

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Northwest Arctic Borough****Federal Tax ID: 920116661****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Northwest Arctic Borough - Kotzebue High School Residential Program and Northwest Magnet School

State Funding Requested: \$8,000,000**House District: 40 / T**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This project consists of building a 40-bed dormitory in Kotzebue to support the regional magnet school for grades 11 and 12.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$12,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$4,000,000)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$8,000,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

Last year we received \$4 million for the dorm. Federal and other funds are also being sought.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Star of the Northwest Magnet School (STAR) will be a residential comprehensive secondary and post-secondary school for students region wide in grades 11 to 14. Students in the school will graduate from high school and complete up to two years of additional academic and/or vocational technical education leading to an associate of arts degree, and or vocational/technical certifications. The student body will include 50 students in grades 11 and 12 and up to an additional hundred students in grades 13 and 14. Currently, only the post-secondary students have dorm housing. The \$12 million in funding will build a 40-bed dormitory for the students in grades 11 and 12. The addition of the dormitory and the new curriculum should increase attendance and graduation rates around the region. Students living on campus will experience living on their own while in a controlled environment and learn to meet many of the same demands as the work environment they will soon enter. The dorm environment will have the added benefit of placing students in a supportive learning environment, steering students away from suicide and substance abuse. The addition of the dormitory is the last phase of this project and is needed to fully implement the program and to provide the needed educational opportunity to students in outlying communities.

The STAR educational curriculum was developed as a collaborative partnership between the Northwest Arctic Borough School District, Alaska Technical Center, Chukchi College, and our industry partners. The school will focus on preparing students for professional careers in our region with four career pathways to choose from: education, healthcare, resource development, and culinary arts. By choosing their own career path students understand the relevancy of their education and how it relates to their future. This educational relevancy will increase attendance and graduation rates in our region. The curriculum emphasizes application of academic and technological concepts resulting in learning and skill development that

is practical and relevant rather than theoretical. The integrated curriculum, developed to meet workplace and academic standards, will place high expectations on students and enhance their ability to communicate effectively, think critically, and solve problems. We plan to graduate students who are prepared for the work force by having the required skill levels needed, as well as, understanding the daily demands of a work environment. Our goal is to graduate our next generation of dedicated, driven community leaders and our own workforce. In the past three years, the school district received a federal grant that allowed the NWAB School District to begin the resource development component of the Magnet School Program. Beginning in January of 2012, the program served 15 students who attended classes both at the high school and the Alaska Technical Center. The following year the program expanded to 20 students and last year the program served over 40 students. The grant afforded the school district the opportunity to slowly phase the program in and to work out problems on a smaller scale. Recent tracking data shows that students who participate in two or more career track classes have an 85% graduation rate, which is significantly higher than the graduation rate for students not in the program. The program has been a success and is ready to expand. In order to expand the dormitory is needed to house students from around the region.

Project Timeline:

The project will go out to bid in the fall of 2013 and construction will begin in 2014.

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

NWAB School District

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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