



GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GALENA, ALASKA 99741
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SUPERINTENDENT
 Jim Smith

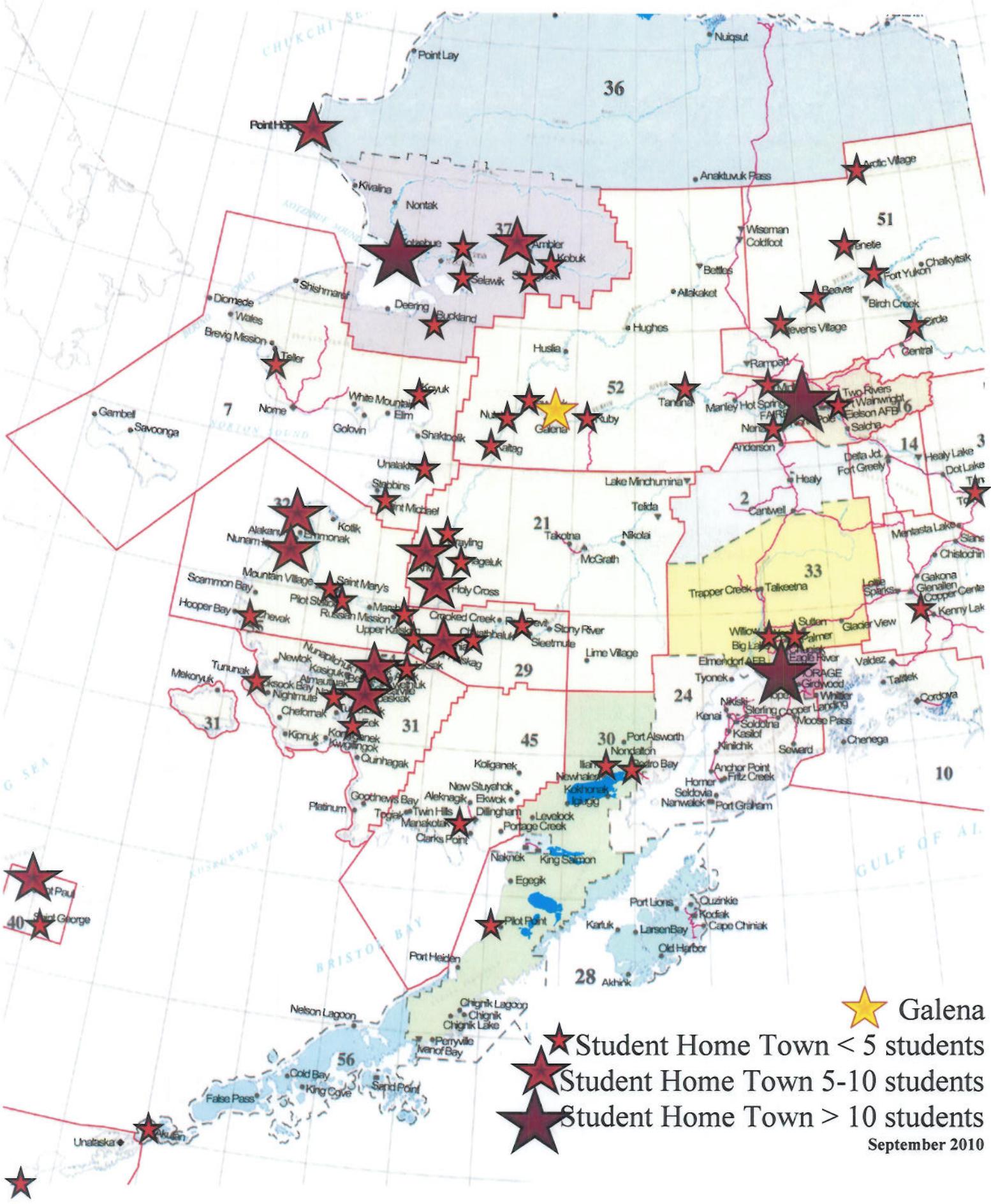
RURAL ALASKA EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Declining Enrollments	Increased Energy Costs
Teacher Shortages	Increased Retirement Costs
Native Drop-out Rates	AK. Native Graduation Rate (43%)
Rising Social Problems; Alcohol / Drugs / Sexual Offenders	
Low Rural Student Performance, Alaska Native Gap	
Need for available vocational training	
Access to health services	

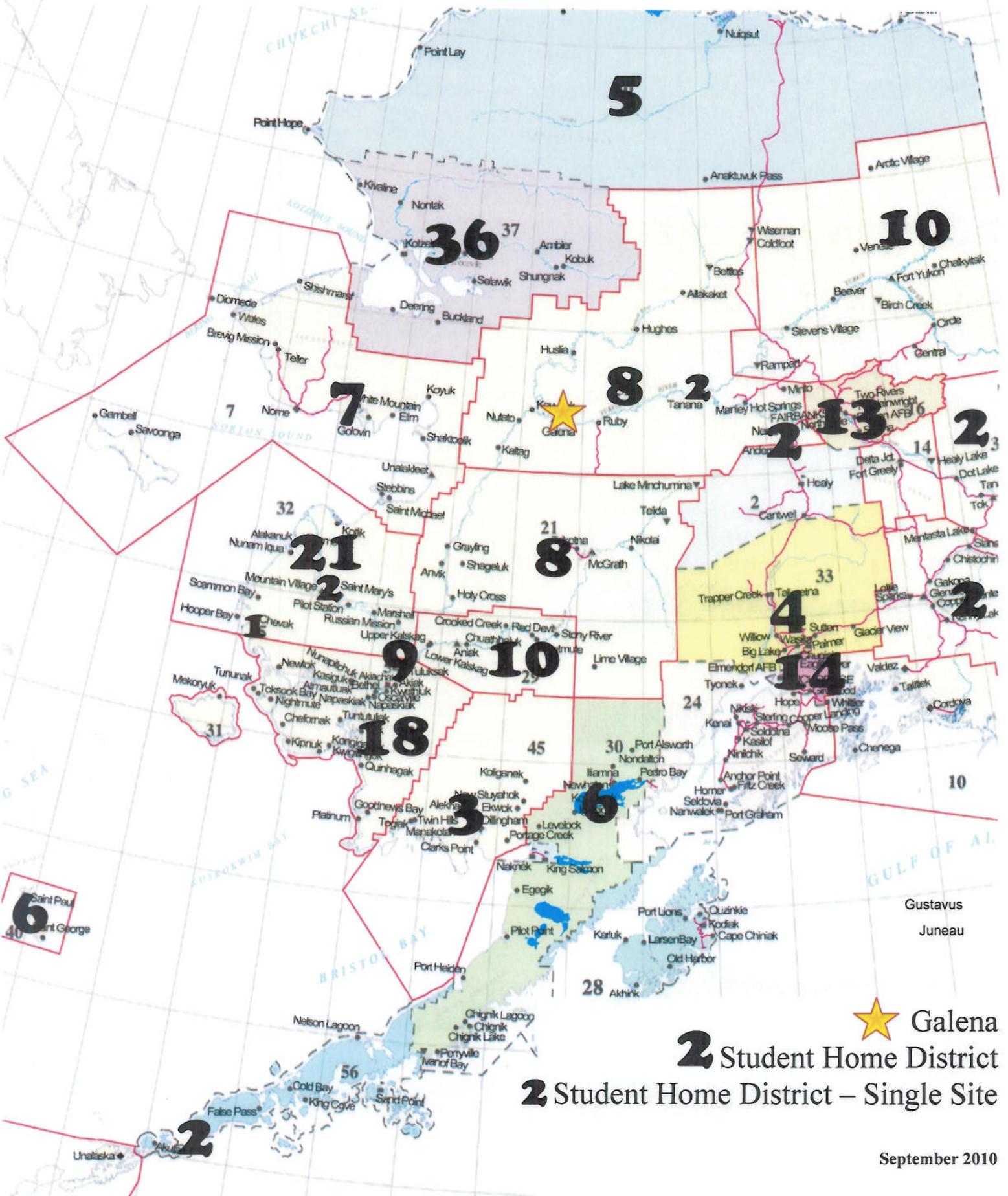
Galena Regional Learning Center Solutions

<u>Existing Facilities</u>	<u>12-Year Success Story</u>	<u>Social Reforms</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Currently used 2) New BRAC Space 3) 400 plus beds avail. 4) Supportive Community 5) High Rural Construction costs 6) Controlled Living Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) High Grad. Rate 2) Strong AYP scores 3) 90 % Alaska Native 4) Post Sec. Certified Training Programs 5) Provides ADM \$ Savings 6) Supports Family Choice 7) Supports Student Work Ethic 8) Minimal Drop-out rate 9) 130 students from 53 Alaska Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Resiliency Life Program 2) Safe Harbor for students 3) Cultural Focus 4) Vocational Training Focus

GILA Student Home Town



GILA Student Home District



 Galena

2 Student Home District

2 Student Home District – Single Site

From: Lisa Shelby
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 9:34 AM
To: eric.caldwell@alaska.gov
Cc: Jim Smith; Chris Reitan
Subject: RE: Information Request

Good morning Mr. Caldwell,

Here is the information you requested for Galena Interior Learning Academy re: our 2010 graduates. Sorry for the delay in getting this to you.

GPA 3.5+	GPA 3.0 - 3.49	GPA 2.5- 2.99	Total # graduates
9	8	7	24

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
Lisa Shelby
GILA Principal

From: Caldwell, Eric J (EED) [\[mailto:eric.caldwell@alaska.gov\]](mailto:eric.caldwell@alaska.gov)

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:05 PM

To: Jim Smith

Cc: Jim Smith

Subject: Information Request

Importance: High

Good afternoon, Jim.

The commissioner's office is requesting information, and hope to have it as soon as possible. Unfortunately, I could not reach either you or Melissa Robbins by phone. Could you provide the following information about GILA's 2010 graduates today, or at latest by 10am tomorrow morning:

Breakout of Galena Interior Learning Academy's 2010 Graduates:

- Number of graduates with GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Number of graduates with GPA of 3.0 to 3.49
- Number of graduates with GPA of 2.5 to 2.99
- Total number of graduates

Thank you so much for your assistance. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,
Eric Caldwell
Research Analyst III

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
Assessment, Accountability, & Information Management
Teaching & Learning Support
Phone: (907) 465-8435 | Fax: (907) 465-8400

Galena City School District

Resolution #10-01; 1-19-2011

State Support for GILA Residential Hall and Dining Hall Facilities

WHEREAS, Galena City School District with the support of the City of Galena and Louden Tribal Council has operated the second largest high school boarding school (Galena Interior Learning Academy) in the state of Alaska for over 13 years; and

WHEREAS, Galena Interior Learning Academy student population for FY11 comes from 56 communities; and

WHEREAS, the savings to the state foundation program generated by these students' travel to Galena's lower "district cost factor" is substantial, and higher boarding subsidies would allow these funds to follow the student, and

WHEREAS, Galena Interior Learning Academy's core clientele is Alaska Native, a segment of Alaska's population that is at extreme risk for dropping out of school, and

WHEREAS, attending Galena Interior Learning Academy is an alternative to dropping out for many students by providing a viable, rural academic and career technical option; and

WHEREAS, Galena Interior Learning Academy is an option for students who are wards of the state and for some who leave unhealthy home situations; and

WHEREAS, of the 176 rural high school programs state-wide, 35 have less than 20 students and another 78 have less than 10 students. Challenged program offerings and choice in these small schools often present families looking for expanded curricular offerings for their child, and

WHEREAS, the Galena Interior Learning Academy, with existing infrastructure and well-established programs, is in an excellent position to serve as a regional education center, should the State of Alaska shift to a regional model for the delivery of education in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, current state funding for student residence and food services falls tremendously short of actual costs; and

WHEREAS, diesel fuel provided through the Base Realignment and Closure process provides some support for school operations for an additional five years and presents a five year planning window; and

WHEREAS, GILA school campus operation and utility costs will double once transition fuel support is gone; and

WHEREAS, School District dollars alone cannot support additional boarding school costs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's state boarding school receives full residential and food costs support; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Galena City School District, City of Galena, and Louden Tribal Council request the State of Alaska provide additional funding for the staffing and operations of Galena Interior Learning Academy student residence hall and dining hall facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Galena City School District, City of Galena, and Louden Tribal Council request the State of Alaska provide additional funding for the maintenance of Galena Interior Learning Academy student residence hall and dining hall facilities.

Adopted by the Galena City School District Board of Trustees this 19th day of January 2011.

GCSD Board President, Ed Pitka

GCSD Superintendent, Jim Smith

City of Galena Mayor, Russ Sweetsir

Louden Tribal Council Chief, Chris Sommer

Current Residential School Funding Short-Fall

The objective of this request is two-fold: (1) present the number of rural students currently served at Nenana and Galena Boarding Schools and (2) to discuss Alaska's educational support to these rural Alaskan education providers.

A. Galena Interior Learning Academy

GILA 198 students this fall coming from 58 communities, most of them rural and remote. Over 93% of the students are Alaska Native.

B. Nenana Learning Center

Nenana brought 80 rural students on board.

C. Current State Support establish in 2006

Sec.14.16.200 presented payment in two perspectives per each student; 1) one round trip airfare from home residence to the school site if the school district expends the money, and 2) a per pupil monthly stipend to cover board and room expenses as determined by the department on a regional basis and not to exceed the following amounts:

- (A) Southeast Region I, \$410
- (B) South-central Region II, \$400
- (C) Interior Region III, \$484
- (D) South-east Region IV, \$503
- (E) Northern Region V, \$592

I. Galena/Nenana Revenues vs. Costs

- (A) Residence Hall & Food Services: 255 students average cost per student- \$17,136
- (B) State 14.16.200 support: average state paid per 255 students -\$5,872
- (C) **Deficit to be secured from other sources: \$ 1,971,368 Galena & \$901,120 Nenana**

II. Projected Fiscal Cost

- (A) Current revenues cover only 34% of actual cost in Galena and Nenana.
- (B) Necessary "additional" funds to support Galena and Nenana Residential Schools food & Lodging costs for current student counts.
- (C) **\$2,872,488**



Galena City School District

Request for Additional State Support for GILA Residential and Dining Hall Facilities



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SECTION I: REQUEST FOR STATE SUPPORT



Galena Interior Learning Academy and Sidney C. Huntington School provide a high school vocational residential program on the BRAC'ed Air Force Base. Partnerships include the City of Galena, State of Alaska, United States Air Force, Louden Tribal Council, Tanana Chiefs, General Motors Suzuki Motor, and others!

December 15, 2010

Dear Governor Parnell and State Board of Education:

Galena City School District has operated the Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA) for the past 13 years. GILA is a statewide boarding facility for students seeking choice. It is Alaska's longest operating secondary career and technical education boarding school and offers industry-standard certification in aviation, automotive technology, cosmetology, culinary arts and a strong academic program. Currently, GILA is serving 198 students coming from 58 communities, most of them rural and remote, and over 93% of the students are Alaska Native.

GILA began operations in 1997 using vacated Air Force Base facilities with its core mission being providing academic and career and technical education for rural, Alaskan Native students. For the first 11 years of its existence, GILA shared Air Force facilities and costs of those facilities with the Pacific Air Force Command. However, Galena Air Force Base was officially closed in October 2008 through the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The Air Force provided transition fuel to support our community's efforts to grow into those facilities; however GILA remains the primary tenant in those facilities and Galena City School District bears the primary financial responsibility for all maintenance and utilities. Galena City School District cannot support additional boarding school costs beyond what it is already shouldering. The transition fuel provides a five year window for Galena City School District to determine our next steps with maintaining these facilities as well as continuing the viable academic and career and technical education option for many rural Alaskan students. Sustaining the program appears problematic if additional support is not acquired in the next five years.

The Galena City School District, City of Galena, and Louden Tribal Council formally request the state of Alaska provide additional funding for the staffing, operations, and maintenance of Galena Interior Learning Academy's student residential hall and dining hall facilities. It is only by securing additional state support in these areas, as a first step, that Galena City School District has the chance of continuing these quality educational programs for Alaska's rural students. The projected increases in energy costs will also need to be addressed as an additional step in the near future.

As previously stated, Galena City School cannot support additional boarding school costs. Once the transition fuel is consumed GILA campus operations and utility costs will double. Couple this fact with the projected increases with the cost of fuel; sustaining this valuable rural educational resource seems doubtful. Our goal is to ensure that we are building into the future and developing an instructional foundation that will continue serving students from throughout the state of Alaska.

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours in Education,

GCSD Board President, Ed Pitka

City of Galena Mayor, Russ Sweetsir

GCSD Superintendent, Jim Smith

Louden Tribal Council Chief, Chris Sommer

Galena City School District

Resolution #10-01

State Support for GILA Residential Hall and Dining Hall Facilities

WHEREAS, Galena City School District with the support of the City of Galena and Louden Tribal Council has operated the second largest high school boarding school (Galena Interior Learning Academy) in the state of Alaska for over 13 years; and

WHEREAS, Galena Interior Learning Academy student population for FY11 comes from 56 communities; and

WHEREAS, the savings to the state foundation program generated by these students' travel to Galena's lower "district cost factor" is substantial, and higher boarding subsidies would allow these funds to follow the student, and

WHEREAS, Galena Interior Learning Academy's core clientele is Alaska Native, a segment of Alaska's population that is at extreme risk for dropping out of school, and

WHEREAS, attending Galena Interior Learning Academy is an alternative to dropping out for many students by providing a viable, rural academic and career technical option; and

WHEREAS, Galena Interior Learning Academy is an option for students who are wards of the state and for some who leave unhealthy home situations; and

WHEREAS, of the 176 rural high school programs state-wide, 35 have less than 20 students and another 78 have less than 10 students. Challenged program offerings and choice in these small schools often present families looking for expanded curricular offerings for their child, and

WHEREAS, the Galena Interior Learning Academy, with existing infrastructure and well-established programs, is in an excellent position to serve as a regional education center, should the State of Alaska shift to a regional model for the delivery of education in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, current state funding for student residence and food services falls tremendously short of actual costs; and

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WHEREAS, School District dollars alone cannot support additional boarding school costs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's state boarding school receives full residential and food costs support; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Galena City School District, City of Galena, and Louden Tribal Council request the State of Alaska provide additional funding for the staffing and operations of Galena Interior Learning Academy student residence hall and dining hall facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Galena City School District, City of Galena, and Louden Tribal Council request the State of Alaska provide additional funding for the maintenance of Galena Interior Learning Academy student residence hall and dining hall facilities.

Adopted by the Galena City School District Board of Trustees this 15th day of December 2010.

GCSD Board President, Ed Pitka

GCSD Superintendent, Jim Smith

City of Galena Mayor, Russ Sweetsir

Louden Tribal Council Chief, Chris Sommer

Galena City School District

Resolution #10-02

Community Wide Economic Planning

WHEREAS, Galena City School District with the support of the City of Galena and Louden Tribal Council has operated the second largest high school boarding school (GILA) in the state of Alaska for over 13 years which has grown into the cornerstone of Galena's economic foundation; and

WHEREAS, GILA school operations currently inject over \$5,000,000 to the community economy in local salaries and utilities each year; and

WHEREAS, GILA school operations currently provide the community with approximately seventy-five employment positions; and

WHEREAS, The Louden Tribal Council contributes both to the economic and educational functions of the GILA program; and

WHEREAS, The Galena City and School District share a long term energy plan to extend the GILA operation timelines; and

WHEREAS, community of Galena through the leadership of Louden Tribal Council and the City of Galena continue the pursuit of alternative energy sources to subsidize high fuel costs; and

WHEREAS, the development of a long-term community wide economic plan is necessary to prevent the closure of GILA which will have a devastating effect on community home values and utility services; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Galena will create a utilities reserve for future fuel purchases utilizing current transition fuel provided through the Base Realignment and Closure process to support the sustainability of Galena Interior Learning Academy as an economic backbone to the community of Galena; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Galena City School District, City of Galena, and Louden Tribal Council will collaborate in the continued exploration of other energy resources to reduce utility costs for the community of Galena; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Galena City School District, City of Galena, and Louden Tribal Council will collaborate and align all efforts for federal and state grant opportunities as well as federal and state funding requests that support the continued operations of Galena Interior Learning Academy.

Adopted by the Galena City School District Board of Trustees this 15th day of December 2010.

GCSD Board President, Ed Pitka

GCSD Superintendent, Jim Smith

City of Galena Mayor, Russ Sweetsir

Louden Tribal Council Chief, Chris Sommer