

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM # 217 (2006-2007)

March 12, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD: BEST BUY TEACH  
GRANTS FOR POLARIS K-12

*ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by challenging each student academically and collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept two Best Buy Teach Awards from Best Buy Children's Foundation totaling \$17, 500.

PERTINENT FACTS:

This national competition, sponsored by the Best Buy Children's Foundation, seeks innovative projects using interactive technology which excite and engage students and make learning fun. Polaris K-12 teacher Corey Aist applied for and won a \$2,500 Best Buy Teach Award Grant and an additional finalist award of \$15,000. The awards are made in the form of Best Buy gift cards. In this project, all 470 students at Polaris K-12 will engage in a multiage collaborative process creating multimedia projects including digital books, slide shows, movies, and activities that are the basis of their performance portfolios. These portfolios are used in student-led parent conferences. During these conferences, student portfolios are the instrument used in conveying the child's K-12 experience, progress, achievement, and success. With this funding, portfolio hubs will be created for each classroom. Each hub will be equipped with digital cameras, digital video cameras, printers, scanners, and related accessories. With easy access to equipment, integration of technology becomes seamless and teachers will be able to facilitate and guide students in project development on a daily basis.

The \$15,000 award is the first Best Buy grant of this size awarded to the Anchorage School District. It reflects Corey Aist's leadership in the Technology Teacher Leader (TTL) program and the innovations he has introduced in using technology for higher level learning. Nationally, districts at the \$15,000 award level have been invited to apply for a single \$250,000 Best Buy grant. ASD's application will be spearheaded by the Educational Technology Department and the TTL program.

Budget Summary:

New Equipment	<u>\$17,500</u>
TOTAL	\$17,500

CC/RG/MW/BT

Prepared by: Mary Wegner, Acting Coordinator, Instructional Technology  
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Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction