

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: North Slope Borough School District****Federal Tax ID: 92-0042378****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

North Slope Borough School District - School District Curriculum, Alignment, Integration and Mapping (CAIM) Initiative

State Funding Requested: \$1,580,500**House District: 40 / T**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Development of a curriculum based upon the Inupiaq Learning Framework, integrated with the Alaska State Performance Standards while utilizing the Understanding by Design framework

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$1,910,500
Funding Already Secured:	(\$330,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,580,500)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

In FY13, this initiative received a state appropriation of \$330,000.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The North Slope Borough School District's curriculum must engage our students and acknowledge the geographic and cultural context within which they live. In the process, it must facilitate effective teaching practices. This has been most clearly stated by the NSBSD Board of Education in their mission for the District: "Learning in our schools is rooted in the values, history, and language of the Inupiat."

The NSBSD is in the third year of a five-year process to create a coherent, integrated curriculum. The district has established a Curriculum Development Team consisting of teachers and administrators, who are leading teachers across the Slope to accomplish the goals of Curriculum Alignment Integration and Mapping(CAIM)Initiative: the development of a curriculum that is based upon the Inupiaq Learning Framework, integrated with the Alaska State Performance Standards and utilizes Understanding by Design framework. The Inupiaq Learning Framework was created in response to community feedback regarding what skills and characteristics are essential to develop a well rounded, well grounded 18 year old. In the first year, the district introduced Understanding by Design as the structure in which to develop units in language arts, mathematics and science.

NSBSD has attempted to enact curriculum reform before with limited success because NSBSD had to default to texts and materials developed in the lower forty-eight that have little relevance to the daily lives of students. This effort is different and takes into account steps key for success, such as addressing staff concerns. Our teachers generally are not born on and raised on the North Slope. Therefore, we must focus on training and building confidence in the culture and new materials along with curriculum development.

This process began in August 2010 with the formation of Core Content Area Teams consisting of teachers representing all schools and grade levels. The teams have been supported over the last three years with training under the facilitation of national education expert, Jay McTighe, who co-designed the Understanding by Design process. They are additionally supported by the Curriculum Development Team who is responsible for facilitating the work of teachers in the development of units within courses via in-services interspersed throughout the year.

Community steering committees, comprised of stakeholders throughout the North Slope are convening this spring to review teacher work product for purposes of community engagement and involvement and for the solicitation of input and feedback.

The work before the District is clear -- to stay the course and continue the process. The essential task before us is to provide our students with a foundation and framework that fits both traditional and modern, Inupiaq and Western worlds.

The Theme-Based Education Legislative Task Force visited North Slope Borough School District in the fall of 2011 to see firsthand the results of the work on this project. Currently NSBSD is mapping curriculum in the content areas of Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Career Technical Education (CTE). Remaining are Social Studies, Arts, Health and PE. Additional staff development will be required to implement this new and exciting curriculum. Students are already showing more engagement. The project has the support of many legislators in both bodies as well as the support of Commissioner Hanley.

Project Timeline:

Expenditures will occur from 2013 - 2016.

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

North Slope Borough School District

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Peggy Cowan
 Title: Superintendent
 Address: PO Box 169
 Barrow, Alaska 99723
 Phone Number: (907)852-5311
 Email: peggy.cowan@nsbsd.org

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

The North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) is currently in year three of a five-year initiative called Curriculum, Alignment, Integration and Mapping (CAIM).

1/17/2013



It is a mission driven initiative from the NSBSD's Strategic Plan:

1. All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Iñupiaq knowledge systems into the core content areas.

We are very pleased to report that the North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) continues to make major progress with the Curriculum Alignment, Integration and Mapping (CAIM) initiative. Using the Iñupiaq Learning Framework, the outcome of the CAIM initiative is to integrate the Iñupiaq history, language and culture with the Alaska State Content and Performance Standards

Background:

The District's curriculum must engage our students and acknowledge the geographic and cultural context within which they live. In the process, it must facilitate effective teaching practices. This has been most clearly stated by the NSBSD Board of Education in their mission for the District: "Learning in our schools is rooted in the values, history, and language of the Inupiat."

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In 2012 NSBSD was appropriated a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$330,000 to assist with the ongoing cost of development of this five year project.

For 2013 NSBSD is requesting a capital appropriation of \$1,580,500 to complete years 3-5 of the CAIM initiative, which includes the cost of reproduction of materials and strategies developed under this project to be made available to other school districts in the state upon completion of the project.



North Slope Borough School District

2010-2015 Strategic Plan Summary

2012-13 School Year



MISSION STATEMENT

Learning in our schools is rooted in the values, history and language of the Iñupiat. Students develop the academic and cultural skills and knowledge to be:

- Critical and creative thinkers able to adapt in a changing environment and world;
- Active, responsible, contributing members of their communities; and
- Confident, healthy young adults, able to envision, plan and take control of their destiny.

VISION STATEMENT

Our students graduate prepared and qualified to excel as productive citizens in the world, and able to integrate Iñupiat knowledge and values with Western ways. Our curriculum is culture-based, our attendance rate is above the state average, our parents and community members are committed to education and meaningfully engaged, more of our teachers are our own graduates and speak Iñupiaq, and our schools reflect who we are as people.

CORE VALUES

Compassion - Though the environment is harsh and cold, our ancestors learned to live with warmth, kindness, caring and compassion.

Avoidance of Conflict - The Iñupiaq way is to think positive, act positive, speak positive and live positive.

Love and Respect for Our Elders and One Another - Our Elders model our traditions and ways of being. They are a light of hope to younger generations. May we treat each other as our Elders have taught us.

Cooperation - Together we have an awesome power to accomplish anything.

Humor - Indeed, laughter is the best medicine!

Sharing - It is amazing how sharing works. Your acts of giving always come back.

Family and Kinship - As Iñupiaq people we believe in knowing who we are and how we are related to one another. Our families bind us together.

Knowledge of Language - "With our language we have an identity. It helps us to find out who we are in our mind and in our heart."

Hunting Traditions - Reverence for the land, sea and animals is the foundation of our hunting traditions.

Respect for Nature - Our Creator gave us the gift of our surroundings. Those before us placed ultimate importance on respecting this magnificent gift for their future generations.

Humility - Our hearts command we act on goodness. Expect no reward in return. This is part of our cultural fiber.

Spirituality - We know the power of prayer. We are a spiritual people.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Education, a lifelong process, is the sum of learning acquired through interactions with one's environment, family, community members, schools, and other institutions and agencies. Within the Home Rule Municipality of the North Slope Borough, "schooling" is the specific, mandated responsibility of the North Slope Borough School District Board of Education.

The Board of Education is committed to providing academic excellence in the "schooling" environment. This commitment to academic excellence shall focus on the learner, recognizing that each student brings to the "schooling" environment his own interest, learning styles, cultural background and abilities.

INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS STRATEGIC GOALS & DISTRICT OBJECTIVES

1 All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Inupiaq knowledge systems into the core content areas.

- 1.1 **Engaging Curriculum and Classrooms:** Complete Year 3 of the cycle for K-12 curriculum alignment, integration and mapping.
- 1.2 **Academic Success:** Students will be proficient or excel in academic areas at a rate equal to or higher than National Standards.
- 1.3 **Qargi Concept:** Establish the Qargi Concept at each site by Fall 2014.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC GOALS & DISTRICT OBJECTIVES

2 We will actively engage parents, Elders, businesses and the community as partners in our children's education.

- 2.1 **Family and Elders:** Gain Family/Elder regular (weekly, daily, etc.) involvement, presence and participation in the schools as a powerful influence to improve attendance and school climate.
- 2.2 **SAC:** Achieve fully functioning SACs in all communities.
- 2.3 **Board:** Increase community dialogue, awareness and participation through one Board Member visiting each village once per year.
- 2.4 **Partnerships:** Increase community and business partnerships to build mutual understanding, responsibility and investment in the education of our youth.
- 2.5 **Calendar:** Implement with each community a culturally sensitive calendar that maintains an academic focus throughout.

STAFF AND BOARD DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC GOALS & DISTRICT OBJECTIVES

3 We will continually strengthen the recruitment, retention and professional development of highly effective staff.

- 3.1 **Hiring and Recruiting:** Improve the hiring and on-boarding process for all employees by incorporating elements from the human resources audit.
- 3.2 **Retention:** Maintain a staff turnover rate lower than the Alaska rural average.
- 3.3 **Training and Development:** Provide professional development and succession planning for certified and classified employees in support of the goals in the strategic plan.
- 3.4 **Local Workforce:** Maximize our local workforce by growing and employing local staff.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC GOALS & DISTRICT OBJECTIVES

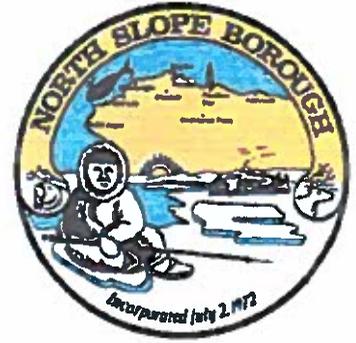
4 We will effectively employ our financial and operational resources to support our strategic goals.

- 4.1 **Transparency:** Continue to improve and implement transparency and credibility by strengthening financial policies and controls in the budget process.
- 4.2 **Learning Environment:** Provide classroom environments conducive to learning through proactive operational support including increased focus on efficiency and decreasing our energy consumption.
- 4.3 **Technology:** Evaluate and adjust the adequacy of technology as a tool to facilitate learning, communication and collaboration, especially in the villages.

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

February 22, 2013

The Honorable Donald Olson
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Room 508
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Olson

I am writing today to thank you for your support for the budget amendment to support the work of the North Slope Borough School District and the Joint Theme Based Education Task Force. I also hope to encourage your colleagues to lend their support as well.

Simply stated, NSBSD needs the appropriation to sustain the Curriculum, Alignment, Integration and Mapping (CAIM) initiative our district has undertaken and keep it moving. The funds will sustain the three additional CAIM core content area teams, e.g. (social studies, career technical education, Health/PE) in accordance with the current five year plan.

Our district has produced leading edge work that is widely recognized as a useful model for elsewhere in the state. It is also of significant interest to the Northwest Arctic Borough School District (NWABSD) as well as other districts.

We understand that this initiative and the amendment have the support of Commissioner Hanley and the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED). We thus now turn to you for your support both to sustain our District's momentum and to help us produce culturally relevant materials from a process that can then be used in other districts across the state.

We urge your support of the amendment and thank you for your service and leadership. Truly, producing culturally relevant curriculum materials is the foundation to the improvement of student achievement across rural Alaska.

Sincerely,

Charlotte E. Brower
Mayor