

Alaska Digital Teaching Initiative Three-Year Demonstration Project

FY2015 Request: \$4,000,000
Reference No: 58584

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Information Technology / Systems / Communication

Category: Education

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Elizabeth Nudelman

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2014 - 06/30/2019

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Alaska Digital Teaching Initiative gives young Alaskans better access to quality teachers in courses that count. The Alaska Digital Teaching Initiative would deliver high quality, interactive courses to middle school and high school students (at first) focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Funding:	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	Total
Gen Fund	\$4,000,000						\$4,000,000
Total:	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

The Alaska Digital Teaching Initiative is another building block to get to the Governor’s statewide high school graduation rate goal of 90% by 2020. The Statewide Digital Teaching Initiative also supports the Governor’s Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) by increasing access to high quality, APS qualifying courses, as well as dual-credit courses. To date, the APS has awarded over \$8 million to Alaskan students who have earned scholarships for postsecondary education and training.

The Alaska Digital Teaching Initiative will overcome the barriers of geography and district boundaries, increasing opportunity, choice, and educational quality access for all of Alaska’s students. The initiative will work directly with technology services providers and school districts to assess capabilities for interactive, distance delivery and focus on removing barriers, providing specific technology enhancements, and strengthen and enhance current technology-based instructional programs.

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In Year One, the project will build on Alaska's strengths in digital teaching. Approximately three districts will be chosen (from both rural and urban districts) from the group of districts already paying for their own path of interactive, digital teaching. State demonstration project funding for Year One will allow them to expand their capacity, within their district, and to offer classes to students in other districts.

In Year Two, the project will continue by adding two more districts utilizing what has been learned in Year One, and Year Three will be a proving ground for the approximate five districts as to how much their own district benefitted and as to how well they were able to reach across school district boundaries to benefit other districts. The point is to identify what works and what doesn't. The Administration does not intend to provide funding to every district to implement their own digital teaching system as that would result in a patchwork of disparate systems with haves and have-nots. Instead, the objective is to bring about efficiencies from greater collaboration within schools in a district and between districts.

Funding will be used to:

- Assess existing school district capacity to deliver technology-based, interactive courses and identify gaps or resources needed to support course delivery. As part of this process, approximately three districts will be selected in Year One to offer expanded capacity within a district and incentivize the district to allow children from other districts to participate.
- Assist specific districts that are positioned to deliver interactive courses, both within district and across district boundaries, with resources to enhance their capacity, and leveraging the talent of outstanding teachers.
- Coordinate with the demonstration project districts to recruit and train outstanding Alaskan teachers to deliver and supervise interactive courses to Alaskan students.
- Focus on delivering interactive STEM courses at the high school and middle school level during the demonstration project.
- Support acquisition of technology or equipment needed for interactive delivery such as a teaching studio or digital devices.

Measures of Success

- Increase students' access to high quality teachers within districts and across districts.
- Increase the number of students qualifying for Alaska Performance Scholarships
- Increase the number of students taking high-level math and science courses.
- Increase the graduation rate.