

Kodiak Regional Sugpiaq/Alutiiq Language Strategic Plan, 2024-2029

This strategic plan was developed by and for the Sugpiaq/Alutiiq people of the Kodiak region. This plan will be reviewed annually by the Qik'rtarmiut Alutiiq Regional Language Advisory Committee (Qik Committee), or by request of one of its members.

Mission

To bring back the sound of Sugpiaq/Alutiiq to the voices of our community, through the words of our Elders.

Vision

Sugpiaq/Alutiiq language is used in daily communications and spoken in the home by all generations, as supported through immersion education programs within all our communities.

Overarching Goals

1. Recruit and retain language speakers and speaker-learners
 - a. Support strategic outreach to village and off-island individuals, communities, and organizations
 - b. Support the strengthening of partnerships with the broader Sugpiaq/Alutiiq region
 - i. Increase public relations materials on dialect similarities awareness
 - ii. Create and publish inter-dialect language materials (e.g., Combined Dictionary)
 - iii. Include multiple Sugpiaq/Alutiiq dialects into all resources, such as on alutiiqlanguage.org and Word Wiinaq
 - c. Empower communities through education about intergenerational trauma and language loss, as well as celebrate resilience
 - d. Expand outreach via community-wide media, such as public radio, the local newspaper, social media, etc.
 - e. Host regular Sugpiaq/Alutiiq Language Symposium gathering with speakers and speaker-learners on and off island
 - f. Normalize Sugpiaq/Alutiiq language
 - i. Slogans and everyday items such as T-shirts, bumper stickers, and comics
 - ii. Encourage Sugpiaq/Alutiiq names in community spaces and places
2. Support speaker-learners in increasing their fluency
 - a. Develop strategies to support learner retention and continuation on the pathway to fluency
 - i. Describe learner pathway (i.e., Novice, Low- and Mid-Intermediate, Advanced, Superior and average hours of learning), with special focus on how to reach advanced fluency
 - ii. Grow speakers at all levels (e.g., 10 new beginner-level speakers, 5 new intermediate-level speakers, 3 new advanced-level speakers)
 - iii. Highlight stress relief strategies and unfilling techniques for speaker-learners
 - b. Prioritize efforts to help intermediate speaker-learners become advanced speaker-learners

- i. Foster fluency development through structured immersion time and meeting with Elders
 - c. Continue to improve and expand existing language resources
 - d. Expand targeted self-learning multimedia tools
 - i. Develop fluency freeway
 - ii. Develop digital resources, including videos (Vimeo, YouTube), audio recordings, and other digital materials alongside print resources
 - iii. Develop a list of speakers and speaker-learners in and out of Kodiak with their contact information to encourage visiting
 - e. Increase access to and engagement with archival language materials
 - f. Revive Community of Learners and mentorship circles, and improve new speaker-learner inclusivity
 - i. Develop an orientation for new learners through recurring sessions
 - ii. Visit and take care of Sugpiaq/Alutiiq Elder speakers
 - iii. Share support strategies with speaker-learners
- 3. Support the development of new Sugpiaq/Alutiiq language teachers
 - a. Inspire current non-language teachers to learn and teach Sugpiaq/Alutiiq
 - i. Target language resources to current and former teachers by sharing resources with the district
 - b. Inspire speaker-learners to teach Sugpiaq/Alutiiq
 - i. Target preparation such as lesson planning, classroom management, and diverse teaching styles
 - ii. Host Sugpiaq/Alutiiq language teaching workshops
 - c. Explore and develop new teaching certification options for language teachers, such as Tribal Certification, a Teaching Artist model, or an Occupational Endorsement Certificate in Language Teaching
- 4. Institutionalize the Sugpiaq/Alutiiq language movement
 - a. Foster accountability and buy-in among community organizations to fund language activities
 - i. Establish a language fund
 - ii. Encourage community organizations to create paid positions to develop language resources and fluency development
 - iii. Establish points of contact at each organization that run Sugpiaq/Alutiiq language programs
 - b. Work toward preservation and access of language program materials
 - i. Convert older materials to new technologies
 - ii. Have regular outreach regarding what language resources are available
 - iii. Develop a sustainability plan for language websites (e.g., AlutiiqLanguage.org and Word Wiinaq)
 - c. Support the continuation and expansion of current language events and programs
 - i. Expand Alutiiq language offerings in K-8 classrooms
 - ii. Continue high school classes with dual enrollment in Kodiak College

- iii. Continue college classes
 - iv. Continue and expand in-person and virtual extra-curricular language meetings
 - v. Continue the Qik'rtarmiut Alutiit Regional Language Advisory Committee (Qik)
 - 1. Pursue the Qik becoming the Kodiak Island Borough School District's Language Committee
5. Develop a Sugpiaq/Alutiiq a home base for language learning
- a. Explore opportunities such as a culture center
 - b. Determine ownership and management of a language home base
 - c. Develop partnerships to consolidate efforts for the language home base
 - d. Support development of language community
 - i. Host casual language gatherings
 - ii. Create informal virtual language gathering space such as a forum, chatroom, server, etc.