

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**

**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)**

**Grant Recipient: Matanuska-Susitna Borough**

**Federal Tax ID: 92-6000034**

**Project Title:**

**Project Type: Other**

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough - School District Cyber Centers

**State Funding Requested: \$500,000**  
One-Time Need

**House District: Mat-Su Areawide (7-11)**

**Brief Project Description:**

Funding for this project will be used to continue the implementation, training and purchase of equipment and furnishings to further support and solidify the MSBSD's I-Tech online learning centers. The online learning centers require tech support, training, mobile labs and license purchases to build a robust program. Additionally the project will extend resource sharing opportunities to our charter schools and correspondence schools.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,011,790
Funding Already Secured:	(\$511,790)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$500,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0
<i>Funding Details:</i>	
Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District General Fund: \$511,790.15	

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Cyber Centers afford the opportunity to provide an added value program to students in the Mat-Su Borough School District. This program is a means to offer course flexibility and choice to students using an online platform. A promise of online education, experts say, is providing learning experiences that are more tailored to individual students than is possible in classrooms. The project will allow for greater latitude and choice for students and will address the areas of rigor by purchasing APEX Learning High School licenses which provides honors and AP opportunities for students in correspondence, charter, rural and large comprehensive schools where opportunity might be limited due to availability of highly qualified teachers. Credit recovery opportunities will be supported to aid schools in their efforts to increase graduation rates. Online Cyber Centers will be further developed with continued training of Mat-Su iTech teachers and site coordinators/mentors. Continued support of the project helps MSBSD prepare students for success in the 21st Century. National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE 2008) study found that online learners reported deeper approaches to learning than classroom-based learners and experienced "better use of higher order thinking skills, integrative thinking, and reflective learning."

Funding to include employee compensation.

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*

\$500,000  
Approved

**Project Timeline:**

Project will commence immediately upon receipt of funds.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Gene Stone  
Title: Assistant Superintendent  
Address: 501 N Gulkana Street  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
Phone Number: (907)446-9212  
Email: gene.stone@matsuk12.us

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No