FY 2009 Capital Budget   TPS Report 49486

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)
Grant Recipient: Anchorage

Project Title:

Anchorage - Denali Elementary School Computers Purchase

State Funding Requested: $ 38,000   **House District:** 23 - L
One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Funds would be used to purchase new computers for Denali's computer lab.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: $38,000

	Funding Secured		Other Pending Requests		Anticipated Future Need	
	Amount	*FY*	*Amount*	*FY*	*Amount*	*FY*
There is no other funding needed						

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Grant funds would purchase 30 new computers for Denali Elementary School's computer lab. This grant would improve the school's instructional program and replace outdated computers. The current computers are over 5 years old, and cannot run Apple's modern operating system (OSX). As a result, Denali's students cannot use many of the new reading, math, and word processing educational software. This technology upgrade is essential to aiding student progress and ensuring that Denali's students keep pace with current technology.

Project Timeline:

Funds would be used for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

Anchorage School District

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Brooke Hull
Phone Number: 742-4500
Address: 952 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK 99501
Email:

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

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

Contact Name: James Feldman
Contact Number: 465-2647

5:05 PM 4/29/2008

March 3, 2008

Representive Les Gara · · · Senator Johnny Ellis
Sate Capitol Room 500 · · · State Capitol Room 9
Juneau, AK 99801 · · · Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Sirs:

We are writing this letter to you requesting that you help us garner resources to purchase new computers for the computer lab at Denali Montessori School. In the past, you have been very supportive of our school's needs, and we are once again asking for your help.

The majority of Denali's computers were purchased and in place for the opening of our school at the start of the 2003-04 school year. This equipment is deployed in a lab of 30 Apple eMac computers, a second auxiliary lab of 20 eMacs, and approximately 60 eMacs spread throughout the various classrooms in the school. Additionally, we have two iCarts of 20 wireless laptops each which are used for some class projects. All equipment is now on the fifth school year of operation.

We are now at a point where our aging hardware is beginning to become obsolete. As new educational software (reading, math, video editing, word processing, etc.) becomes available, we are no longer able to run the newest titles and/or versions. Repairs are problematic and often not cost-effective on depreciated equipment, even if parts are available. Further, we cannot run the current version of the Apple OS X operating system on our five year-old equipment.

We would like to begin refreshing our computers, starting with our main computer lab. This lab contains thirty machines and is our only location at which teachers can conduct technology-related instruction with their entire class simultaneously.

The main lab is the logical starting point, and we estimate that replacement of all thirty computers with current hardware could be accomplished at a cost of $30,000 - $35,000.

These machines would bring our lab to current status and allow us to continue our efforts to implement a reasonable replacement cycle for our equipment. Currently, all of our technology will become obsolete at once. The new computers should meet our needs in the lab for the next five-year period.

If you can help us in any way to update our computer lab, we would appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely yours,
Brooke Hull,
Denali Montessori principal