

DEPARTMENT: Department of Education and Early Development
APPROPRIATION: Educational Support and Administrative Services
ALLOCATION: Student and School Support and Achievement

ADD: \$403,400, GF, 1004

POSITIONS: NA

EXPLANATION: The Department of Education and Early Development lacks the capacity to respond quickly to struggling districts. These funds would provide the Department the ability to provide grant resources for direct crisis response, enabling DEED to quickly and effectively assist school districts which are unable to meet assessment benchmarks by identifying areas of deficit and tailor on-site long-term crisis response to those identified, district-specific deficits. The Alaska Education Challenge substantiates the needs of the Department to provide more support to school districts. Collaborative Department-led intervention was also a critical component identified in the *Moore v State of Alaska* lawsuit and settlement.

TRAVEL: \$1,000 (airfare) + \$500 (lodging, M&I) = \$1,500 /per person/trip

10 trips/yr x 3 people

= \$45,000

Grant funds would be used by the Department to intervene on the ground over time with failing school districts to support retention of teachers, stabilization of administrative activities, growing of skills for local school boards, and work to engage communities with their schools. These specific areas were identified as critical by teachers, superintendents, and school boards both this year and last. Directly asserting control over these districts or providing minimal direction from the Department has not been successful.

This increment, with the Department requiring a year-end review of activities and measures of success, would identify our lowest performing districts and provide crisis resources in the district for the duration of the school year. The travel component is necessary for on-site provision of services and intense regular contact with DEED to monitor success.