

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Association of Alaska School Boards****Federal Tax ID: 920098760****Project Title:****Project Type: Information Systems and Technology**

# Association of Alaska School Boards - Consortium of Digital Learning - Leveling the Playing Field

**State Funding Requested: \$500,000****House District: Statewide (1-40)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

This funding will be used to provide digital technical support, develop digital content and provide training and professional development to school districts through assistance provided by AASB through the Consortium of Digital Learning (CDL).

**Funding Plan:**

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

*Funding Details:**Five past appropriations totaling \$8,060,000.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

CDL helps school districts with planning, technical assistance, content and curriculum, and professional development so that the use of digital learning is maximized in the school system. Both research and experience proves that digital learning is successful. Rural schools are challenged in their ability to provide the same quality of education as their rural counterparts. Digital learning is the tool that can help bridge the gap and engage the students. In addition, dollars spent on technology are not adjusted for small, rural, and/or remote schools or districts like foundation dollars are. This puts rural school districts at a disadvantage due to unavailability of goods, services, and technology support.

We have seen that technology provides an opportunity to give rural students a more equal footing. Through digital learning, we can provide the rigor and relevance needed to accelerate student learning through active engagement in a rich learning environment. The Consortium for Digital Learning has implemented digital learning environments leveraging past appropriations. We know from our experience and from research that the services provided from the CDL are crucial to success. The areas of planning, technical assistance, content and curriculum, and professional development are critical components. When critical components are delivered, success is possible.

The list of successes from previous appropriations is long. This list includes savings through aggregate equipment orders placed by small districts, multiple relevant professional

development opportunities for all levels of school personnel, localized digital content that includes Alaska indigenous languages, and other services requested by districts to support their technology initiatives (See Appendix 1).

These funds are needed to sustain ongoing efforts to sustain progress in digital learning in rural schools as they move forward in developing, implementing and expanding digital learning opportunities for students and teachers. The demand for our services has outstripped the ability to meet the need at our current funding levels. The development of digital content that is culturally relevant and addresses Alaska indigenous languages as well as content standards has much implications to students of rural schools. The need for professional development for school leaders, technical staff and teachers is ever growing.

This money will be expended over the course of the year, as needed. Professional development and technical services will be offered as well as support in the development of digital curriculum.

**Project Timeline:**

Expenditures will commence at time of successful grant.

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

Consortium for Digital Learning - AASB

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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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