

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Northwest Arctic Borough****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Northwest Arctic Borough - Nikaitchuat Immersion School Supplies and Furniture

State Funding Requested: \$20,000**House District: 40 / T**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

The money will be used for furniture and academic resource materials for the Nikaitchuat Illisagviat Immersion School in Kotzebue, Alaska.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$20,000***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Nikaitchuat Illisagviat is an Inupiaq language immersion school in Kotzebue, Alaska. With a student body of twenty (and 30 on the waiting list), Nikaitchuat offers a complete preschool through first grade curriculum, all in Inupiaq. The school furniture that was donated to Nikaitchuat along with the facility that houses the school was outdated when it was first given to the school eleven years ago. The furniture has been used beyond its useful life and it is reaching the point of being a danger to the children. For example, there is wooden furniture that is splintering, which presents a hazard to children when it lodges beneath their clothing and skin. Much of the furniture is hefty and difficult to sanitize due to its worn surface. The school would like to make the classroom safer by replacing the outdated wooden furniture with durable plastic, which is safer, easier to keep clean and sanitary and to move around for educational flexibility. The school hopes to purchase 20 cubbies for the children's coats, shoes and personal items. Some of the funds would be used to purchase and replenish teaching supplies. Resource items that may be generated within the school due to their scarcity on the market are Inupiatun grammar books. Additionally, some computer upgrades and updated equipment to record DVDs of elders telling stories are also needed items.

Project Timeline:

The money will be expended over the course of the fiscal year.

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

Northwest Arctic Borough

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Glenn Skin
Address:	P.O. Box 1110 Kotzebue, AK 99752
Phone Number:	442-2500
Email:	gd_skin@hotmail.com

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

Nikaitchuat



Ilisagviat

April 17, 2010

Staff to Representative Reggie Joule
House District 40
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

FAX TO: 465-4586

Dear Representative Reggie Joule:

Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat is a private Inupiat Language Immersion school located in Kotzebue, Alaska for children ages 3-8 years old. Our staff includes four teachers and an administrator assistant/curriculum assistant. We have a Parent Governance Committee with seven members.

Our mission is to instill in our children the Inupiaq knowledge of identity, dignity and respect and to cultivate a lifelong love of learning. We do this by speaking Inupiaq only all day every day. We follow a curriculum calendar that was produced with the guidance of local elders and other community members. The curriculum is based on traditional Inupiat values and seasonal activities such as hunting and gathering.

Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat has successfully completed ten years and we are finishing up our eleventh year. We appreciate the funding the legislation has contributed for furniture, supplies and academic resources to our school.

In order to sustain our program for the coming years, we continue to rely on the donations that we receive.

The complete obliteration of the Inupiaq language is a very real possibility, and we are taking steps to successfully bring back the language. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 442-4160. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mikirturag Jackie Nanouk
Assistant Administrator/Curriculum Assistant
P.O. Box 389
Kotzebue, Ak 99752