

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #61 (2009-2010)

September 14, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD: PROJECT PUQIGTUT  
(SMART PEOPLE)

*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, including the development of 21st century skills; 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 accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$521,502 for the first year of a three-year project to support the educational needs of Alaska Native high school students.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School District Title VII Indian Education Program has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the Alaska Native Education Program. The purpose of this grant program is to support efforts to help meet the unique educational needs of Alaska Natives and to support the development of supplemental educational programs to benefit Alaska Natives.

Project Puqigtut (Cup'ik for "smart people") will serve Alaska Native high school students who have fallen behind in school or dropped out, or who are at risk to do so. To address the high mobility and cultural alienation often experienced by Alaska Native students, this project develops and offers online courses that are academically appropriate, culturally responsive, and that offer flexibility of time, space, and place. Online core curriculum from the Florida Virtual School has been selected for adaptability to local needs, and for

compatibility with ASD curriculum and state standards. Over the three years, ASD teachers will work in collaboration with Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) teaching staff to adapt the online courses to be culturally responsive for Alaska Native students. Core subjects needed for graduation will include Language Arts 9 and 10, Algebra I, Algebra A and B, Integrated Science, and Biology. By the third year of the project, ASD will own permanent licenses allowing unlimited enrollment for these courses. This will build in sustainability beyond the grant funding period.

The online courses will be taught by full time, certified ASD teachers, one each for Language Arts, Math, and Science. In addition, a core group of ASD high school teachers will receive training enabling them to teach one section of an online class based at their own school, on an addendum basis. Instruction will be primarily carried out online, with some face-to-face time. A social services specialist will support the academic, attendance, health, and social service needs of students and families.

UAA and ASD teachers with expertise in Alaska Native culture and online pedagogy will offer a newly designed credit course in culturally responsive online learning, as part of the professional development for project teachers. Project teachers also will take part in online training offered by ASD Educational Technology.

UAA Native Student Services, UAA Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, CITC, and Job Corps will host visits by project students and staff so students will be aware of the many career and educational opportunities available to them during and after high school.

The grant will provide support for project staff to attend the National Forum on Dropout Prevention Strategies for Native and Tribal Communities in spring 2011, the Partnerships in Indian Education Conference in spring 2012, and a required annual grant technical assistance meeting in Washington, D.C.

Primary grant expenditures are salaries for a full-time project coordinator, three full time teachers, a full-time social worker, and clerical support; licenses for Florida Virtual School online courses; added duty and contracted services for professional development; materials, supplies, and equipment for staff and students; student transportation; and external evaluation.

Budget Summary, Year One - FY 2010:

Personnel	\$246,308
Employee Benefits	101,610
Travel	5,322
Equipment	58,049
Supplies	53,626
Contractual	30,400
Other	6,999
Total Direct Costs	\$502,314
Indirect Costs	<u>19,188</u>
TOTAL	\$521,502

CC/EG/MH/ES/DB/BT

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