

**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: \$6,000,000****House District: 40 / T**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

This project consists of building a 50-bed dormitory in Kotzebue to support the regional magnet school for grades 11 and 12.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$26,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$14,000,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$6,000,000)
Project Deficit:	\$6,000,000

*Funding Details:*

*In fiscal years 2011 and 2012 the legislature provided \$14 million in total funding for the project. Land valued at \$1 million has been donated to the project. This is the last phase of the project. Federal and other funds are being sought. The last phase is estimated to cost \$12 million; if the federal or other funds fall through, we will need to request the remaining funding next year.*

**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 50-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. 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.

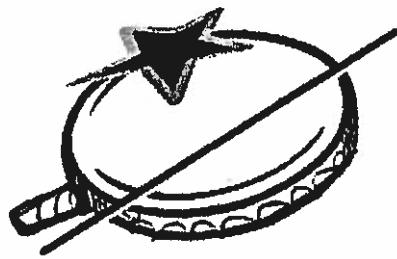
### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

NWAB School District

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Dr. Norm Eck  
 Title: Superintendent  
 Address: P.O. Box 51  
 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
 Phone Number: 442-3472  
 Email: NECK@nwarctic.org

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



STAR OF THE NORTHWEST  
MAGNET SCHOOL



## **Northwest Magnet School Dormitory**

**Brief Description:** The completed project is the construction of a 50-bed dormitory required to support the Regional Magnet Technical School for grades 11 and 12 in Kotzebue. The current capital request is for \$12 million.

**Project type:** New Construction

**Total Project Cost:** \$13 million

**Funding Secured:** \$1 million in land

**FY 2012 State Request:** \$12 million

**Project Deficit:** \$12 million

**If funded will you be requesting again:** No

**Funding history:** The legislature has approved funds for the Magnet School renovation and remodeling in the amount of \$14 million.

**Project description:** The Northwest Arctic Borough School District has developed a program plan of service and has obtained industry support to establish a residential magnet technical school.

The Northwest Magnet School is a residential comprehensive secondary and post-secondary school in Kotzebue that provides academic and vocational/technical education leading to an associate of arts degree, and/or vocational/technical certifications for students in grades 11 to 14. The school combines the resources of secondary and post-secondary institutions within the Northwest Arctic Borough to deliver a one-of-a-kind experience for these students. The school provides tailored curricula that allows students to concentrate their studies along four career pathways; health care, education, process technology, and culinary arts.

Currently, a dormitory exists for only the post-secondary students.

The addition of a 50-bed dormitory for the secondary students should increase attendance and graduation rates at the school. Students living on campus gain opportunities to learn in an environment that will prepare them for high-demand careers. The dormitory will not only enhance the school's targeted programs but it will provide a valuable residential environment for the local and rural dormitory students. Exposure to dormitory life is an added value and will also give them the skills and knowledge needed to continue with their post-secondary education.

A recent student survey has revealed that 76% of the Magnet School students would like to work and live in the Northwest Arctic Borough after graduating.

The Northwest Arctic Borough School District is requesting 12 million to construct this 50-bed dormitory. With an additional facility, the ability to attract and educate students will be realized. And retention of the regional workforce will be improved.



# **Northwest Magnet School Dormitory**

## **Time Line**

Funding Secured June 1, 2013.

Architectural drawings completed by November 1.

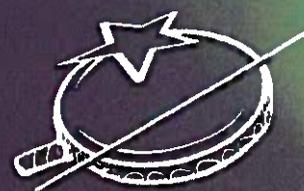
RFP out by Nov 30.

Contract award February 1, 2014.

Construction begins May, 2014.

Construction Completed August, 2015.





STAR OF THE NORTHWEST  
MAGNET SCHOOL



## A Unique School

The Northwest Arctic Borough School District is taking a creative approach to addressing the need for specialized education in rural Alaska by establishing a unique new school in Kotzebue. Star of the Northwest Magnet School will provide students in grades 11-14 with curricula tailored to preparing them for careers in rural Alaska's high-demand fields, such as health care, resource development and education.

Rural Alaska is characterized by small, isolated communities that each rely on one school to provide a general curriculum for all students K-12. Although career opportunities exist in and near these communities, small, rural high schools are unable to provide students with the specialized education necessary to qualify for those opportunities.

Star of the Northwest Magnet School is open to students from anywhere in Alaska, but its primary purpose is to give rural students access to high-quality academic and vocational programs that are often absent or insufficient in their local schools. With that in mind, the school will eventually build a dormitory to house students from remote villages.

This new school maximizes existing educational resources and capitalizes on a successful, long-standing partnership within the Northwest Arctic Borough School District that includes Kotzebue High School, Alaska Technical Center and Chukchi College, which is a community campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Rural and Community Development.

Star of the Northwest Magnet School will be Alaska's first dedicated statewide residential high school and post-secondary institution.



## A Creative Solution

The district envisions Star of the Northwest Magnet School as a catalyst that will prepare rural students for careers in Alaska's classrooms, health clinics, hospitals and resource development industry. This new school will produce generations of teachers and professionals who were born and raised in rural communities and, therefore, are more likely to stay in their villages to form a stable foundation of long-term educators, health care providers and technical experts.

By combining career-oriented curricula with campus housing, Star of the Northwest will be a uniquely valuable facility that strengthens Alaska's workforce by developing the talents of rural students.

## What is a Magnet School?

A magnet school is a public school that has a specialized curriculum or courses focused on specific areas. The term "magnet" refers to the fact that such a school attracts students from outside the school district in which it is located.

A magnet school gives each student the freedom and opportunity to concentrate on a single discipline, rather than a generalized course of study. This gives students the same opportunities urban students have to access advanced and specialized programs that provide a head start on their chosen careers.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, in many communities, magnet schools are the highest-performing schools in their systems. In general, they are known for higher student achievement, increased parent and community involvement, and staff and curricular coherence.

Alaska continues to import over 70% of its education workforce. On average, teacher turnover in rural communities exceeds 20%, double the rate in urban communities.



## The Star of the Northwest Magnet School Advantage

Most public schools offer a standardized curriculum to provide all students with a general, broad-based education. Star of the Northwest Magnet School allows students to concentrate on one discipline, much like a college major.

This tailored approach allows the school to attract highly qualified educators who have expert knowledge in specific areas. In addition, the school has access to uniquely valuable resources because it has multifaceted support from federal and state agencies, borough departments, and private and Native corporation organizations.

Star of the Northwest Magnet School utilizes the following resources:

- Strategic plan
- Dedicated career and technical education staff
- Community infrastructure
- World-class mine nearby
- Regional hub community
- Support of regional corporation (NANA)
- Pre-K-14 governance of all operational services
- Federal investment
- State investment



## High School and College in One

Star of the Northwest Magnet School has a unique structure in that the coursework covers the last two years of high school and continues for two years of post-secondary education, leading to an associate's degree (i.e. grade 14). Classroom study is combined with hands-on or field study through cooperation with several regional partners.

### Education

- Instructional aide
- Early childhood aide
- K-12 teacher

The Northwest Arctic Borough School District is a member of the Future Educators of Alaska program. In addition to academic coursework, Star of the Northwest Magnet School students gain experience in classrooms.

Health care is the state's largest growth industry, expected to add more than 7,000 jobs by 2018.

### Health care

- Prep for nursing school (to become a registered nurse)
- Aide
- Orderly
- Attendant
- Personal care assistant
- Home care assistant
- Medical coding technician
- Certified nurse's assistant

Star of the Northwest Magnet School partners with Maniilaq Association to provide students with hands-on experience in hospitals, doctors' offices and village medical clinics.

### Process Technology

- Millwright
- Mill operator
- Welder
- Commercial driver
- Construction (various trades)

As a part of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District, Star of the Northwest Magnet School partners with Red Dog Mine, which allows students to get hands-on technical education and serve apprenticeships at the mine.



## Progress to Date

Star of the Northwest Magnet School has opened its doors and is educating students on a limited basis. However, until funding is in place and a dormitory is built, the school cannot fulfill its primary function of housing and educating students from rural communities.

The school and district have made outstanding progress towards their goal of establishing Alaska's most innovative and effective magnet school. The curricula have been developed and are currently being implemented. The federal government has provided funding through a \$1.5 million Expanding Horizons grant and construction is underway on shop and classroom space with \$14 million in funding from the state of Alaska.

The next step is to move forward with plans to construct a 100-student dormitory.

## Admission

Admission to Star of the Northwest Magnet School is granted upon approval of a student's application and differs from other public schools in that enrollment is limited to students entering 11th grade. The application and enrollment process will be consistent with Alaska's residential high schools.



## Student Activities

Star of the Northwest Magnet School 11th and 12th grade students are enrolled as full-time students at Kotzebue High School and have equal opportunity to participate in all KHS programs and activities.

## Long-Term Benefits

The long-term benefits of an innovative magnet school that prepares rural students for lasting careers will be critical to improving the economies and quality of living in both rural communities and the state overall.

At its full level of enrollment, Star of the Northwest Magnet School will graduate 50 students from high school and 50 or more students from Alaska Technical Center and Chukchi College programs every year. These graduates will provide a steady stream of qualified employees for Alaska's health care, resource development and education workforce.

Star of the Northwest Magnet School is positioned to both improve the lives of individual students and help the state grow its economy by inspiring Alaska's best and brightest to live and work right here at home.

Jobs in the mining industry are among the highest-paying in the state and are often located in rural areas, where employment need is the greatest.

# Support for Star of the Northwest Magnet School

Northwest Arctic Borough School District

State of Alaska

Alaska Workforce Investment Board

NANA Regional Corporation

University of Alaska

University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Education

Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund

Northwest Arctic Borough

City of Kotzebue

Avant Garde Learning Foundation

Manillaq Association

Teck Cominco Alaska Inc.