

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #159 (2009-2010)

December 14, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD: AVANT-GARDE  
LEARNING FOUNDATION

ASD Goal: *Education will reflect 21st Century Learning.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from Avant-Garde Learning Foundation in the amount of \$57,077 for the period of January 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Avant-Garde Learning Foundation (AGLF) is an Alaska-based organization that focuses on transforming education to ensure that all Alaska's children have the opportunity for bright successful futures. One of AGLF's initiatives is called Skills Alaska and is being administered by AGLF in seven other schools districts throughout the state. Skills Alaska (previously known as Following the Leaders) is a standards-driven, technology-based resource designed to help teachers and students raise achievement. Skills Alaska allows teachers to better address individual needs and effectively communicate with everyone involved in a child's education. This grant will continue a partnership with AGLF, and will support teachers in using Skills Alaska, as well as provide professional development to differentiate instruction and support meaningful learning.

The Skills Alaska resources for reading, writing 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 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. Over the past year, additional licenses have expanded access to a total of 30 schools and 100 additional teachers. During the 2009 summer school session, four of the six elementary summer school sites used Skills Alaska. Licenses for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year are provided by the Department of Defense through the previous SOAR grant.

Acceptance of this grant award will provide funding (salary and benefits) to support a teaching position for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. This person will promote the Skills Alaska resources, including training and support to schools and users, and support a long-term partnership with AGLF.

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.
- December 15, 2008: Memo 149 *Acceptance of Continuing Sub Recipient Grant Award US Skills Inc*; \$75,000 for coordinator salary from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 and for professional development and training related to the use of these resources.

CC/ED/MW/JH/BT

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