

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage****Federal Tax ID: 92-6000078****Project Title:****Project Type: Information Systems and Technology**

Anchorage - West High School Distance Learning Computer Technology

State Funding Requested: \$400,000**House District: 26 / M**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Purchase and installation of real-time distance learning computer technology at West High School will transform existing classrooms into real-time distance learning delivery and receipt points. It will also stream instruction, news, and safety information campus-wide.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$800,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$400,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$400,000

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

With this technology, classrooms, students, teachers, and parents will be fully connected 24/7. It will give teachers real-time access to content, resources, and systems anywhere in the world. It will also give real-time access to educational opportunities from other local, statewide, national, and international communities and, once captured, the ability to transmit to the entire school through digital signage.

The technology further allows teachers to direct students inside and outside of school by capturing classroom instruction, digitizing it, storing it, and retrieving it on command. The same equipment can be used by staff for professional development.

Master teachers will be able to broadcast live across the Anchorage School District to schools that have insufficient students to justify a teacher in a particular subject, or to villages that otherwise cannot offer specialized courses taught by master teachers. This ability to leverage master teachers is a cost-effective and efficient way for more students to receive top-level instruction.

Project Timeline:

This is consistent with implementation of the Technology Vision included in the 2010 West Anchorage High School and Romig Middle School Master Plan approved by the Anchorage School District in June 2010. The computer technology equipment purchase, installation, and training would take place immediately after funds are secured.

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

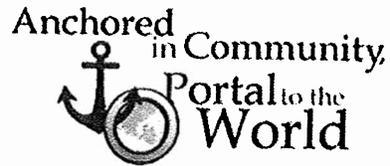
Anchorage School District

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Rick Stone
Title: Principal, West High School
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Anchorage, Alaska 99517
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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

West Anchorage High School • *Home of the Eagles*
1700 Hillcrest Drive • Anchorage, Alaska 99517 • (907) 742-2500



Alaska Legislators
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 28, 2011

Re: Funds to upgrade the Computer Technology at West Anchorage High School

Dear Alaska State Legislators:

As you consider this year's capital budget, please fund \$400,000 to upgrade computer technology at West Anchorage High School. West is Anchorage's oldest high school. As a result, it has inadequate computer technology equipment for 21st century education. In its 2010 master plan, West Anchorage High School contains the vision necessary to graduate students career ready and college prepared. It states in part:

Technology continually transforms the work place; career and industry change overnight. Certain job-specific knowledge and skills are quickly outdated. Students today will regularly need to teach and retrain themselves. They can be equipped to successfully navigate the ever changing workforce environment and can learn to contribute to a fast evolving community. They need, however, to learn to continually educate themselves. With the guidance of their teachers, students can learn to take ownership of their education and become intrinsically motivated to self-educate. In the 21st century, a strong learning technology infrastructure is critical to making this possible.

What holds many schools back from fully leveraging technology is a separation of technology from the school curriculum. Focusing solely on technology skills or equipment is no longer sufficient. Technology must become a ubiquitous component of the entire educational process; it must be integrated seamlessly in to curriculum so that students see technology as providing a path to educate themselves. The West Romig community adopted the Learning Signature "Anchored in Community, Portal to the World" to underscore that the campus is a place where students and the community can come together to access education and garner skills that help navigate the broader world.

This is particularly important when nearly 50% of the students at West Anchorage High are economically disadvantaged, close to 40% do not graduate, and on any given day, a hundred students are homeless with little or no access to computers and technology. With a student population of over 1,800, West Anchorage High School only has 5 computer labs serving less than 150 students.

Although newly constructed schools are able to use 1-2% of their construction budgets to fund new computer technology, being over 50 years old West Anchorage High School has not had that luxury. Further, this year when West successfully garnished the support of the Anchorage Capital Request Advisory Committee to fund computer technology upgrades at West through bonding, the Anchorage School District determined that computer technology cannot be financed through bonding. Therefore, West Anchorage High School is stuck. Until a major capital construction project occurs on its campus, it is very difficult to secure funding for adequate computer upgrades.

West Anchorage High School is actively pursuing various grants options, including assisting with a federal Rural Utility Services grant that will allow leveraging of master teachers to rural Alaska. This \$400,000 legislative grant is proposed as a matching grant to fund a total of \$800,000 of technology improvements at West Anchorage High School. The grant funds will connect students, teachers and parents 24/7 regardless of where they are. Technology can provide access to more learning resources and provide connections to a wider set of educators that can be available in any single classroom on any single day. In a sense, it starts to build the "school in a suitcase" concept. With Alaskan students moving so often across town and to and from the bush, having the continuity of school through technology can drastically change their lives. Every student, educator, and parent can have the educational resources when and where they are needed *cost effectively*. Please support funding \$400,000 of computer technology upgrades at West Anchorage High School. The West Anchorage High School Parent Teacher Student Association passed a resolution on February 23, 2010, unanimously supporting this request.

Sincerely,



Cheri Marston, Secretary

West Anchorage High School Parent Teacher Student Association