

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM # (2004-2005)

May 23, 2003

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD: PROJECT APPEAL  
(ADVANCED PLACEMENT FOR EVERY ABLE LEARNER)

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's Advanced Placement Incentive Program, in the amount of \$898,588, for the first year of a three-year project. The project will expand Advanced Placement (AP) and will increase access to higher level coursework for low-income students in four Alaskan communities.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The federal Advanced Placement Incentive Program supports projects that increase Advanced Placement availability, quality, enrollment, and success; particularly in "pervasive needs" schools and among low-income populations. The competition focuses on English/Language Arts, math, and science.

Project APPEAL is designed to bring low-income and minority students into Advanced Placement, and through vital course sequences that prepare students for success in AP. The initiative extends course and curriculum development, professional development, supportive services for students and families, and online and materials support to targeted schools in four partner districts. The districts are ASD, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, Yukon Koyukuk School District, and Kuspuk School District. Project schools in Anchorage are Bartlett High School, Clark Middle School, and McLaughlin Secondary School. Community partners with specific roles include the University of Alaska, Southeast Alaska Regional Educational Resource Center (SERRC), Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Bridge Builders, and School Business Partnerships.

A three-year professional development plan will prepare and certify more AP teachers in the focus content areas; and will nourish "vertical teams" of teachers

trained to articulate prerequisite coursework in grades six through twelve. At the heart of the plan are summer institutes in Anchorage that bring together teams of teachers, counselors, and administrators from the partner districts; school-year College Board workshops; and credit courses in flexible formats. Interactive internet-based distance learning will connect and network the sites during the school year. Participants will gain content knowledge and concepts, rigorous curriculum, and pedagogical practices that work for diverse populations.

The initiative expands online APEX AP and AP exam preparation incrementally over the three years. APPEAL implements online AP in rural schools as a feasible way to bring AP options directly to students at remote or small sites. Wrap-around services for students include tutoring, early identification, counseling specific to this project, interest activities, goal-setting and college planning, peer and community role models, and extensive parent outreach.

Major budget items support a full-time coordinator, contract addenda and stipends for teachers and counselors, classroom materials and equipment, and contractual services for national presenters and external evaluation. Sub-contracts to partner districts are managed through an ASD contract to SERRC.

Budget Summary, Year One (estimated line items):

Personnel	\$161,624
Fringe Benefits	50,361
Travel	3,068
Equipment	17,589
Supplies	42,904
Contractual	479,515
Other	24,503
Training Stipends	84,879
Indirect Costs	<u>34,145</u>
Total	\$898,588

CC/JC/EH/MH/BT

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