Superintendent's Office
(907) 886-6332
(907) 886-6006 (F)

Business Office
(907) 886-6332
(907) 886-5130(F)

Maintenance Office
(907) 886-6332
(907) 886-5150

AISD
Annette Island School District

Metlakatla High School
(907) 886-6000
(F) (907) 886-5120

Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School
(907) 886-6095
(F) (907) 886-4130

Richard Johnson Elementary School
(907) 886-4121
(F) (907) 886-4120

November 3, 2025

To: AISD Community

Subject: Graduation Ceremonies for Class of 2026

Dear Parents & Guardians:

Following two public work sessions since the start of school, the Board of Education and administration have made the difficult decision to uphold Board Policy BP 5127: Graduation Ceremonies. This policy states, *"High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize students who have successfully completed the district graduation requirements and earned the right to receive a diploma or certificate of attendance."*
Reasons for this decision were based upon the following:

- Honoring students' completion of the rigorous curriculum of Metlakatla High School (MHS)
- Recognizing the students' commitment to completing MHS graduation requirements through AISD
- Declining student enrollment, which significantly impacts funding

The District recognizes that alternative high school programs might be a good fit for some students and families. In addition, there has been a past practice of allowing all students from Metlakatla to participate in MHS graduation ceremonies. During the last Board Meeting on October 28th, a request to review Board Policy BP 5127 was acknowledged and scheduled for November 12th. This will be rescheduled for a future date.

Due to the difficulty of transferring back into AISD during a student's senior year, it has been decided that all 12th grade students from Metlakatla who are graduating during the 2025-26 school year will be permitted to participate in the MHS graduation ceremonies this year. This one-year exception ensures fairness for the Class of 2026 as we transition to the updated policy.

Moving beyond the 2025-26 school year, only students who are enrolled at MHS and who are receiving an AISD-sponsored diploma will be allowed to participate. Waiving this requirement for one year for the Class of 2026 honors the commitment that was made to this senior class and allows for advanced planning for the 2026-27 school year (Class of 2027) and beyond. While this decision aligns with district policy, we understand that it represents a change from past practice and may raise questions for families.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact the District Office at 907-886-6332 or by email at tlindsey@aisdk12.org. We welcome your thoughts and appreciate your continued partnership in supporting all students of Metlakatla.

Sincerely,

M. Taw Lindsey,
Superintendent, AISD