

GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GALENA, ALASKA 99741
PHONE (907) 656-1205
FAX (907) 656-2238

SUPERINTENDENT
Chris Reitan



February 22, 2014

Re: Questions for regional training centers and institutions receiving TVEP funds, per AS 23.15.835(d)

Dear Senator Stevens and the Senate Education Committee;

Thank you for allowing Galena City School District to provide the Senate Education Committee information on the programs we offer at our Galena Interior Learning Academy that benefit from TVEP funding.

As the Senate Education Committee weighs the information you are receiving regarding the current utilization of TVEP funding, I believe it is important for me to share a little bit of the history of Galena Interior Learning Academy that will provide the committee a broader understanding of our history and focus.

Galena City School District is in its 18th year of operating the Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA) on the vacated Galena Air Force Base. GILA is a statewide boarding facility for students seeking choice. It is Alaska's 2nd longest operating boarding school and offers students industry-standard certifications in aviation and cosmetology; students can also receive university credit (dual credit) in carpentry, welding, aviation, automotive, computer technology, health sciences and culinary arts courses through tech prep agreements with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Interior Aleutians Campus. GILA provides access for rural Alaskan students to CTE and academic course offerings that are unaffordable to smaller schools, and allows students to develop the skills necessary to transition to a college path, vocational post-secondary path, or directly to the work force upon graduation. Currently, GILA is serving 211 students from over 70 communities, most of them rural and remote, and over 92% of the students are Alaska Native.

GCSD has worked hard to ensure the Galena Interior Learning Academy provides a strong balanced educational option that blends traditional academic programming with a strong CTE focus. GILA provides opportunities for students to develop the skills necessary to transition to a college path, vocational post-secondary path, or directly to the work force upon graduation.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide the Senate Education Committee information on how TVEP funding is benefitting the students attending Galena Interior Learning Academy.

Sincerely,

Chris Reitan, GCSD Superintendent

Questions for regional training centers and institutions receiving TVEP funds, per AS 23.15.835(d)

1. How long have you been in operation? Galena Interior Learning Academy is in its 18th year of operation. Its first year of operation was the 1997-98 school year. GILA was founded on the premise of providing a solid academic background with a strong Career and Technical Education (CTE) emphasis for primarily rural, Alaskan Native high school students with post-secondary training opportunities.

2. What is your governance structure? Galena Interior Learning Academy is a component of the Galena City School District. Galena City School District is operated by a five member board of trustees elected by the community of Galena. Galena City School District is a component of the City of Galena.

3. What manner of public/private partnerships do you share? Galena Interior Learning Academy has a strong partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Interior Aleutians Campus (UAF-IAC). Many of our CTE courses are aligned with UAF-IAC courses with students having the opportunity of earning dual credit (university and high school credit) that meets GCSD graduation requirements.

4. What specific training programs do you offer? Galena Interior Learning Academy offers the following programs of study: cosmetology, aviation, automotive, construction trades, computer science, health science, and culinary arts

5. How many participants do you currently have in those respective programs? Attachment A provides an outline of all of our CTE courses and the number of participants in each course.

6. What do you offer in the form of degrees and/or certificates in these programs? State Cosmetology Certification, FAA Private Pilot's License, State Food Handler's Card, Food Safety Protection Manager Certification and university credit in the following courses of study: automotive, health science, computer science, construction trades

7. How many certifications have you issued and in what training fields, since you began operating? Since beginning to receive TVEP funds? Attachment B provides an outline for the FY 13 results utilizing TVEP funding. Previous year's results would be similar.

8. Describe the demographic profile of your student body. 92% of our student body is rural, Alaskan Native students representing every geographic region of Alaska.

9. What are the technical and vocational labor demands in your region and how successful are you in satisfying that demand? Galena Interior Learning Academy's CTE programs have not specifically been aligned to the Interior Region. Our focus has been to develop CTE courses of study that provide our primarily rural Alaskan Native student population to earn certifications and university credit that would allow them to utilize these skills and knowledge in either a rural or urban setting. Our focus is to provide our students a direct path into the workforce, a direct path towards more post-secondary technical training options, or a direct path into university programs.

10. What is your annual budget? What other sources of funding do you have besides TVEP? GCSD has four major funding sources that allow us to provide technical training for high school and post-secondary students. The largest population that we serve is our high school student body.

1. TVEP funding
2. Carl Perkins funding
3. Monies received from the Base Student Allocation
4. Post-secondary student tuition

FY 14 budget for our CTE programs is \$1,003,967. This dollar amount includes all costs associated with salaries, benefits, equipment, and instructional supplies. This dollar amount does not include all building costs that include property insurance, utilities, preventative maintenance, and emergency maintenance.

11. What annual level of TVEP funding have you received historically and to date? Galena Interior Learning Academy has traditionally received 4% of TVEP funding.

12. What specifically do TVEP funds pay for at your training center? TVEP funds support Galena Interior Learning Academy's CTE course offerings. They provide monies to offset some of the costs associated with instructor salaries, equipment, and instructional materials.

13. What would you do if TVEP were reduced or eliminated? Increased? If TVEP funding were reduced or eliminated we would trim our CTE course offerings limiting the number of CTE programs we could provide. If TVEP funding were increased we would look to expand our CTE programs, especially in those areas that current research indicates are expanding industries. Health sciences is one particular field that would be expanded based on current industry demand.

14. Do you operate a residential facility in conjunction with your programs? If so, please give some history of its construction, and current manner of operation and maintenance. Current number of residents? GCSD operates two residential halls. Ptarmigan Hall is our high school boarding school facility. We currently have 211 high school students residing in Ptarmigan Hall. Iditarod Hall houses our post-secondary students and provides some options for staff housing. Both of these facilities are housed on the former Galena Air Force Base where the Galena Interior Learning Academy is located. Both facilities were repurposed after the Air Force Base was closed to provide housing for high school and post-secondary students. Galena City School District provides all the preventative and emergency maintenance for the facilities. The City of Galena operates the facilities that provide all utilities for the Galena Interior Learning Academy campus functions.

15. What is your student/teacher ratio? Student teacher ratios across all of our CTE programs of study are 12 to 1.

16. How many faculty do you employ? Describe their certification levels. In our CTE programs we employ 8 instructors. Three of the instructors are Type M certified as industry experts. Five of the instructors have earned their Professional Teaching Certification. 5 of the instructors are also operating as adjunct professors through UAF-IAC providing dual credit options for our students.

17. Describe how your training center benefits your local community or region. Galena City School District's operation of Galena Interior Learning Academy benefits the entire state. Our student body population represents every region of Alaska.

18. Please share any other highlights and needs of your training center. Galena City School District has operated the Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA) on the vacated Galena Air Force Base. GILA is currently in its 18th year of operation. GILA is a statewide boarding facility for students seeking choice. Currently, GILA is serving 211 students from over 70 communities, most of them rural and remote, and over 92% of the students are Alaska Native. GILA began operations in 1997 using vacated Air Force Base facilities with its core mission being providing career and technical education (CTE) with post-secondary opportunities for rural, Alaskan Native students.

19. Are there other regional training centers you feel should be receiving TVEP funds? If TVEP funds are increased I believe there are other programs in the State of Alaska that could benefit from the funding and increase technical training opportunities state-wide. Increasing the number of regional training centers without increasing TVEP funding would diminish program development across all TVEP programs diminishing the quality and quantity of programs that could be offered.

20. Do you believe the current allocation structure for distributing TVEP funds is adequate and fair? If not, how would you recommend adjusting it? Galena City School District is appreciative of the funding allocation currently provided by TVEP funds.