

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #140 (2007-2008)

December 3, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: 21st  
CENTURY ALASKA COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

*ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, barrier-free schools; promoting health and wellness; continuing to retain, recruit and train highly qualified staff with an emphasis on improving staff diversity to better reflect our student body; challenging each student academically; maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning; offering reinforcing extracurricular activities; 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 apply for a five-year grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for after-school programs, through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Alaska Community Learning Centers program.

PERTINENT FACTS:

This state competition for federal pass-through monies carries forward the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative under the No Child Left Behind law. The Anchorage School District has won six grants under federal and state competitions for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers at high-needs elementary and middle schools. Currently the district has eleven sites.

The District's application will propose the extension of the program at four existing sites where state funding will end in July 2008. These sites are Williwaw, Fairview, and North Star elementary schools and Clark Middle School, with funding for Clark deferred until FY 2010.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program supports school-based centers that create an enriching, safe, and drug-free environment for extended learning. Centers must operate with the support and involvement of the community. The new competition specifies expanded learning opportunities that assist students to meet or exceed state and local standards in core academic subjects, focusing on achievement targets delineated in No Child Left Behind regulations. The competition also calls for additional services for children, such as recreational and cultural activities. Programs are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program. The program model calls for qualified instructors and activity leaders, a low adult/child ratio, nutritious snacks, and transportation.

The preliminary budget estimate is \$500,000 each year for a five-year grant period. This is the maximum state-determined award level for this competition. Accordingly, the grant program budget will reflect reductions in per-site costs, chiefly in program days, in staff time, and in service costs. The budget will fund site coordinators and will help support District-level management and coordination for Anchorage's eleven 21st Century after-school programs. Grant funds will provide added duty for teachers and paraprofessionals working in the programs, transportation for students, external evaluation by the University of Alaska Anchorage's Institute of Social and Economic Research, and ancillary items. Substantial in-kind services include student bus transportation to their homes, funded by Title I; USDA snacks by Student Nutrition; principals' time; and use of school facilities.

CC/RG/VC/PM/LV/SW/BT

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