#### What else should you know?

The Lower Kuskokwim School District will provide you with...

- Transportation to/from Alaska
- Housing
  - You will be staying with another teacher from the school (who is <u>not</u> your cooperating teacher)

You will be responsible for your own...

- Food
- Personal Expenses

### Random Facts about Bethel, AK...

- Bethel can only be reached by river or air
- Average annual temperature is 39°
- Yearly events include a dogsled race, Camai (a traditional Yup'ik dance festival), and the Bethel Fair
- A gallon of milk costs \$8.80

http://www.bethelak.com/

### Lower Kuskokwim School District Mission Statement:

"The mission of the Lower Kuskokwim School District is to ensure bilingual, culturally appropriate and effective education for all students, thereby providing them with the opportunity to be responsible, productive citizens."

-Taken from the Lower Kuskokwim School District website

# Student Teaching in Alaska

Lower Kuskokwim School District

You now have the option to complete part of your student teaching in Alaska.



Specifically, this part of Alaska

The UWSP School of Education is working with the Lower Kuskokwim School District headquartered in Bethel, AK.

Interested in learning more? Contact...

Office of Field Experiences College of Professional Studies Room 464 715-346-2449 <u>field.experiences@uwsp.edu</u>

http://www.uwsp.edu/education/Pages/fieldExp/

# LowerKuskokwim School District



### About the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD):

- Located along the Kuskokwim River and coastline
- Largest Rural School District in Alaska in number of sites, teachers and students
- Headquartered in Bethel, AK with 5 schools
- 22 villages spread over an area the size of West Virginia
- 350 teachers and administrators
- 4000 students

## What's important to LKSD?

1. Supportive of Bilingual/Bicultural education: We have the largest number of children who speak the Yup'ik Language of any school district in the state. In many of our elementary classrooms we have implemented a dual language model where students are taught both in Yup'ik and English. Our program infuses English

as a Second Language techniques and strategies (Sheltered Instruction Operational Protocol - SIOP) into all content area classes. This requires all of our teachers and administrators to develop (and be willing to develop) their ESL skills as well as their content knowledge.

2. Interest in a Cross-cultural Environment: We want teachers and administrators who thrive in a cross cultural environment: who see the different sights, sounds, and smells of our villages as an enriching opportunity; who are comfortable in our communities and can help to create a link between the school and community. The ability to integrate traditional Yup'ik knowledge into the school's academic program is critical. We need educators who can adapt to the isolation and severe climate of our region, people who learn to see the subtle beauty of the tundra and appreciate the focus that living in an isolated community can bring.

### 3. High Expectations /Ability to Communicate Care: We need teachers and administrators who have high expectations of our students' performance, coupled with the ability to communicate that they care for their students. We need educators who can take children at whatever level they are performing and provide a rigorous, challenging educational experience that will prepare them for whatever the future brings. The ability to work hard, be flexible and have a sense of humor is critical.

4. Support for rigorous curriculum & RTI implementation: We are looking for educators who are ready and willing to support rigorous academic standards and acceleration-focused RTI programs. We are committed to providing new teachers with robust and on-going professional development to assure success for staff and students.

