

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Matanuska-Susitna Borough School****District****Project Title:****Project Type:** Information Systems and Technology

Matanuska-Susitna Borough - School District Library & Technology Upgrades as Specified in Appropriation Back-up

State Funding Requested: \$110,000
One-Time Need

House District: Mat-Su Areawide (13-16)

Brief Project Description:

Upgrade library/technology needs in schools. Specified schools are Sherrod Elementary, Swanson Elementary, Pioneer Peak Elementary, Finger Lake Elementary, Mchetanz Elementary, Valley Pathways, Academy Charter, Palmer Jr. Middle, Colony Middle, Palmer High, Colony High.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$110,000

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Schools need to stay up-to-date with current teaching methods and technologies. This \$10,000 grant to each of the specified schools will allow them to update their technology needs with functional and upgraded computers; and/or add technology to meet the needs of At-Risk students, such as, the Promethean Board, a very successful interactive tool. Library books are also in need of replacement in some of the schools.

Project Timeline:

2010-2011

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

Mat-Su Borough School District

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Don Carney, Facilities Coordinator
Address: 3901 E Bogard Rd
Wasilla, AK 99654
Phone Number: (907)376-0806
Email: don.carney@matsuk12.us

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

Colony High School support letter

From: Cyd Duffin [Cyd.Duffin@matsuk12.us]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 4:37 PM
To: Rep. Carl Gatto
Cc: Karen Sawyer
Subject: Colony High School request for Library/Technology Assistance

Categories: Budget

Dear Representative Gatto:

Thank you for your fax this evening requesting feedback on the possibility of funding for library/technology upgrades. Colony High School has an unusual and urgent request for funding assistance in our library. Although our Career Tech teachers have computer labs, those labs are only available to the students who are signed up to take those classes all day (classes such as Tech Aps, N+/A+, web Design, and so on). In other words, they are not school-wide labs that serve our entire student body but rather labs which are utilized specifically for those classes.

Unfortunately due to the lack of classroom space, the only school-wide lab that we now have is housed in our library; this lab is available for a classroom teacher to sign up his/her class in order to conduct research, write term papers, and it is also available for the individual student to work on independently when needed. That is one computer lab serving over 1,200 students so the demand on this lab is extraordinary! To make matters more dire, the warranty on the current lab of 40 computers has just expired--so now if anything breaks down, Dell will no longer service these computers. And indeed, they have begun to break down.

Dell leases computers to us for approximately \$1,000 per computer over a three year basis. We respectfully request \$10,000 in assistance in order to replace ten of the computers in the library so that our students can continue to research and work on functional and upgraded computers. Although it is time to replace all of them, even having the possibility of replacing a third of them will help our students a lot.

We appreciate your support of Colony High School and all valley schools and your service in the Alaska Legislature.

Sincerely,

Cyd Duffin
Colony High School Principal
9550 Colony Schools Drive
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 861-5507
Cyd.Duffin@matsuk12.us

Academy Charter School

801 E. Arctic Ave, Palmer Alaska 99645
(907)746-2358, (907)746-2368 Fax
Or visit us at www.matsuk12.us



April 12, 2010

Dear Representative Gatto,

Academy Charter School is in serious need of technology upgrades. We have been advised by the MIS Dept. of the school district that our main server is in jeopardy and could fail at any time. The server's life expectancy passed a couple of years ago. The cost of a new server is \$8,300. We were told we need to replace (upgrade) three switches at a cost of \$2,000 each. We are very concerned. Should the server fail, our school is technically "dead in the water" as far as connectivity with the district.

We would greatly appreciate your help in funding our necessary technology upgrades. Without your help, we will have to tap into funds that would otherwise have been spent directly on student learning.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gerard
Principal

Finger Lake Elementary

PO Box 875910-230

Wasilla, AK 99687

Home of the Falcons

April 13, 2010

Representative Gatto,

I take pride in representing the community of Finger Lake Elementary. For the students, parents, and staff I would like to request the \$10,000 that is available in capital funds. We will gladly put it to use for the students here through the Library and through technology replacement, I thank you ahead of time for your consideration of this request. We appreciate all that you do for the Valley. Come by anytime for a cup of coffee.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Nufer, Principal

Palmer Jr Middle School support letter

From: GENE STONE [GENE.STONE@matsuk12.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 7:50 AM
To: Rep. Carl Gatto
Cc: Karen Sawyer; Geoff Penrose; Sandy Krueger
Subject: library/technology

Categories: Budget

Dear Representative Gatto,

I recently received information through Karen Sawyer that you may have additional funding available that would be directed to enhance school libraries.

Palmer Junior Middle School is the oldest middle school in the Matanuska School District and quite possibly the entire state. While we have received renovations and have done our best to maintain a modern library, we have never been able to secure funding from our district to install a security gate in our library. All other middle schools in our district have this technology and it allows them to protect their sizeable investment of books and library resources. Each year our library loses \$1500 - \$2000 dollars of book inventory because we lack this technology. The technology will cost approximately \$17,000. With a \$10,000 contribution from the state I would be able to direct a portion of my discretionary funds to complete the required \$17,000 investment.

Please give Palmer Junior Middle School the utmost consideration for any and all funds that could be directed to this very worthy project. The students, staff and community would benefit greatly.

Thank you for all you do for our school and community and best wishes for your continued work in Juneau.

Sincerely,

Gene Stone

Gene Stone - Principal
Palmer Junior Middle School
1159 S. Chugach St.
Palmer, AK 99645

907-761-4319 OFFICE
907-761-4372 FAX

Karen Sawyer

From: Mark HOFFMAN [Mark.HOFFMAN@matsuk12.us]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 3:35 PM
To: Rep. Carl Gatto
Cc: Karen Sawyer
Subject: request

Categories: Budget

4/12/2010

Dear Representative Gatto--

Please consider this a request for legislative funds to be appropriated to our school for technology and library books, should funds become available.

We would like to continue to bring the up-to-date Promethean Boards to those classrooms which meet the needs of our most At-Risk students. These boards are interactive, a meaningful methodology for increasing student success. We will provide the professional development so that this technology is used most effectively.

Any other monies will be used to purchase library books for our school. Research shows that a child who can read by 3rd grade will have more chance of success than those children who still struggle at this age. Having books which peak interest helps to encourage children to read to learn (a growth from learning to read).

We thank you for considering our request. As always, we believe that our children are our most precious resource. With support from you and the other members of our legislature, our children will continue to become our greatest assets.

Thank you for your continued support of the Palmer community,

Together Great Things Happen,

Mark R. Hoffman

Mark R. Hoffman, Principal

"Together Great Things Happen"

Mark R. Hoffman
Sherrod Elementary
Home of the Glacier Bears
561 North Gulkana
Palmer, AK 99645
(907) 761-4100

Fred & Sara Machetanz Elementary
4961 E. Nelson Rd
Wasilla, AK 99645

907-864-2300

907-864-2380

Thomas Lytle
Principal

Jan Evans
Administrative Secretary

April 13, 2010

Office of Representative Carl Gatto
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801

To Representative Carl Gatto,

Greetings from Fred and Sara Machetanz Elementary School, home of the Musk Ox! Our school is the newest school in the Matanuska Susitna Borough School District; while that has provided us with some of the latest educational and environmentally friendly conveniences, it has not afforded the students and community access to a vast collection of literature in the library or ample technology for every classroom. Therefore, I am writing this letter to request additional funding towards library/technology upgrades.

In order for the students of our state to have an educational edge that provides them the opportunity to attend college, trade school or quality apprenticeship programs they need early access to several items: appropriate and engaging reading materials and technological tools that teach problem solving skills and independent learning.

Due to the fact that there are not funds specifically allocated to library collections for schools that are opening, our state of the art facility has only 2,960 books in its collection as compared to the over 17,000 titles in the collections of some of our neighboring schools. Research indicates that one of the most effective ways to create fluent readers who enjoy reading through the duration of their lives is to have ample literature for each child at their reading level about topics that interest each child. This school is built to accommodate 470 learners. As you can see, our library is in desperate need of assistance and our students are in dire need of more literature.

Elementary students who will be graduating in the next seven to twelve years will need to be fluent in the appropriate use of technology. This means that students in our schools need meaningful, daily interactions with technology with the purpose of problem solving, communication and sharing new discoveries. In order for this type of technological learning to occur, which is recommended by ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education), students need more than intermittent time spent in a single computer lab. Students need technological tools to be available in their classrooms that allow each student daily use.

I appreciate the commitment you have shown to the education of our youngest citizens and look forward to working with you to make our school a better place to learn and grow into productive members of our Alaskan community.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Lytle II, Principal
Fred and Sara Machetanz Elementary School

Karen Sawyer

From: Rebecca Hardy [Rebecca.Hardy@matsuk12.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 10:55 AM
To: Karen Sawyer
Cc: MaryKate Mayer
Subject: Capital Budget

Importance: High

Karen, I'm responding to your email for Mary Kate Mayer, Principal at Swanson Elementary, regarding the additional funding through Capital Budget monies.

Ms. Mayer is requesting the monies to improve and update our library collection as well as replace our aging technology computer lab. We appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this money! Please let me know if you need anymore information.

Thank you!



Rebecca Hardy

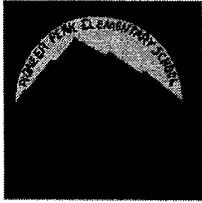
rebecca.hardy@matsuk12.us

Administrative Secretary

Swanson Elementary

907-745-3227 Phone

907-745-1021 Fax



Pioneer Peak Elementary School

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District
1959 North Trunk Road, Palmer, Alaska 99645

Ph: (907)745-0157

Fax: (907)745-6113

Dan Molina
Principal

Robin Covington
Admin. Secretary

April 13, 2010

Dear Honorable Representative Gatto,

I am submitting a Project Request for Library/Technology Upgrades. I know you are well aware of Pioneer Peak's commitment to provide the best possible instructional strategies and learning opportunities for our students. To illustrate, our 2010 Standard Based Assessment data indicates that 92% of our students are Proficient and/or Advanced in Language Arts and 93% are Proficient and/or Advanced in Mathematics.

One way we have been able to achieve academic excellence is by the integration of technology into our instruction. We also make the commitment to provide teachers with the necessary professional development to seamlessly infuse this technology into our teaching practices.

The Library/Technology Upgrades funds will make it possible to update several student computers, acquire more document cameras and one more interactive whiteboard (Promethean Board). These are the tools of the modern classroom that make it possible for our students to master both State and District Technology Standards.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and your continued support to our students.

Respectfully,

Dan Molina, Principal
Pioneer Peak Elementary



~ Life-long Learners ~
~ Community Assets ~
~ Citizens of Integrity ~



PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

~ Home of the Moose ~

1170 West Arctic Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645

phone (907) 746-8400 fax (907) 746-8481 activities (907) 746-8484

www.phs.matsuk12.us

Principals - Wolfgang Winter, Garth Morgan, & Leigh Stanton
Activities Director - Jeff Thiede

Re: Funding for the Palmer High School Library

Representative Carl Gatto
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Mr. Gatto,

On behalf of the Palmer High School community I would like to request funding for a project involving the further education of our students; specifically I am referring to our library collection.

Palmer High School's collection of non-fiction works dates back to the Palmer Territorial School – pre-statehood. There are a number of books stamped “Palmer Territorial School” and, while they are interesting as a matter of sentiment, they are obviously not useful in terms of current research for our students and staff. As of early December, 2009 the average age of our collection was 1986, with over 4000 works having publishing dates prior to 1980.

It is our aim to “weed” the nonfiction collection and replace many of the items with nonfiction books that address current issues and contain the most up to date information.

Anything you could facilitate to make this a reality would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang Winter, Principal
Palmer High School

Cc: Karen Sawyer, Budget Staff – Rep. Gatto's Office



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Re: Funding for the Palmer High School Library

Representative Carl Gatto
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Mr. Gatto,

On behalf of the Palmer High School community I would like to request funding for a project involving the further education of our students; specifically I am referring to the technology in our library.

The Palmer High School library currently has 30 working computers for student use ranging in age from 1½ years to 7 years old. Because of our class sizes we end up turning students or classes away as we are full. During lunch periods the library is almost always at capacity as students are doing research, make-up work, and more. Also, we offer printing for students' school work at 10 cents per copy – this service has been discontinued as our copier recently stopped working and, because of its age, it can no longer be serviced. Finally, an item which we do not have and one that would undoubtedly get a lot of use, is a high quality flatbed color scanner.

It is our aim to improve our students' access to the technology they will need as they take their next steps in life after they leave high school. The needs mentioned above would address the areas we feel have the highest priority in terms of getting that accomplished.

Anything you could facilitate to make this a reality would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang Winter, Principal
Palmer High School

Cc: Karen Sawyer, Budget Staff – Rep. Gatto's Office

13. April 2010



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Re: Funding for the Palmer High School Library

Representative Carl Gatto
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Mr. Gatto,

On behalf of the Palmer High School community I would like to request funding for a project involving the further education of our students; specifically I am referring to the physical design and layout of our library.

As in other phases of life where sometimes what is true is not as critical as what appears to be true, our library is a socially welcoming place without the physical attributes to back it up. Roofs need to be fixed or replaced, textbooks need to be replaced or purchased, security measures and wiring need to be installed or upgraded, and so on. What often gets neglected because of all of these important things are the physical accommodations in classrooms and/common areas. Our library furnishings fall into this latter category.

If our premier academic area – our library – is as inviting as it can be to our student users they are more likely to want to avail themselves of everything that our library can offer. With 75-100 students using our library during lunch time we would suggest that a more trendy design in our library environment would be in order. This would include a furniture “makeover,” painting, and new carpet.

Anything you could facilitate to make this a reality would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang Winter, Principal
Palmer High School

Cc: Karen Sawyer, Budget Staff – Rep. Gatto’s Office

13. April 2010



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Activities Director - Jeff Thiede

Re: Funding for the Palmer High School Library

Representative Carl Gatto
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Mr. Gatto,

On behalf of the Palmer High School community I would like to request funding for a project involving the further education of our students; specifically I am referring to the our school library.

We are hoping for financial backing as we look toward addressing three areas of that facility that we've identified as needing upgrades:

- **Collection Development:** Palmer High School's collection dates back to the Palmer Territorial School – pre statehood. Our Library/Media Specialist has come across a number of books stamped "Palmer Territorial School." The average age of the collection as of Dec. 4, 2009 was 1986 with over 4000 of titles having publication dates pre-1980. our aim to "weed" the nonfiction collection and replace many of the items with nonfiction books that address current issues and contain the most up-to-date information.
- **Technology:** Palmer High's library currently has 30 working computers for student use – ranging in age from 1 ½ to years in age. We often have to turn students / classes away as we are at capacity, in terms of research "station." Also, we offer printing for students school work at 10 cents per copy. This service has been discontinued as the copier recently stopped working; it is so old we no longer can get it serviced. Finally as piece of equipment we do not have but would get a lot of use is a high quality flatbed color scanner.
- **Design:** The furniture and design of the library could use a facelift. We get 75 - 100 students that utilize the library every day during lunch. They enjoy eating their lunch, doing homework, socializing, and reading during their lunch hour. This number is in addition to all of the classes that filter into and out of the library in any given day. We hope to design a more trendy library environment for students that offers new furniture / seating arrangement, painting, and carpet.

Anything you could facilitate to make this a reality would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang Winter, Principal
Palmer High School

Cc: Karen Sawyer, Budget Staff – Rep. Gatto's Office

13. April 2010

Karen Sawyer

From: Jim Wanser [Jim.Wanser@matsuk12.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 2:40 PM
To: Rep. Carl Gatto
Cc: Karen Sawyer
Subject: A request for funding of Library and Technology Upgrades

Representative Gatto -

I am writing to request Library and Technology Upgrades funding for Valley Pathways School. Briefly, in the ten years that Pathways has been open and serving high school students in the Palmer area, we have never had a library. District and school resources have been very limited and the need for a library has not been able to be funded. The need for a library in a high school setting is apparent so I won't waste your time with the details. The requested funding would be used to purchase book shelves, a book accounting system, periodicals, and books from various genres. This would represent a starting point to establishing a library that I will be able to contribute to through school funds for years to come. The startup cost was the true barrier to this dream.

Thank you for your considerations -

Jim Wanser, Principal
Valley Pathways School
Palmer, AK 99645

I have also included a letter from my reading teacher, Michele Chapman, below.

Dear Representative Gatto,

I am a teacher at Valley Pathways High School and have been given the information from Jim Wanser, the school principal, in regard to funding for Library/Technology Upgrades. I wish to tell you what that would mean to Valley Pathways' students and staff. Valley Pathways has been in operation for the past ten years and have not had any thing closely relating to a library. We have been given VERY outdated books from an estate sale and have been collecting books over the years which I have housed in my portable for I am the reading teacher here. It has been very difficult to keep track of these books and there are little resources that are current. I have shared this information with other staff and we are all extremely excited at the possibility of obtaining a start of a library at this school. I have been in contact with a local high school librarian to see what some of the bare necessities would be for a high school library and we have come up with a list of what this money could be used for. The following is our wish list for Valley Pathway's library:

- Shelving to go against all available walls in Denali Portable
- Computer/Printer
- Software to catalog and keep track of books and/or System for processing of books
- Books – Most recent, best approved Fiction and Non-Fiction in a variety of genres.
- Books- Various Classics
- Books to be use for Scholastic Read 180 that the District has Scholastic Tests for.

Thank you for considering us for this great opportunity.

Sincerely,

Michele Chapman
Reading Teacher/Special Education Teacher



Colony Middle School
9250 Colony Schools Dr.
Palmer, AK 99645
(907) 761-1500

Mary McMahon, Principal
Casey Hull, Assistant Principal

Dear Rep. Gatto,

April 13, 2010

Please consider the following request for Library/Technology Upgrades for Colony Middle School.

The CMS Library is open for all students and classes throughout the school year to support both class projects and individual student needs. In addition to our ever present goal of developing life-long learners through reading and inquiry, CMS Library offers access to technology along with training and assistance in incorporating technology into the learning environment.

It is clear that media is a large part of our daily lives and producing media, connected to learning and projects, is a fabulous motivator for students to reach new levels of understanding.

There are two tracks for technology upgrades that would greatly enhance services to our school library community and provide tools for students to engage in learning, assessment and presentation.

Track one : equipment for class instruction and management of library collection

1. ActivSlate: is a small handheld laptop for use with Promethean board that can be passed to individual students to have control of the board. (\$400)
2. ActivExpressions: is class a set of student response voters that allow full texting like a cell phone. These devices send results to the board that can be exported to a spreadsheet and used to manage assessments, surveys, brainstorm, and any number of activities. (\$2500)
3. Promethean Voice Amplifier and speakers: (\$400)
4. Barcode scanners used to checkout items and scan for inventory. (2 x \$500=\$1000)

Track Two: cameras and workstation to expand media instruction and presentations

1. Digital cameras: 10 new digital cameras for students and teachers to checkout from library. (\$1200)
2. Digital Video Camera to create quality video recordings for events, instruction, productions and presentations. (\$500)
3. Headphones with mics – (\$12.00 each x 30 = \$360)
4. Enhanced computer workstation for students and staff to work on digital media productions. This workstation would have additional memory, processing speed, large format screen and media card readers to facilitate group work and editing. (\$2,500)

We truly appreciate your efforts toward supporting libraries, education and learning for students and teachers at Colony Middle School.

Sincerely,

Mary McMahon, Principal

Robin Turk, Librarian

Signatures on file