

Dear Legislator,

Last year the Legislature fully funded the Alaska Learning Network (AKLN). There was broad recognition on how it could expand access to a greater number of educational options for students in all corners of our state – from large urban areas to small remote villages. Having greater options and greater choice increases student achievement, and the graduation rate. AKLN fulfills a long recognized need for effective K-12 distance learning, a need that has increased through time and will continue to increase. It is a natural extension of the history of distance education in Alaska.

AKLN has realized an:

- 82% increase in enrollment from 334 students last year to 608 students this year.
- Increase in the number of participating districts from 33 to 42 with both small and large districts represented.

AKLN provides:

- Relevant course options for students that they can participate in while staying in their home communities and connected to their school
- Equitable access to a wide array of courses, specifically the prerequisites for the Alaska Performance Scholarship
- Enrichment classes, classes tied to career pathways, credit retrieval, remediation, and extension (AP).
- Courses that lead to careers in Alaska (ex: Future Educators of Alaska, Mining, Health Careers, Aviation, Computer Literacy)
- Courses that are designed and taught by Alaska highly qualified teachers.

AKLN comes with:

- On-site training and support, ensuring a successful course completion rate
- Districts helping other districts to expand their opportunities by utilizing expertise, and specializing instruction to serve the needs of students.
- A Board composed of superintendents from across the state who believe and are involved in this program.
- Training for teachers and para-professionals that supports student success and is responsive to the learning landscape in Alaska communities.
- An opportunity to build capacity for teachers to integrate technology into the classroom (ex: Google workshop)

AKLN is moving forward with:

- Finalizing summer and fall schedule for students.
- Summer training that will strengthen teachers and schools to benefit students.
- Exciting new classes unique to Alaska
  - o Alaska's Literature
  - o Polar Building
  - o Animal Husbandry
  - o Alaska's Tidal Challenge
  - o STREAM a Pedagogy of Place

We depend on you to support this vitally important resource for our students Statewide. We have already made an investment in AKLN. That investment should not be wasted, but nurtured with full funding for FY15. Please show your support for this program.

Sincerely,

Scott Butterfield,  
Superintendent for the Chatham School District