

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Anchorage

Project Title:

Anchorage - Turnagain Elementary School Computer Lab

State Funding Requested: \$ 71,000

House District: 26 - M

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Funds would purchase a new computers, as well as accessories and data upgrades for a new computer lab at Turnagain.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$71,000

Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This request is an education priority. The Turnagain Elementary School teaching staff and administration, the PTA and the Russian Emersion Parents group all recognize this need at the school's number one priority. The computers in the current lab are so outdated, they don't run most software applications. These funds would purchase 31 new computers as well as an LCD projector, a document camera, a smart board and the necessary wiring and cabling. All students need computer literacy skills to be productive in their education and prepared for their middle and high school years. As technology is ever developing, studetns need to understand computers, the interenet, internet safety, and basic operating programs to succeed in their education.

Project Timeline:

If funded, the computer lab will be purchased before the 2008/09 school year begins.

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

Anchorage School District

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Principal Meg Marman

Phone Number: (907)742-7200

Address: 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage 99517

Email: marman_meg@asdk12.org

Total Project Snapshot Report

FY 2009 Capital Budget

TPS Report 49475

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

February 28, 2008

Dear Alaskan Legislator:

Re: Bridging the Digital Divide in our Backyard: Bringing Technology to Turnagain Elementary

Please support \$71,000 in the capital budget to fund a computer lab for Turnagain Elementary School. (Turnagain's computer lab is so outdated that the iMac computers aren't capable of running the OSX system required for most software applications.) This would fund 30 computers capable of running the OSX operating system, a teacher computer, an LCD projector, a document camera, Turnagain's (first!) Smart Board, a printer, and the necessary electrical wiring and cabling. Turnagain's teaching staff and administration, Parent-Teacher Association and the Russian Immersion Parent group (MIR Parents, Inc.) have all collaboratively identified technology as the #1 need for Turnagain, after a series of meetings on priorities.

The published Anchorage School District ratio = **2:1** students/computers. Turnagain has only 20 functioning computers for its 404 students' use, a **20:1** ratio. A few Turnagain facts: **48% of Turnagain's students are on the Free & Reduced Price Meal Plan.** Turnagain exceeded the Language Arts and Math Adequate Yearly Progress goals for 2006-2007; however, **38.5% of its students in Grades 3-6 scored below proficient** in ≥ 1 of 3 of the reading, writing + math areas in the Standards Based Assessments. At Romig Junior High, Turnagain's graduates must use computers for reading and math tests and for research.

Please support this funding of education technology for Turnagain's students, so our children are not left behind.

Sincerely yours,



Bonnie J. Paskvan, Esq.

Turnagain Parent-Teacher Association, Chair, Legislative Affairs Committee

MIR Parents, Inc. Vice President

907.351.3005

bpaskvan@gci.com



Turnagain Elementary School
3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99517
(907)742-7200

February 28, 2008

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

Please support \$71,000 in the capital budget for a computer lab at Turnagain Elementary School. The lab will address the budget goals Governor Palin has laid out for the 2009 fiscal year by increasing the achievement of all students and reducing the achievement gap. All students need computer literacy skills to be productive in their education and prepared for **life**. Schools can't possibly teach students everything they will need to know to be **healthy**, productive members of the **community**, but we can provide them with the skills they need to access the most current information available. Internet **safety** needs to be addressed with our youngest students while acquiring 21st century skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, and accessing and analyzing information.

Transportation of information via emails, blogs, podcasts, and yet to be developed technologies will take students to places they may never physically visit nor otherwise experience. The **infrastructure** created by installation of a computer lab at Turnagain will establish the foundation for building upon in the future as new technologies are developed.

Please make this investment that will benefit thousands of deserving children for many years to come. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Meg Marman
Turnagain Elementary Principal