

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #149 (2008-2009)

December 15, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CONTINUING SUB-RECIPIENT GRANT  
AWARD: US SKILLS, INC.

*ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning, including the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from US Skills, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000 for the period of January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Skills Alaska (previously known as Following the Leaders) is a standards-driven, technology-based project designed to help teachers and students increase achievement. Skills Alaska allows teachers to better address individual needs and effectively communicate with everyone involved in a child's education.

The Skills Alaska resources for both reading and math include an online formative assessment tool and an online remediation/enrichment tool. Skills Alaska/Following the Leaders has been used in ASD since 2004 and historically 13 schools have used the online formative assessment and online remediation/enrichment resources. During the 2008-2009 school year, four additional schools and 100 additional teachers from around the district were granted access to the Skills Alaska resources.

Acceptance of this grant award will provide funding to support a teaching position that will promote the Skills Alaska resources in ASD, including providing training and support to schools and users. Additionally, acceptance of the grant includes an increase in access to these resources so that a total of 30

schools and 100 additional teachers from around the district will be able to use the online formative assessment and online remediation/enrichment tools that combine to create the Skills Alaska resources.

Over the years, ASD has received a number of grant awards from a variety of sources to support the Following the Leaders/Skills Alaska resources. The acceptance of this grant will allow continued support for this valuable resource.

Previous Skills Alaska/Following the Leaders grant awards include:

- June 28, 2004: Memo 331 *Acceptance Of Grant Award: Following The Leaders Coordinator*; \$70,000 for coordinator salary for the 2004-2005 school year
- June 27, 2005: Memo 339 *Acceptance Of Grant Award: Following The Leaders*; \$70,000 for coordinator salary for the 2005-2006 school year
- December 12, 2005: Memo 134 *Acceptance of Grant Award: Title IID Enhancing Education Through Technology*; \$300,000 for two-year grant targeted at providing professional development for teachers using the Following the Leaders resources for the 2005-2006 and the 2006-2007 school years
- December 3, 2007: Memo 66 *Acceptance of Sub-Recipient Grant Award: Skills Alaska, Avant-Garde Learning Foundation*; \$109,000 for half of the coordinator salary from October 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and for professional development and training related to use of the resources.

The funding source for the current Skills Alaska grant comes from the Department of Defense. Because ASD is a military-impacted district, the Department of Defense has made access to the Student Online Achievement Resources (SOAR) available to every family in ASD. SOAR offers Skills Alaska resources for students to use at home. This free, web-based program provides tutorial materials in reading, writing and math for Grades 2 through 12, and is based on standards that can be aligned to any state in the union.

Funds from the US Skills Inc. grant will be used to pay the salary and benefits of a District staff person responsible for the training and implementation of the Skills Alaska/SOAR in the Anchorage School District.

CC/RG/BT/MW/JH



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