

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #1 (2009-2010)

July 30, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AMENDED DISTRICT APPLICATION:
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT STATE
FISCAL STABILIZATION FUND

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by maximizing opportunities of lifelong learning.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to re-submit to the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development the District's application for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Fiscal Stabilization Fund for the revised total of \$34,673,609 (district allocation form attached).

PERTINENT FACTS:

After submission of the District's original application for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) notified the District that our allocation was in fact \$34,673,609, which was different than originally understood.

Following clarification from the DEED, the Anchorage School District must amend its application for the ARRA SFSF. The projects previously outlined and approved by the Board on June 22, 2009, are listed below along with the modifications needed to satisfy the required reduction.

As explained previously, the ARRA was signed into law February of 2009. The Act provides additional funds for education through various entitlement funds and competitive grants. The SFSF is intended both to save and create jobs as well as to increase the pace of school reform to increase student achievement and improve graduation rates.

SFSF allocations are provided to districts through application to the DEED. Funds are provided in two phases -- Phase I being available now (67 percent of the total SFSF amount), and Phase II being available soon thereafter (33 percent of the total SFSF amount). Whereas Phase I is an automatic pass through from the federal government through the states to districts, Phase II becomes available to states and districts only after federal receipt and approval of a state's application. The State of Alaska's application has been signed by both Commissioner LeDoux and the governor's office and has been submitted to the federal government for approval.

With DEED approval, the amended application has been prepared for the full, corrected SFSF amount anticipated for Anchorage (\$34,673,609), rather than just the currently available Phase I funds, since all SFSF funds must be used during the same time period (July 1, 2009 - September 30, 2011).

Projects funded with SFSF must be authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Adult and Family Literacy Act, Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, or Impact Aid, which allows for modernization, renovation, repair or construction of public school facilities. All projects proposed in this application are so authorized.

As stated previously, the District's ARRA projects fit within at least one of five major ARRA education goals:

1. Adopt rigorous college and career-ready standards and high-quality assessments,
2. Establish data systems and use data for improvement,
3. Increase teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of effective teachers,
4. Turn around the lowest performing schools, and
5. Improve results for all students, including early learning, extended learning time, use of technology, preparation for college, and school modernization.

These projects continue to be among those most in line with Board goals and interests and that are most likely to increase student achievement, build teacher capacity, and increase the graduation rate.

The Board was presented with a draft narrative describing each project at its June 8, 2009 meeting and was encouraged to provide the Administration with comments and suggestions related to the proposed projects. Feedback was extremely favorable, and several Board members offered suggestions to augment

the proposed projects. Those suggestions have been incorporated into the final projects whenever possible. The Board subsequently approved the District's original application at its June 22, 2009 meeting, ASD Memorandum #370 (2008-2009). Each project is briefly described below with the recommended modifications.

Anchorage School District College and Career Ready Project

This comprehensive project will prepare students in the Anchorage School District for postsecondary education, training, and careers to help meet Alaska's workforce needs. Through the use of college/career ready assessments and curriculum, and professional guidance, students and families will have extensive information on student interests, aptitudes, and needs related to education and career pathways.

Modifications: Career/Tech Ed planning will be incorporated into the Educational Specification revision coming to the School Board at a later date.

Response to Intervention Comprehensive Readiness Project (co-funded by SFSF, Title I, and IDEA ARRA)

The District is heavily engaged in its efforts to systematize Response to Intervention (RTI). Our efforts toward *systematization* are focused on the Elementary Division as the critical starting point for maximum effect. However, RTI is occurring at the site level in secondary schools as well as required by the IDEA. In order for RTI efforts to be successful, we must first ensure that our Tier I core curriculum is sound. This project brings up to date the curriculum renewal cycle that has been lagging. It also provides for professional development for teachers on working with struggling students, and on using data and the various curricula. It includes a comprehensive assessment system to provide teachers with specific data on individual student achievement and progress. Through the various funding sources, this project also provides for additional time for student learning whether that be through after school programs, transition programs, or through summer school. This project also provides funds for parent outreach and education.

Modifications: Elementary reading coaches; middle and high school intervention support specialists; middle school outreach teacher; elementary counselors; staff collaboration time for data analysis and planning; and elementary, middle, and high school summer schools funded by IDEA ARRA. Transition programs for students moving from elementary to middle school and middle to high school will continue to be funded at the division level. Algebra II curriculum adoption and professional development eliminated.

Online Learning Project (co-funded by SFSF and IDEA ARRA)

Flexibility for different learning styles and providing students with various ways to access curriculum is essential in meeting student needs. Additionally, the availability of excellent online learning applications provides classroom teachers with the means of differentiating instruction for students in their classrooms while responding to students' needs for independent and engaging learning opportunities. This project provides funding to expand our efforts in the area of online learning.

Modifications: Half of Achieve 3000 and MyAccess seats funded by IDEA ARRA , half eliminated; funds for Netbooks and carts eliminated by half.

Enhancing Leadership Capacity Project

The District has a need for a comprehensive professional development program to assist our administrative leadership team in supporting and guiding staff in our collective efforts to meet Anchorage School Board goals and individual student needs. We have a fine principal mentorship program that assists those new to the role of administrator, in terms of induction and initial mentoring. What is lacking is a comprehensive plan for professional development aligned with the Six-Year Instructional Plan. Funds would provide for that planning process to occur, with the result being a comprehensive leadership professional development plan. Additionally, funds in this project will provide support to our inaugural UAA Leadership Cohort. This group of 18 selected students in UAA's Educational Leadership Program will receive additional support via stimulus funds on their road to becoming successful ASD administrators.

Modifications: None.

Curriculum Refresh Project

Education Stimulus Funds will allow us to bring our curriculum renewal cycle up-to-date as well for those curricular areas not directly under our RTI project umbrella. Funds will allow for the purchase of texts and technology-based curriculum as well as professional development for instructional staff on those curricula. These include 4-6 social studies, K-6 music, and 8th grade health, as well as training related to world languages assessments, elementary science kits, and art.

Modifications: Curriculum adoption and professional development for K-3 social studies delayed. Curriculum adoption and professional development for Integrated Science 9 eliminated.

IT/ED Tech Restructure Completion Project

Stimulus funding gives us an opportunity to continue the reorganization effort that began three years ago and use appropriate positions to support client machines as well as to support teachers. The District has created a staffing plan for truly transitioning the tech teachers back into instructional roles and moving IT tech support (at a significantly lower salary than the teachers) into the schools. There is a need for stimulus money for these positions for only the first and second years of this effort to support the added positions during the transition years. Funding for the required long-term positions would be supported through the general fund in the following years if the effort is deemed successful and the Board so directs the funding.

Modifications: None.

IT Network Refurbishment Project

This project allows the District to complete efforts to install robust wireless throughout the schools. Stimulus dollars also provide a dynamic opportunity to strengthen the District's network to meet the ever-increasing demand for connectivity. Educational tools based on new technologies continue to grow within the school district at an ever increasing rate. These tools include hardware such as Netbooks, interactive white boards, projectors and digital cameras; classroom applications like Fast Forward, Lexia, Comic Life, and Everyday Math Games; network applications like MyAccess, Achieve 3000, APEX, and tools for notifying parents and increasing home communication using Zangle and Student Messenger. These applications and supporting tools use the local area network, the wide area network, and the internet, increasing the need to ensure the infrastructure required to support these applications is in place and robust. The network upgrade will allow added cost savings by increasing our wide area network capability and reaping the benefits of centralized servers, low-cost backup solutions, increased internet bandwidth capability, unified communication, reduced support staff requirements and substantially lowered hardware refresh costs.

Modifications: Network refurbishment and related services reduced.

Server Replacement Project

The server replacement project is wide-ranging and essential. The servers requested through this project are necessary to keep the District functioning while the network upgrade is put in place. Once the network is upgraded, many of these servers will not need to be refreshed in the future.

Modifications: None.

Library Patron System Project

A Patron Interface Committee was formed to gather information on library, patron, and librarian's needs in a new system with the purpose of creating a proposal to clearly outline the District's objectives for a new Online Public Access Catalog and Library Management System for the ASD Libraries. This project is based on a need for a library system that supports ASD students in gaining 21st Century Skills and district grade level expectations, meeting State and District library and information literacy standards, and supporting teachers in a meaningful way to deliver curriculum to our students. Rigor and relevance are keys to engaging students in a meaningful way in their education. Our current system is missing many of the tools that even the most casual user of the internet has come to expect and the current system has come to be actually detrimental to the engagement of students.

Modifications: None.

Building System Renewals

Support Services has prioritized a list of building system renewals that would be allowable projects under the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds. Those projects include the upgrade of the fire alarm system at Eagle River Elementary; security system upgrades for King Career Center, Trailside, Goldenview, Mears, Wendler, Ptarmigan, Campbell, Nunaka Valley, and Lake Otis; Intercom / PA Upgrades for Wonder Park, Gladys Wood , and Kasuun; Lighting Upgrades to Campbell and Mears MPR; Hanshew VAV Boxes; and East High Gym HVAC Repair (North Fan Room).

Modifications: Security system upgrades for Mirror Lake, Bayshore, Scenic Park, Airport Heights, Spring Hill, Birchwood, and Girdwood; Steller Secondary Glycol/Heat Exchangers; College Gate ES VAT Tile, and bi-directional antennas for Gruening, Mears, Wendler, Hanshew, and Goldenview Emergency Communication Systems delayed.

General Oversight and Accountability

Indirect funds will be used for a compliance director and an additional accountant. SFSF funds will provide for an additional program evaluator in Assessment and Evaluation to ensure all compliance requirements are met and projects are appropriately evaluated for consideration in the 2011-2012 budget development process.

The Anchorage School District fully understands that these ARRA funds are two-year funds. Where the District is creating new positions or projects, the District fully understands that after two years, the District will either have to discontinue those projects and eliminate that staff or prioritize them over existing projects through the budget development process. The results of evaluation of these projects will help inform those future discussions. The District maintains regular dialogue with the Council of the Great City Schools to consult on ARRA and other issues and will continue to do so.

As agreed upon through previous approval by the Board for the ARRA SFSF application on June 22, 2009, this is a tremendous opportunity for the Anchorage School District. This remains a significant opportunity to move forward on initiatives we've been eager to advance and to evaluate those initiatives thoroughly.

CC/EG

Attachment

Prepared by: Ed Graff, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Total SFSF Alaska Award	% of Title I FY2010 Allocations	SFSF Allocation
\$93,043,162		
ALASKA GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.61%	\$570,167
ALEUTIAN REGION SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.03%	\$27,329
ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRI	0.14%	\$130,723
ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT	37.27%	\$34,673,609
ANNETTE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.26%	\$245,167
BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3.76%	\$3,500,639
BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.04%	\$40,477
CHATHAM REGION SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.25%	\$228,696
CHUGACH SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.15%	\$142,846
COPPER RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.45%	\$419,579
CORDOVA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.14%	\$131,801
CRAIG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.22%	\$204,692
DELTA GREELY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1.07%	\$992,435
DENALI BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.09%	\$80,110
DILLINGHAM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.42%	\$392,724
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL	9.66%	\$8,987,103
GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.12%	\$112,757
HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.26%	\$240,074
HOONAH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.13%	\$118,226
HYDABURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.17%	\$153,591
IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.51%	\$472,751
JUNEAU BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	1.92%	\$1,782,717
KAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.20%	\$183,457
KASHUNAMIUT SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.98%	\$908,075
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTR	6.08%	\$5,652,786
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DIS	1.31%	\$1,216,412
KLAWOCK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.22%	\$203,596
KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRIC	1.23%	\$1,142,780
KUSPUK SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.76%	\$703,729
LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.49%	\$459,890
LOWER KUSKOKWIM SCHOOL DISTRICT	6.45%	\$6,003,391
LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT	5.42%	\$5,040,934
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DIS	8.27%	\$7,693,461
NENANA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.15%	\$142,862
NOME CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.32%	\$294,336
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.90%	\$835,109
NORTHWEST ARCTIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	2.75%	\$2,555,367
PELICAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.00%	\$0
PETERSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.21%	\$194,097
PRIBILOF ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.08%	\$72,151
SITKA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.95%	\$887,529
SKAGWAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.00%	\$0
SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.20%	\$187,931
SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOL DISTRICT	1.58%	\$1,466,017
ST. MARYS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.49%	\$456,629
TANANA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.05%	\$47,090
UNALASKA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.07%	\$65,775
VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.16%	\$144,706
WRANGELL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.27%	\$249,900
YAKUTAT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.07%	\$68,478
YUKON FLATS SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.68%	\$633,316
YUKON KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.81%	\$756,078
YUPIIT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1.16%	\$1,080,552
MT. EDGE CUMBE HS	0.05%	\$48,515
Total Grant Awards to LEAs	100.00%	\$93,043,162