

Galena Interior Learning Academy

Unique Program Features

GILA is a statewide boarding school for students that are seeking yet another choice, and is Alaska's longest operating residential secondary vocational school. It is an accredited school for 9-12 and post secondary adult vocational programs.

GILA offers students from all over the state the opportunity to gain industry standard vocational certification in aviation, automotive technology, cosmetology and culinary arts programs while achieving the academic skills necessary to pass the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Vocational and technical teachers are hired from industry for upper level career pathways, validating its program as meeting the standards required by industry.

GILA is located in Galena, a rural setting appealing to the lifestyle of the rural students, also allowing those from more urban communities to pursue a more focused emphasis on the individual student. The GILA campus is located on a previous U.S. Air Force base and offers modern residential and educational facilities. It enjoys strong partnerships with the City of Galena, Loudon Tribal Council, University of Alaska Fairbanks and various organizations and businesses enabling it to provide first class education to its students.

Enrollment

Galena Interior Learning Academy's enrollment at the end of the 2009-10 school year was 124. This is an increase of 30 students from the 2008-09 school year. Galena Interior Learning Academy revamped its application process to a web-based electronic application. GILA also has continued radio advertisements throughout the state of Alaska. GILA anticipates increasing its enrollment for the 2010-11 school year to 200 students.

2010-11 Enrollment	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Total GILA Students
	34	28	32	31	124

Graduates

Twenty-five seniors graduated from Galena Interior Learning Academy on May 19, 2010 with diplomas having passed all three sections of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Two of the twenty-five graduated completed their coursework in December and graduated early, and were recognized during the May 19, 2010 graduation festivities. Eight seniors are eligible to return to GILA for a 5th year to complete district credit requirements.

GILA: Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam

Galena Interior Learning Academy's student academic achievement as measured on the state mandated HSGQE is strong.

To date, 97% of GILA juniors are proficient on the reading section of the HSGQE, 84% are proficient on writing section, and 84% are proficient on the math section. 84% of SHS sophomores are proficient on the reading portion of the HSGQE, 59% are proficient on the writing section and 64% are proficient on the math portion.

GILA Grades 9-10 Standards Based Assessments

Galena Interior Learning Academy results on the 9th grade Standards Based Assessments are lower than the previous year. GILA is in the process of expanding enrollment and looking to serve the needs of more rural students. This desire to expand services has also caused a two-pronged effect: 1. GILA is serving more students than we've had in the past who are deficient in credits and are lacking essential background knowledge, and 2. GILA is working to increase the number of credit recovery opportunities for

students as well as increase the number of fundamental math and language arts classes so students have a stronger transition into the high school curriculum.

73% of GILA 9th grade students were proficient on the reading SBA, 54% were proficient on the writing SBA and 46% were proficient on the math SBA. 77% of GILA 10th grade students were proficient on the reading section of the SBAs, 63% were proficient on the writing section, and 49% were proficient on the math section.

Although the Galena Interior Learning Academy 10th grade results appear down when compared with the state averages, the scores show growth. Students who arrived at GILA for their freshman year tend to score near the state average for Alaska Native students. Our data indicates that the longer students remain enrolled at Galena Interior Learning Academy the stronger the SBA and HSGQE results, especially when compared to the statewide Alaska Native averages.

Survey Summary

Surveys were provided to all 9th through 12th grade students. 73 replies were received from GILA students for a return rate of 59%. Students rated the school program on a scale of 1-5 with 1=poor and 5=excellent looking at 5 specific factors: school, information, teacher, curriculum, my learning, and career planning.

Students rated Career Planning the highest with an average score of 3.89. Student learning was rated the second highest with an average of 3.62. The school received the lowest scores with an average of 3.29. Students also provided comments and offered suggestions. The students were especially pleased with the vocational course offerings, PE, teachers, and extra-curricular activities. Students also offered a variety of suggestions to improve the educational experience provided for our students. More activities in the residential hall and providing more privileges for students living in the residential hall received the most comments.

Staff

GILA has 8 Type A certified teachers in the core content areas and 3 Type M certified teachers vocational areas. 100% of the teachers at Galena Interior Learning Academy are teaching in their specific area of endorsement.

Galena Interior Learning Academy's teacher-body is incredibly stable, especially when compared to other rural schools. Teacher and administrator continuity is a major contributor to Galena's continued student achievement.

Adequate Yearly Progress

GILA – Galena Interior Learning Academy did not meet AYP in all areas of interest for the 2009-10 school year.

- 64% of all students scored at proficient or advanced levels on the Standards Based Assessments in the area of Language Arts.
- 44% of all students scored at proficient or advanced levels on the Standards Based Assessments in the area of Math.

These figures show good proficiency levels. Refer to the state website for further testing data:

<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/Assessment/accountability.html>

Highly Qualified Staff

According to "No Child Left Behind" each parent has the right to know whether their students are being taught by a federally defined "highly qualified" teacher. Any parent who wishes to inquire about the qualifications of their child's teacher is encouraged to contact Lisa Shelby, Principal, of Galena Interior Learning Academy.

For further information regarding what defines a “highly qualified” teacher please refer to the federal definition http://www.eed.state.ak.us/nclb/pdf/teacher_and_paraprofessional_requirements.pdf

Goals for 2010-11

Next year’s goals include building on the strong academic trends that were set during the 2009-10 school year. The district will continue looking at ways to grow our student population in Galena by more effectively utilizing the space on the Galena Interior Learning Academy campus. Our intent is to provide our students the highest quality teacher in each academic area while also providing students access to skills and knowledge that will benefit them in adult life no matter what career field they eventually choose to pursue. Furthermore, math and writing are areas that present themselves as opportunities for improvement. We are already taking very purposeful steps as we look forward to our 2011 school year to address these issues. Math scores as reflected through our SBA and HSGQE scores were generally the lowest at all grade levels. SHS and GILA will utilize the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments during the 2010-11 school year. MAP provides specific grade level information and detailed information for each high school student regarding their strengths and weaknesses in the core areas of math, reading, and writing. We will utilize these assessments at the beginning of the school year to first ensure that each student is placed in the most appropriate math and language arts course. Secondly, students will take follow-up assessments during the winter and spring on the same assessments to provide information regarding where students are growing academically and where we need to provide more attention. Furthermore, we are also expanding our math and language arts course offerings. We are introducing fundamental math and language arts courses at the high school level to provide a transition for those students who are not quite ready for high school courses in the areas of math and language arts. We will also introduce trigonometry, AP lit, and journalism literary magazine as upper level math and language arts courses. Our intent is to meet the needs of all of our students with the curricula choices that will best fit their academic needs; ensuring that we meet the needs of our beginning level students as well as offering more advanced courses for those students preparing for a transition to a college experience. Finally we will continue working on increasing our skills and knowledge with research based instruction and assessment practices across our K-12 curriculum. Our goal is to eradicate the achievement gap that persists in Alaska between Alaskan Native students and the rest of the state.