



Taiguaqta

Let's Read!



Dear Parents and Families of the North Slope,

I am proud to launch the Taiguaqta Initiative in partnership with the North Slope Borough School District. This new program is designed to support early reading and learning for children in kindergarten through third grade – a critical time for building the literacy skills that will shape a child's educational path for years to come.

Each quarter, students will receive free, culturally relevant books that reflect our values and stories. These books are meant to be enjoyed at home with family, to spark joy in reading and strengthen the connection between literacy and culture.

The goals of the Taiguaqta Initiative are simple but powerful:

- Help our young children develop a lifelong appreciation of reading.
- Support families in being our children's first and most important teachers.
- Strengthen Iñupiaq identity by making sure our stories and values are part of what our children learn every day.
- Ensure every child is reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade.

This initiative is rooted in the legacy of our Borough's founding. As our first mayor, Eben Hopson once said, "Possibly the greatest significance of home rule is that it enables us to regain control of the education of our children." With the Taiguaqta Initiative, we are continuing that vision: investing in our children today to ensure a strong, self-determined future for generations to come.

Taiguaqta means "let's read." And that's exactly what we're doing, together.

Thank you for all you do for your children, our schools, and our communities.

Quyanaqpak,



Josiah Aullaqsruaq Patkotak
Mayor, North Slope Borough

