled replacements for the student 1:1 device program. 9th grade laptops are purchased each year, and retired at four years of life (to be gifted upon the student's graduation). 3rd-5th grade ipads are on a 6-year lifecycle for replacement, and are scheduled for replacement in FY26. Please see attached enclosure to review the full replacement cycle projection.

Four years of AppleCare is added to each device, as the outright cash cost of repairs usually exceeds the cost of Applecare over the course of a device's lifespan with VCS. This AppleCare plan will cover repairs for device hardware, device software, and iPad Magic Keyboard accessories for up to two incidents of accidental damage per year with no service fee.

Funds are budgeted for FY26 via targeted appropriation from the city and are currently available in technology-designated reserves; no additional funding is being requested. A budget amendment to move the funds into a spendable account will follow pending the board's approval of the purchase.

Purchasing Request Details:

1. Purchase 50 QTY 13" MacBook Airs for 2026-2027 VHS 9th Grade Students: $56,950
    a. MacBook Airs = $44,950.00
    b. 4 years of AppleCare, No Service fees: $11,950.00

2. Purchase 150 QTY 12.9" iPad Airs for HHES 3rd -5th Grade: $181,050
    a. 12.9" iPad Airs = $112,350.00
    b. Magic Keyboards = $49,350.00
    c. 4 years of AppleCare, No Service fees: $19,350.00

Total Purchase Request = $237,950.00

Recommended Action:
Move to approve the purchase of Apple devices and accessories in the amount of $237,950.00

Enclosures

Proposal

Proposal Number

2112402257

Account Number/Name

29541

VALDEZ CITY SCHOOLS

Created On

02/02/2026

Created By

Megan Gunderson

Thank you for creating your proposal, details are provided below. You can access this proposal from your Apple Store for Education Institution by searching proposal number 2112402257.

Comments from Proposer:

3rd-5th grade ipad airs

9th grade macbook airs

Item	Product / Description	Total Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
1	MCNJ4LL/A 13-inch iPad Air Wi-Fi 128GB - Blue	150	749.00	112,350.00 USD
2	SMFP2LL/A 4-Year AppleCare+ for Schools iPad Air 13-inch (M2/M3)	150	129.00	19,350.00 USD
3	MWR53LL/A Magic Keyboard for iPad Pro 13-inch (M5) - US English - Black	150	329.00	49,350.00 USD
4	MW0W3LL/A 13-inch MacBook Air: Apple M4 chip with 10-core CPU and 8-core GPU, 16GB, 256GB SSD - Silver Specifications • Chip (Processor): Apple M4 chip with 10-core CPU, 8-core GPU, 16-core Neural Engine • Memory: 16GB unified memory • Storage: 256GB SSD storage • Power Adapter: 30W USB-C Power Adapter • Camera: 12MP Center Stage camera • Thunderbolt: Two Thunderbolt 4 ports • Input: MagSafe 3 charging port • Display: 13.6-inch Liquid Retina display with True Tone	50	899.00	44,950.00 USD

	• Pro Apps Bundle for Education: None • Keyboard Language: Backlit Magic Keyboard with Touch ID - US English • Accessory Kit: Accessory Kit			
5	SLTH2LL/A 4-Year AppleCare+ for Schools 13-inch MacBook Air (M3/M4) (no service fees)	50	239.00	11,950.00 USD

Subtotal	237,950.00 USD
Estimated Tax	0.00 USD
Total	237,950.00 USD

Please note that your order subtotal does not include sales tax or rebates. Sales tax and rebates, if applicable, will be added when your order is processed. Your order total may include estimated sales tax that is subject to change at the time your order is processed.

How to Order

If you would like to convert this Proposal to an order, log into your Apple Store for Education Institution and select 'Proposal' from the pull-down menu. Search for this Proposal by entering the Proposal Number referenced above.

Note: A Purchaser login is required to order. Visit your Apple Store for Education Institution to login or create your Purchaser Apple Account.

The prices and specifications above correspond to those valid at the time the Proposal was created and are subject to change. Purchases are subject to the terms and conditions of your agreement with Apple and the Apple Store for Education Institution.

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VCS Equipment Replacement Schedule

Last Update: January 2026

Proposed Cycle for Student Devices

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	FY 2033	FY 2034	FY 2035
Grade										
Kindergarten	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1st Grade	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1
2nd Grade	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
3rd Grade	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
4th Grade	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
5th Grade	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
3rd - 5th Grade AppleCare	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	--	--	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
6th	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
7th	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
8th	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
6-8th Grade Applecare	--	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	--	--	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
9th (device kept until graduation)	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1
9th Grade AppleCare	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1
Device Quantity	200	200	50	100	100	100	200	200	50	100
Estimated Cost	**$238,000**	**$238,000**	**$56,500**	**$80,500**	**$80,500**	**$80,500**	**$238,000**	**$238,000**	**$56,500**	**$80,500**

Proposed Cycle for Staff Devices

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	FY 2033	FY 2034	FY 2035
GMS	Year 5	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
HHES	Year 4	Year 5	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
VHS	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 1	Year 2
DO	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 1
Device Quantity	0	15	45	25	10	0	15	45	20	10
Estimated Cost	**$0**	**$30,000**	**$90,000**	**$50,000**	**$32,500**	**$0**	**$32,100**	**$96,300**	**$44,000**	**$35,000**

Proposed Cycle for Classroom Tech

Classroom Apple TV devices	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
HHES TVs	Year 7	Year 8	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
GMS TVs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 1	Year 2
VHS TVs	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Estimated Cost	**$25,000**	**$0**	**$86,000**	**$60,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$11,200**	**$15,000**	**$0**

Proposed Cycle for Network Equipment and Infrastructure

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	FY 2033	FY 2034	FY 2035
GMS Switches	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
GMS Access Points	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
HHES Switches	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
HHES Access points	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
VHS Switches	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
VHS Access Points	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Meraki Licensing	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
GMS ESX Hosts	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 1	Year 2
GMS SANs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 1	Year 2
HHES ESX Hosts	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 1	Year 2
HHES SANs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 1	Year 2
Meraki Firewall	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1		Year 3	Year 2	Year 2
Domain Controllers	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 1	Year 2
Security Camera/Door Access Subscriptions	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
GMS Core UPS Units	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
HHES Switch UPS Units	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
VHS Switch UPS Units	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Estimated Costs	**$36,000**	**$0**	**$80,000**	**$156,000**	**$20,000**	**$200,000**	**$10,000**	**$0**	**$110,000**	**$0**
Annual Estimated Cost	**$299,000**	**$268,000**	**$312,500**	**$346,500**	**$133,000**	**$280,500**	**$280,100**	**$345,500**	**$225,500**	**$115,500**
				(-100K via ERATE CAT 2 for switches)						
				$246,500						
				(-$60k via CoV VHS Remodel Project funds for classroom interactive displays)						
				$186,500						

APPLE CONFIDENTIAL

March 19, 2025

RE: Apple Sole Source Letter

Valdez City Schools
Megan Gunderson, Technology Director
1112 West Klutina
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear Megan:

The purpose of this Apple Sole Source Letter is to inform you and your organization that Apple Inc. ("Apple") is the sole source provider of Apple Products for private and public K-12 education institutions in the United States with a few limited exceptions.

"Apple Products" refers to Services, CTO Products, hardware and software products manufactured, distributed, or licensed under an Apple-owned or licensed brand name that an Apple customer has paid to acquire or has properly licensed from Apple for its own use, but excluding any third-party software and all other third party products. "Services" means collectively, the standard, price-listed services, support, and/or training products sold under the Apple brand name. "Configure-To-Order Products" or "CTO Products" means Products that Apple modifies from its standard configurations and that are available to an Apple customer only by special order.

The only source of Apple Products for private or public K-12 education institutions is Apple with a few limited exceptions. Only a handful of strategic resellers, such as AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon, are authorized to sell Apple Products to private and public K-12 education institutions in the United States.

Apple will continue to have a direct sales and purchasing relationship with K-12 education institutions and, aside from a very small number of exceptions, will continue to be the sole source for all of the Apple Products sold to K-12 education institutions.

Apple may change or update this letter in its sole discretion.

Sincerely,



Johnny Mendoza
Apple Inc.
U.S. Contract Operations - WW Legal/Commercial

Memorandum

Date: 02-05-2026

From: Jason Weber
Superintendent

To: VCS Board of Education

Thru: Jason Weber
Superintendent

Subj: Welding Booths VHS Shop in the amount of $134,817

This request is to replace our current welding booths. We currently have 7 booths that are mechanically hard wired into the position which limits how many students can be in our welding classes to 7. Due to how they were constructed, changing their location is very limited. We would like to buy 12 booths and have them in a line along the wall to allow the instructor to be able to see and work with students more efficiently. In essence this allows us to double the number of students in the class, improving instruction and safety. As for the potential changes in a high school remodel these booths could easily be unbolted and moved as needed as part of that remodel.

Recommendation: Approve the purchase of 12 welding booth from Central Welding in the amount of $134,817

LINCOLN ELECTRIC

22801 St. Clair Avenue Cleveland, OH
44117

Quote Date: 2/4/2026

Prepared For:
Issac
Valdez High School
319 Robe River Dr.
Valdez, Alaska

Prepared By:
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY
4282 PACIFIC HWY
BELLINGHAM, WA, 98226-9042

Qty	Product	Description	MSRP	Your Price / unit	Your Price
1 EA	K5664-5	Prism® Exhaust Booth Standalone (Side-by-Side Starter), 230V, 1 Phase, One-Pak®	USD 11,913.4800	USD 9,994.8135	USD 9,994.81
11 EA	K5664-6	Prism® Exhaust Booth Side-by-Side Add-On, 230V, 1 Phase, One-Pak®	USD 10,823.4700	USD 9,080.3475	USD 99,883.82
12 EA	K5319-1	Weld Booth Assist	USD 710.8900	USD 612.1185	USD 7,345.42
12 EA	K5248-3	Welding Table with Post (47 in wide)	USD 928.5400	USD 799.4700	USD 9,593.64

TOTAL **USD 126,817.70**

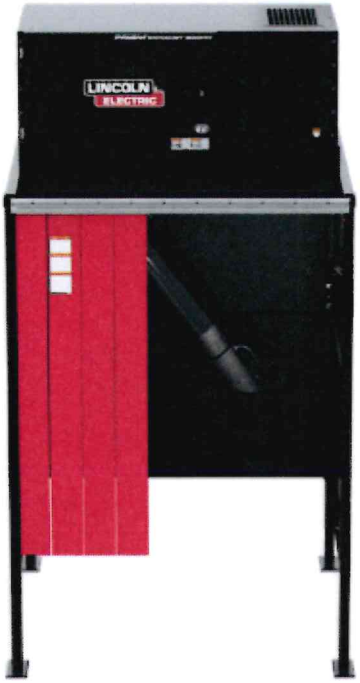
Freight to Valdez $8000.00

Total-- **$134, 817.00**

(Note Freight is an estimate only, Actual freight cost will be charged)

WELDING BOOTHS, FUME EXTRACTION, CURTAINS AND TABLES

Create an Effective and Efficient Space for Teaching



Shown: Prism® Exhaust Booth Standalone (Side-by-Side Starter), K5664-1

KEY FEATURES

Lincoln Electric® welding booths have been optimized to take full advantage of the entire space, from the table to the power source, to the fume extraction and the booth structure itself – everything is designed to give students a comfortable workspace with room for instructor viewing. Booths can be sold standalone, or as One-Pak® packages, which include fume extraction. If you prefer to customize your space, you can choose from a variety of curtains, tables and other accessories, as well as a variety of weld fume extraction configurations.

- **Robust design, heavy-duty steel construction .**
- **Larger sized booths have enough floor space to comfortably fit both student and instructor.**
- **Powder-coated, anti-reflective black finish paint is durable and reduces arc reflection.**
- **Adjacent booths (side-to-side or back-to-back) share dividing panels to minimize the number of panels and posts required for the layout.**
- **Booths are available in a variety of sizes (4 x 4, 5 x 5, 6 x 6 ft., etc.) and can be square or rectangular.**
- **Booth walls have an open space of 18 in. at the bottom of the weld booth for air circulation and safety. (Exceeds AWS EG2.0:2006 Recommendation of 12 in)**

Applications »

Welding Training and Education Facilities

Fabrication/Production Environments

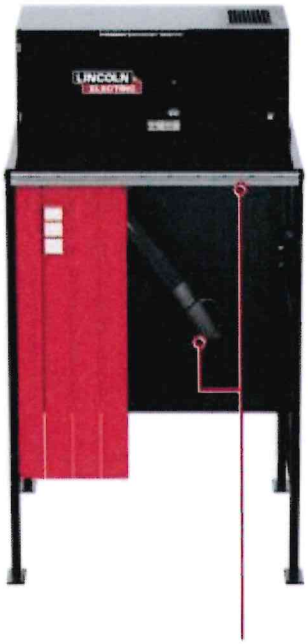
Repair and Maintenance Stations

Made in the USA

PRISM EXHAUST BOOTH ONE-PAK PACKAGES

PRISM EXHAUST BOOTH
WELD BOOTH WITH TOP-MOUNTED FUME EXTRACTION – ONE-PAK

- **Plug-and-Play Format –** Drop-in welding booth with fume extraction designed for small to medium schools and shops.
- **Duct-Free Design –** No ductwork required. Simply provide power to the unit.
- **Double Coverage –** Captures weld fume in two key locations – near the fume source with the fume extraction arm and through the vent hood.
- **Optimized Air Control –** Easily adjust the airflow rate and balance between the arm and hood extraction points.
- **Versatile Configurations –** Booths can be ordered in standalone, side-by-side and back-to-back formats.



Double Coverage – Captures weld fume at the source with a fume extraction arm and through the vent hood.

Includes:

- Weld Booth Walls
- Telescopic Counter-Weight Fume Extraction Arm
- Top-Mounted Prism Fume Extraction
- Two MERV 16 Disposable Filters (Replace when Saturated)
- Weld Curtain
- Booth Lighting
- Extraction Unit Control Panel

Ordering multiple booths is easy!

1. Choose your configuration - Side-by-Side or Back-to-Back
2. Order 1x starter kit PLUS as many add-ons as needed to accommodate your space

Starter Booths:

K5664-1 for Prism Exhaust Booth Standalone (Side-by-Side Starter), 230V, 3 Phase - One-Pak
K5664-3 for Prism Exhaust Booth Back-to-Back Standalone (Back-to-Back Starter), 230V, 3 Phase - One-Pak
K5664-5 for Prism Exhaust Booth Standalone (Side-by-Side Starter), 230V, 1 Phase - One-Pak
K5664-7 for Prism Exhaust Booth Back-to-Back Standalone (Back-to-Back Starter), 230V, 1 Phase - One-Pak

Add-On Booths:

K5664-2 for Prism Exhaust Booth Side-by-Side Add-On, 230V, 3 Phase - One-Pak
K5664-4 for Prism Exhaust Booth Back-to-Back Add-On, 230V, 3 Phase - One-Pak
K5664-6 for Prism Exhaust Booth Side-by-Side Add-On, 230V, 1 Phase - One-Pak
K5664-8 for Prism Exhaust Booth Back-to-Back Add-On, 230V, 1 Phase - One-Pak



Standalone
(Side-by-Side Starter)



Side-by-Side Add-On



Back-to-Back Standalone
(Back-to-Back Starter)



Back-to-Back Add-On

Note: All models include interior fume extraction arm and control panel.

Fume Unit Only, Order

K5663-1: Prism Exhaust Booth (Unit Only) 230V/3Ph
K5663-2: Prism Exhaust Booth (Unit Only) 230V/1Ph

BOOTH ASSIST™

MONITOR STUDENT ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE WITH BOOTH ASSIST

The Booth Assist alert system can be installed in the welding booth(s) to monitor student activity. A control panel paired with an easy-to-see tricolored light stack indicates if the booth is occupied (green), actively welding (amber) or if help is needed (red). Instructors can easily and more efficiently monitor an entire class at a glance and attend to needs more efficiently.

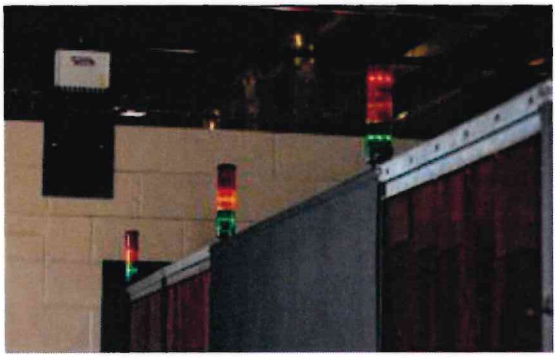


Key Features:

- Easy install
- Low voltage operation
- Compatible with any welding process
- Compatible with any welding equipment

Visual Light Tower Outside the Booth:

- Green Indicator = Booth is Occupied
- Amber Indicator = Student is Welding
- Red Indicator = Student Needs Support





Order:
K5319-1 Booth Assist

Includes:

- Control Panel 5.5 x 5.5 x 2 in. (140 x 140 x 51 mm)
- Light Stack
- Weld Sensing PCB
- Mounting Bracket and Hardware

GRAINGER.

Cart

Order Summary

Subtotal	$184,019.76	Estimated Tax	N/A	Estimated Shipping	$1,113.99

Estimated Total $185,133.75



VENTBOSS BY ROBOVENT

Overhead Filtration Unit: 1,500 cfm, MERV 15

Item # 5YAJ8

Qty 12

Web Price $15,334.98 / each

Total $184,019.76

Availability

Ships from supplier. Expected to arrive by end of **Mar, 2026**.
This item requires special shipping, additional charges may apply.

Products You Have Recently Viewed



VENTBOSS BY ROBOVENT

Portable Fume Extractor: 1,200 cfm, 10 ft Arm Lg,...

Item # 45WD28

Web Price $14,671.69 / each

Qty 1 Add to Cart



VENTBOSS BY ROBOVENT

Overhead Filtration Unit: 1,500 cfm, MERV 15

Item # 5YAJ8

Web Price $15,334.98 / each

Qty 1 Add to Cart



STA LUBE

Multipurpose Grease: Cartridge, 14 oz Container...

Item # 5EWA1

Web Price $14.13 / each

Qty 1 Add to Cart



APPROVED

Piano Hin in Leaf Ht,

Item # 2Z

Web Price $72.89 / e

Qty 1 Ac

Agent Chat

Call to Talk With A Product Expert - 877-532-WELD (9353)

WELDINGMART
LET'S WELD

Lincoln MIG Welder

Need Expedited Shipping - Please Call 877-532-9353.

Your cart



Lincoln Electric

Lincoln Double Weld Booth Fume Extraction One-Pak 5x5 ft. K5563-2

SKU: K5563-2

$12,940.21 ~~$14,335.30~~

− 12 +

Subtotal

$155,282.52 ~~$172,023.60~~

You may also like...



Lincoln Double Weld Booth Fume Extraction One-Pak 6x6 ft. K5563-4

$14,415.85 ~~$15,970.02~~

ADD TO CART

Estimate shipping

Country: **United States**

Province: **Alabama**

Zip/Postal Code

CALCULATE

Order summary

Taxes and shipping calculated at checkout.

Subtotal: $155,282.52 USD

amazon pay

Daily for your Protection.

02-06-26

Chat with us

BP 3541.1 School-Related Trips

Trips By School Vehicles

***Note**: Federal safety regulations enacted in 2000 govern the number of students that may be transported in vans. These regulations are applicable to the purchase or lease of new vans by Alaska school districts. After 1 September 2000, new vehicles designed by the manufacturer to carry 11 or more persons (rated capacity if equipped with full seating) that are used for transporting students to or from school or school-related activities are required to meet all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for school buses. As a result, passenger vans are limited to transporting a total of ten passengers, including the driver, unless the passenger van or suburban meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable to school buses. The large majority of passenger vans do not meet and comply with Federal school bus safety standards. Although used vans are not covered under the federal regulations, for risk management purposes, districts may want to require the new van standards for the purchase of used vans.*
Besides taking students to and from school, the Board may approve transportation for field trips and school-sponsored activities. The Superintendent or designee shall regulate the use of the district transportation for approved school-related activities. Parent-teacher associations and any other organizations requesting transportation shall be fully responsible for the costs of the trip. To the extent that funding has been approved by the Board, such costs may be charged to the district.

Transportation by Private Automobile

Private automobiles shall not be used to transport students on any school-related trips.

Student Activity Travel

<u>General Guidelines:</u>

Student travel will first and foremost be based upon safety concerns for students. The superintendent or his/her designee has the authority to cancel or postpone departure to or return from any activity if in his/her judgment travel is unsafe for any reason.

The principal or designee shall establish routes, schedules, safety and conduct procedures, ensure adequate adult supervision, and ensure that means and methods of transportation are sufficiently covered by liability insurance. The maximum number of occupants in any non-school bus vehicle shall not exceed the number of functional seatbelts in that vehicle. Use of seatbelts is mandatory for all occupants.

Students may be transported to field trips and co-curricular activities upon authority of the building principal and the written permission of the parent or guardian.

Commercial carriers and district vehicles operated by school employees will be used whenever possible. Others who wish to drive for school trips must submit a copy of their driving record from the local Department of Motor Vehicle office to the Superintendent's Office for approval.

When ground transportation is used, the coach/sponsor must ensure a reliable communication device accompanies each traveling student group.

- Drivers must possess a valid driver's license. A driver may not haul passengers unless he or she has possessed a valid driver's license for a period of no less than 8 years. For this section, "license" does not include a learner's permit.
- Individuals with more than one driving/moving violation in the past 12 months; more than two (2) violations in the past three (3) years; or an alcohol or drug-related driving conviction at any time will not be eligible to drive district owned vehicles. District-approved drivers must notify the superintendent's office of any subsequent moving citation or conviction, or any suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the driver's license.
- If the alcohol or drug-related driving conviction is more than five (5) years old, the Superintendent may, in his/her discretion, authorize the individual to drive after considering all relevant facts, including the current driving record.
- Drivers must submit a current driving record every three (3) years.
- At no time may a driver possess or be under the influence of any level of alcohol or drugs. A driver may not be under the influence of medication that may impair his/her ability to safely operate a vehicle. The driver may not smoke, use tobacco products, or permit smoking or the use of tobacco products in district-owned vehicles.
- Drivers must report any damage or incidents to the activities director as soon as possible. Traffic accidents must be reported immediately.
- No person or employee, including administration, shall authorize or permit a district owned vehicle to be driven by any other person who has not been authorized to do so under the procedures set forth above.

If there is the possibility of inclement weather on the return trip, the coach/sponsor is required to call State Troopers, Dept. of Transportation, or other appropriate authority to determine the safety of road and travel conditions. When a determination has been made to return, and an anticipated arrival time has been established, the coach/sponsor will call the Superintendent with the information.

The Superintendent will be responsible for disseminating that information to parents and other interested parties.

All student groups K-12 must be able to return to their school of origin by midnight (exceptions may be made for activities held in Glennallen with prior approval from the activities director.) If the driver determines this is not possible, then the groups are to spend the night in the school or community. The only exception to this is

when the ferry is needed, but once the group is on land this rule is again in effect. Also, when staying the night for an activity, the driver is not to travel before 6 am the following morning.

In Town Travel:

Any class or group desiring to travel in town must submit a plan for the travel to building administration for approval. Parents may transport their own child(ren) to any in town school activity.

In State Travel:

Any in state (out of town) travel for grades K-8 (except for scheduled athletic/co-curricular events) must be submitted on District forms and approved at the building, District and school board level.

Out of State/Country Travel:

All out of state/country travel for any activity must be submitted on District forms and approved at the building, District and School Board level.

Winter Travel Guidelines:

The identification of temperatures will be solely based upon the information received from the most reliable weather reporting service available at the time of travel, and must include not only the start and end points of the trip, but established points along the route.

Students traveling by ground transportation during the winter period must have the following in their possession: winter hat, winter coat, gloves, snow pants, boots, and winter sleeping bag.

The coach/sponsor is responsible to ensure students wear appropriate clothing during the activity travel.

Students are not to be transported by ground transportation outside the District when conditions along the proposed route of travel are predicted to include extreme winds, ice, severely reduced visibility, dangerously low temperatures, or a combination thereof deemed to have a risk outweighing the benefits of the proposed travel to students. At no point shall students be transported if the predicted temperatures at any point along the route are -40°F or colder. Questionable conditions shall be analyzed by the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, for final determination.

(cf. 3260 - Materials and Fees)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco/E-Cigs Use/Possession)

(cf. 5131.63 - Performance Enhancing Drugs)

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 6145.2 - Interscholastic Competition)

(cf. 6145.21 - Sportsmanship)

(cf. 6153 - School-sponsored Trips)

Adopted: June 2005

Revised/Board Approved 3/26/2018

Revised 12/2023

Valdez City Schools

Memorandum

TO: VCS School Board

THROUGH: Jason Weber, Superintendent

RECEIVED FROM: Krista Howell, HHES Principal

DATE: February 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Fifth Grade Field Trip to Cordova

This is a request for the board to approve the fifth-grade field trip to Cordova in May.

The field trip will include attending the birding festival, along with other planned educational activities. Below us a synopsis of part of the activity.

“Four remote Alaskan schools, all nestled in the bounds of the Chugach National Forest yet scattered around the shore of Prince William Sound, will have the opportunity to meet in Cordova to witness the largest migration of shorebirds in the western hemisphere. Using the shorebird migration as a backdrop, students will explore the public lands that they rely on while gaining a deeper understanding of the connections between shared resources, ecosystem services, and their communities.

The Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) will bring students from across the Sound to Cordova during the annual shorebird migration to witness the unique natural phenomenon and learn about the importance of the CNF. Students will spend two days meeting with their peers and engaging with PWSSC scientists, USFS personnel, and tribal representatives. Students will participate in research projects, complete stewardship activities, and have positive outdoor experiences. Before students travel, PWSSC will lead remote lessons on shorebird migration. During the trip, students will learn how to use binoculars, identify migrating shorebirds, and participate in a long-term shorebird research project. Students will observe banding and sampling procedures and engage with scientists. Students will meet with USFS wildlife technicians about the dusky Canada goose Nest Island Monitoring Program, participate in a mock nest search, and revegetate nest islands. Students will learn how indigenous knowledge contributes to our collective ecosystem knowledge through a cultural lesson and dance with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission. Students will also hike, play, and nature journal. Post-trip, students will reflect on the significance of CNF through writing. Poems and pages from their nature journals will be bound into a booklet shared amongst participating schools.”

The cost will be nominal due to student and parent fundraising. Amanda Tippetts has volunteered to be the school sponsor. Superintendent Jason Weber and I (Krista Howell) have met with the parents, and they understand that the trip will follow all school rules and standards. The school district will handle book payments, and fundraising monies are deposited in an appropriate school account.

Recommendation: As building principal, my recommendation is to approve this trip in accordance with BP 3541.1

THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Education & Early Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

333 Willoughby Ave., 9th Floor, SOB
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500
Main: 907.465.2800
TTY/TDD: 907.465.2815
Fax: 907.465.2806

November 17, 2025

Jason Weber Superintendent
Valdez City Schools
P.O. Box 398
1112 West Klutina Street
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear Superintendent, Weber:

This letter is in response to your request dated November 17, 2025 to waive the provisions in AS 14.03.030 that a school term include at least 170 student days and 180 total days in session. You are requesting to operate a four-day school week for grades 6-12 during the 2026-2027 school year. The request states that school will be in session Monday through Thursday for 6.5 hours, excluding intermissions, for a total of 140 days (913.3 hours). This meets the minimum hourly requirement of subsection (3) of AS 14.03.030 which is 900 hours per school year. School calendars for grades K-5 remain unchanged.

The calendar waiver request is approved. Please be sure to enter your new calendar in the online calendaring tool.

If there is any other way the Department can offer support, please let us know. Brendan Verbrugge (Brendan.verbrugge@alaska.gov) is available to assist if needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deena Bishop
Commissioner

Cc: Brendan Verbrugge, Research Analyst