

1 to 1 Digital Learning through the Alaska Personalized Learning Opportunity

Association of Alaska School Boards' Consortium for Digital Learning

Personalized learning enables the learner to meet standards and curricular goals in ways that best meets the learner's individual needs. Technology in the hands of all students provides opportunities to personalize education in a way not previously possible. Providing digital devices of equal capability enables teachers to use those capabilities so that all students can benefit from high-quality learning opportunities in a systematic manner.

A Personalized Learning Opportunity designed for tablet devices could expand the Consortium for Digital Learning (CDL) 1:1 pilot projects (now present in over 120 schools for over 13,000 users) to include every student and teacher in every district (137,300 users) in a four year phased approach (**see Attachment 1**). The initiative would enable districts to keep up-to-date tools in the hands of students to accelerate, amplify, and personalize anytime learning, creating new opportunities for all.

Project scope, instructional goals targeting student performance, operational strategies targeting efficiencies/ cost containment, and assurances of implementation fidelity would be identified by the district. Based upon experience and research, CDL will assess and assist each district in project design to meet these goals. As project administrator, CDL will serve as a liaison to vendors, an aggregator of equipment and services orders, a resource for best practices, and authorize reimbursements for projects that meet the intent of the program. In addition, CDL will compile data from districts for a annual report to the state.

Funding for the initiative would be shared between the state and the district and would be used to provide appropriate digital devices for students and teachers, adequate professional development and technical support. Grants would be awarded to school districts based on readiness.

Compatibility with existing infrastructures, opportunities for cost containment/reductions, a unified focus for professional development, and changes in teaching practices would create systemic change (**see Attachment 2**). The initiative creates a consistent, cost-efficient system for enhanced classroom instruction and new delivery options for excellent education.

SEQUENCE OF CHANGE FROM 1:1

Asking schools to do more with less without new tools and strategies will inevitably lead to larger class sizes, lower test scores, and higher dropout rates. An initiative to personalize education naturally leads to desired outcomes by changing student and teacher practices.



PRINCIPLES OF A SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE

The Alaska Personalized Learning Opportunity is designed to include each of the following principles:

- Many advantages are gained by a nimble, responsive non-governmental entity as the heart of an initiative. AASB and CDL are established by statute to serve all districts, know and serve our schools, and have strong relationships with businesses, organizations and agencies across Alaska, providing an Infrastructure for sustainability.
- A successful initiative should dramatically increase student performance and achievement. To accomplish this, each user requires a device that is durable, reliable, and easy to use. The device must run a vast amount of relevant self-contained learning apps, access the web, store data, and create a variety of content.
- An exemplary system of professional development is needed to move all teachers to higher levels of adoption, allowing students to benefit from the full potential of the technologies.
- Top-notch technical services are required so school IT personnel efforts support classroom instruction.
- Targeted instructional strategies that include relevant measures of student success must be identified.

PROVIDING A DEVICE PER STUDENT CHANGES THE SYSTEM AND EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

- **Cost Containment through Economies of Scale**
 - Lower cost on equipment, professional development, services, and additional support for initiative goals
- **Cost Reduction through Changed Teaching Practices and Improved Efficiencies**
 - Reduced costs for instructional and professional development delivery
 - Free or low cost classroom instructional materials of high quality
 - Decreased copier costs and paper reduction
- **Increased Availability and Use of Inexpensive Rich Resources**
 - Free or low cost apps and digital texts in all content areas
 - Free or low cost standards-based units and courses
 - Free or low cost substitution of classroom resources (calculators, student planners, globes, maps)
- **More Effective Instructional Strategies to Personalize and Accelerate Learning**
 - Research confirms better student engagement
 - Learning is personalized to meet individual needs through more interactive, sensory-rich, with improved understanding of difficult concepts and different digital delivery systems
 - Capabilities of technology support more rigorous learning, including STEM
- **Well-articulated Professional Development**
 - Provides common vision and focus to teaching strategies
 - Moves teachers to higher levels of technology adoption in practice