

U.S. Department of Education

Washington, D.C. 20202-5335



APPLICATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE

**STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM RECOVERY ACT GRANTS
CFDA # 84.384A
PR/Award # R384A100030**

Closing Date: NOV 19, 2009

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This application was generated using the PDF functionality. The PDF functionality automatically numbers the pages in this application. Some pages/sections of this application may contain 2 sets of page numbers, one set created by the applicant and the other set created by e-Application's PDF functionality. Page numbers created by the e-Application PDF functionality will be preceded by the letter e (for example, e1, e2, e3, etc.).

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

* 1. Type of Submission	* 2. Type of Application:* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation	* Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision	

* 3. Date Received:	4. Applicant Identifier:
12/3/2009	

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	* 5b. Federal Award Identifier:
	NA

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: AK Dept. of Ed. & Early Development

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):	* c. Organizational DUNS:
926001185	809386824

d. Address:

* Street1:	P.O. Box 110500
Street2:	
* City:	Juneau
County:	
State:	AK
Province:	
* Country:	USA
* Zip / Postal Code:	99811

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:	Division Name:
AK Dept. of Education and Early Development	Teaching and Learning Support

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:	Ms.	* First Name:	Stephanie
Middle Name:			

* Last Name: Butler

Suffix:

Title: Director of Program Operations

Organizational Affiliation:

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Dept. of Education & Early Development

* Telephone Number: (907)465-6743 Fax Number: (907)465-3293

* Email: STEPHANIE.BUTLER@ALASKA.GOV

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 Version 02

9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Education

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

84.384A

CFDA Title:

Statewide Longitudinal Data System Recovery Act Grants

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

ED-GRANTS-072909-001

Title:

Institute of Education Sciences(IES)Grant Program for Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Recovery Act Program (ARRA) CFDA 84.384A

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Alaska P-Career Statewide Longitudinal Data System

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Attachment:

Title :

File :

Attachment:

Title :

File :

Attachment:

Title :

File :

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant: AK-ALL

* b. Program/Project: AK-ALL

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Attachment:

Title :

File :

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 7/1/2010

* b. End Date: 6/30/2013

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

a. Federal	\$ 12841109
b. Applicant	\$ 0
c. State	\$
d. Local	\$
e. Other	\$
f. Program Income	\$
g. TOTAL	\$ 12841109

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .

b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", provide explanation.)**

Yes No

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: Mr. * First Name: Larry

Middle Name:

* Last Name: LeDoux

Suffix:

Title: Alaska Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development

* Telephone Number: (907)465-2800 Fax Number: (907)465-4156

* Email: LARRY.LEDOUX@ALASKA.GOV

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

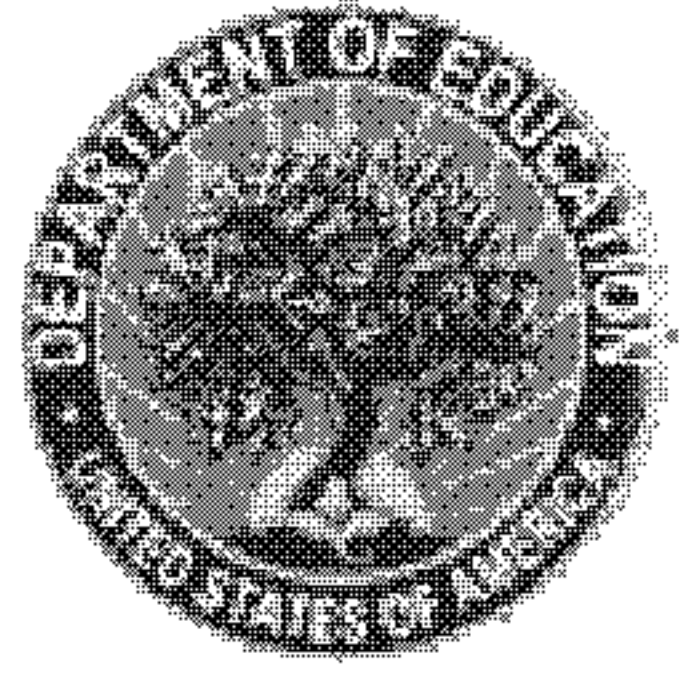
* Date Signed:

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

*** Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation**

The following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number of characters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUDGET INFORMATION

NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Control Number: 1894-0008

Expiration Date: 02/28/2011

Name of Institution/Organization:
AK Dept. of Ed. & Early Development

Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDS

Budget Categories	Project Year 1(a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Total (f)
1. Personnel	\$ 760,967	\$ 766,877	\$ 781,374	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,309,218
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 259,766	\$ 261,889	\$ 263,991	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 785,646
3. Travel	\$ 130,500	\$ 139,000	\$ 231,900	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 501,400
4. Equipment	\$ 50,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 550,000
5. Supplies	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 90,000
6. Contractual	\$ 5,418,687	\$ 2,817,354	\$ 368,804	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 8,604,845
7. Construction	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
8. Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)	\$ 6,649,920	\$ 4,515,120	\$ 1,676,069	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 12,841,109
10. Indirect Costs*	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
11. Training Stipends	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)	\$ 6,649,920	\$ 4,515,120	\$ 1,676,069	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 12,841,109

***Indirect Cost Information (To Be Completed by Your Business Office):**

If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, please answer the following questions:

(1) Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government? Yes No

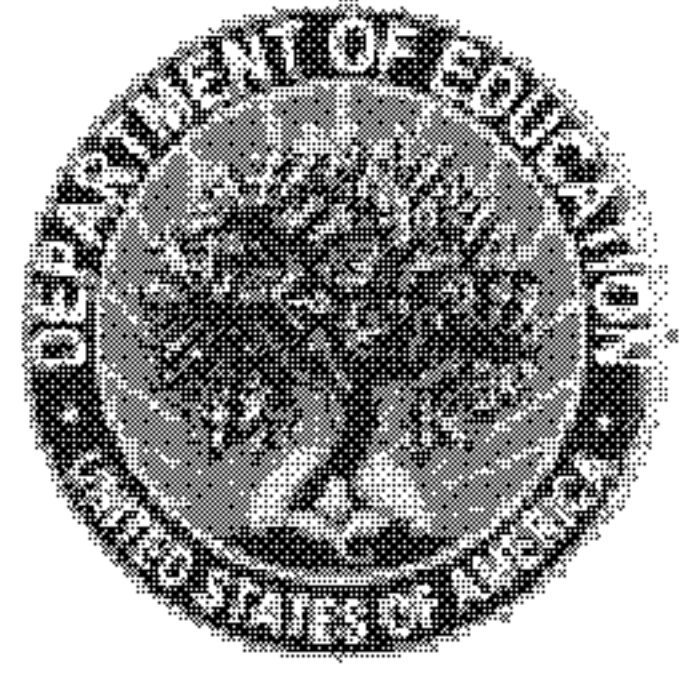
(2) If yes, please provide the following information:

Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement: From: ___/___/___ To: ___/___/___ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Approving Federal agency: ED Other (please specify): _____ The Indirect Cost Rate is _____%

(3) For Restricted Rate Programs (check one) -- Are you using a restricted indirect cost rate that:

Is included in your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement? or, Complies with 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2)? The Restricted Indirect Cost Rate is _____%



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BUDGET INFORMATION
NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Control Number: 1894-0008

Expiration Date: 02/28/2011

Name of Institution/Organization:
 AK Dept. of Ed. & Early Development

Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

SECTION B - BUDGET SUMMARY
NON-FEDERAL FUNDS

Budget Categories	Project Year 1(a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Total (f)
1. Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
3. Travel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
4. Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
5. Supplies	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
6. Contractual	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
7. Construction	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
8. Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
10. Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
11. Training Stipends	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Standard Form 424B (Rev.7-97)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States, and if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. "4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. "1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. '794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act
9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. "276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. '276c and 18 U.S.C. "874) and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. " 327-333), regarding labor standards for federally assisted construction sub-agreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. "1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clear Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clear Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. "7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. "1721 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance

of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. " 6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) " 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. " 290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. ' 3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. "1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. '470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. "469a-1 et seq.).

14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. "2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. "4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead- based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing this program.

Signature of Authorized Certifying Representative:

Name of Authorized Certifying Representative: Larry LeDoux

Title: Commissioner

Date Submitted: 12/02/2009

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352

1. Type of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Insurance	2. Status of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> Bid/Offer/Application <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Award <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Award	3. Report Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Filing <input type="checkbox"/> Material Change For Material Change only: Year: 0 Quarter: 0 Date of Last Report:
4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prime <input type="checkbox"/> Subawardee Tier, if known: 0 Name: AK Dept. of Ed. and Early Development Address: P.O. Box 110500 City: Juneau State: AK Zip Code + 4: 99811-0500 Congressional District, if known: 01	5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is a Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime: Name: Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: - Congressional District, if known:	
6. Federal Department/Agency: Dept. of Ed., Inst. of Ed. Sciences	7. Federal Program Name/Description: SLDS Recovery Act Grants CFDA Number, if applicable: 84.384A	
8. Federal Action Number, if known:	9. Award Amount, if known: \$0	
10. a. Name of Lobbying Registrant (if individual, last name, first name, MI): N/A Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: -	b. Individuals Performing Services (including address if different from No. 10a) (last name, first name, MI): Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: -	
11. Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.	Name: N/A Title: N/A Applicant: AK Dept. of Ed. & Early Development Date: 12/03/2009	
Federal Use Only:		Authorized for Local Reproduction Standard Form LLL (Rev. 7-97)

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal Loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance.

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee or any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION

AK Dept. of Ed. & Early Development

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Prefix: Mr. First Name: Larry Middle Name:

Last Name: LeDoux Suffix:

Title: Commissioner

Signature: _____ Date: 12/02/2009

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
REQUIRED FOR
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANTS**

1. Project Director:

Prefix: * First Name: Middle Name: * Last Name: Suffix:
Ms. Stephanie J Butler

Address:

* Street1: P.O. Box 110505
Street2:
* City: Juneau
County:
* State: AK* Zip / Postal Code: 99811 * Country: USA

* Phone Number (give area code) Fax Number (give area code)
(907)465-6743 (907)465-3293

Email Address:

STEPHANIE.BUTLER@ALASKA.GOV

2. Applicant Experience

Novice Applicant Yes No Not applicable

3. Human Subjects Research

Are any research activities involving human subjects planned at any time during the proposed project period?

Yes No

Are ALL the research activities proposed designated to be exempt from the regulations?

Yes Provide Exemption(s) #: #1(b) and #4

No Provide Assurance #, if available:

Please attach an explanation Narrative:

Attachment:

Title : Alaska's ANSWERS Explanation Narrative
File : G:\workgroups\SLDS Project\Final Versions\ED Supplemental Information SF-424

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR SF-424
SLDS Recovery Act Grants Application – Alaska’s ANSWERS**

The proposed research is exempt under (1)(b) based on its being specifically designed to improve instruction by comparing data, such as graduation rates among different student populations, at an individual level for teacher use as well as in aggregate. The research further qualifies for exemption under (4) based on its using only existing data which will have all PII stripped, and will also be subject to other controls such as small cell suppression, to ensure subjects cannot be individually identified, directly or indirectly.

Project Narrative

Project Narrative - Project Abstract

Attachment 1:

Title: **Project Abstract - Alaska's ANSWERS** Pages: **1** Uploaded File: **G:\workgroups\SLDS Project\Final Versions\Project Abstract_Alaska's ANSWERS.pdf**

Project Abstract: Alaska's ANSWERS (Accountability and Navigation: Student to Wage Earner Roadmap for Success)

Consistently ranking near the bottom in educational performance measures when compared to the other 49 states, Alaska has a compelling need to stem the losses from its educational pipeline. Without a change, Alaska's citizens of tomorrow are foregoing the collective and individual benefits of postsecondary education and workforce preparedness. The first step, which Alaska has already taken, was to ask "Why isn't Alaska doing better?" Having asked that question, the next step - one that Alaska proposes to take with this grant application - is answering that question, both at the individual student level, and at the program level.

Independent of, but also in preparation for this grant application, Alaska invested in a data summit during the summer of 2009, followed by a comprehensive evaluation of the data availability and capabilities that existed in the state. Based on the findings of that evaluation, Alaska gained valuable insight into its current data situation and is poised to take the next step, pursuing funds to effectively and efficiently address education data system needs. The prior Alaska SLDS grant laid the groundwork for continued and expanded development of the state's SLDS. A major component that Alaska will leverage is its capability to collaborate with state and local agencies and entities to develop cost-efficient, sustainable systems to address policy and program needs.

Alaska proposes a five-project application to increase the capabilities of its P-12 education data system and expand linkages from the P-12 education data system to postsecondary data, workforce, and other outcomes data. This will enable the state to track student progression, completions, and outcomes through Alaska's education system, establishing a true P-20 education data system, and beyond. The five projects are:

- 1) P-12, Postsecondary, and Department of Labor Data Matching
- 2) Expansion of P-12 Program Outcomes Data Collected
- 3) SLDS Data Audit System
- 4) Data Mart/Data Reporting and Analysis System
- 5) Student Transcript/Teacher Information Inclusion

The components needed to implement these five projects address each of the seven capabilities and twelve elements that compose the SLDS system requirements. The overarching direction for the five projects is a set of critical policy questions that were identified via statewide stakeholder collaboration. The efforts of this grant will provide answers to those critical policy questions and thus enable the state to improve the condition of education in Alaska, transforming those who successfully complete an educational program to be productive contributors to the economy of Alaska.

Project Narrative

Project Narrative - Project Narrative

Attachment 1:

Title: **Project Narrative-Alaska's ANSWERS** Pages: **30** Uploaded File: **G:\workgroups\SLDS Project\Final Versions\Project Narrative_Alaska's ANSWERS.pdf**

Project Narrative: Alaska's ANSWERS

(A) NEED FOR THE PROJECT

As the globalized knowledge economy has driven demand for a well-educated workforce, and as the United States has slipped relative to other nations in the share of its population with postsecondary education or training, the need for improving educational outcomes and reducing educational attainment gaps has become increasingly apparent. At the same time, there has been a growing recognition of how the existing data systems in many states, including Alaska, are limited in terms of providing the quality data needed to adequately inform policymakers. Research conducted by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), based on NCES data, reveals that the state of Alaska, in comparison with the other 49 states, consistently ranks near the bottom in educational performance measures, including:

- 9th graders graduating from high school 42nd
- High school seniors going directly to college 46th
- College freshman returning for a second year 50th
- 9th graders receiving a baccalaureate degree within 10 years 50th

Alaska must better prepare students to be successful in the workforce of the 21st century. To do so, creating the ability to track student progression from the P-12 environment, through postsecondary into the workforce is a vital capability that must be developed in order to provide the means to effectively measure student performance and the effectiveness of various programs and interventions. Independent of, but also in anticipation of and preparation for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Statewide, Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant opportunity, Alaska hosted a June 2009 data summit of key stakeholders with assistance from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and its partner, NCHEMS, to begin gathering information and developing consensus on the need to develop a statewide longitudinal data system spanning three sectors: pre-kindergarten through twelfth (P-12) grade, postsecondary education, and labor/employment. At that time, the group adopted the goal for Alaska to build capacity to respond to key public policy questions relating to the efficacy of its education and workforce training systems in preparing citizens to be successful in our economy and society. Those key questions that Alaska must become able to answer address graduation and dropout issues (who, and more important for prevention of dropouts, why), postsecondary preparedness (student's need for remediation), measurement of the efficacy of intervention programs, and retention of completers in the state to contribute to the state's economy.

Alaska concluded, as the next step, it would be essential to obtain external expertise to examine Alaska's position regarding readiness for development of a larger P-20 SLDS project. Alaska further engaged the expertise of WICHE and NCHEMS to conduct a landscape review of existing data systems, to include the data elements maintained, how they are being used, and the degree to which information held by individual state agencies is shared among them. The results of the review confirmed Alaska's preparedness to move forward in expanding the SLDS

to support transparency, accountability, and educational improvement (see the WICHE/NCHEMS report in Appendix D).

Alaska has a strong history of collaboration through existing relationships with Native organizations and community organizations. CASHE (Coalition of Alaskans Supporting Higher Education), developed by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), the University of Alaska (UA), and Native organizations, has demonstrated success in coalition-building by attracting a Lumina grant to bring College Goal Sunday to Alaska. Another example is the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS), an interactive Web-based career planning tool made available to Alaska school districts at no charge through the collaboration of ACPE, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) to share responsibility for development, deployment and maintenance of this statewide career planning resource.

Specific to the WICHE/NCHEMS' data landscape review, several state and non-state agencies and units were contacted as collaborators in identifying the needs of an Alaska SLDS. These entities include:

1. ANCSA Education Consortium – Alaska's Native education foundation
2. Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
3. Anchorage School District – Alaska's largest school district, representing ~40% of total state enrollment
4. Department of Corrections
5. Department of Education and Early Development (EED) – Alaska's state education agency
6. Department of Health and Social Services
7. Department of Labor and Workforce Development
8. Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division (PFD)
9. Institute for Social and Economic Research – Alaska's public policy research organization
10. University of Alaska, Planning and Institutional Research

Status of Existing Longitudinal Data System Work in Alaska

In FY06, EED received a \$3.5 million award through previous funding from the Institute for Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, to build a statewide P-12 longitudinal data system. Those funds were used to advance the Unity Project, a statewide effort to meet NCLB's present and future challenges regarding education data by unifying over 20 disparate data collections into one unified data structure and to deliver accurate, timely and accessible P-12 student-level data to stakeholders. A major goal of that undertaking was to create the first statewide longitudinal system for Alaska's P-12 students to allow for more effective decision-making among P-12 professionals. The Unity Project's goal was broad in scope with a total of seven phases, only the first four of which were included in the FY06 federal grant. The work supported by this federal grant is now nearing its end, with Phase IV complete. Phase V will include establishing the collection of school finance data, audited expenditures/revenues, average daily membership, impact aid, grants, federal allocation and state program dollars. Phase VI will expand upon the collection of facilities related data. Finally, Phase VII plans for the continuation of the collection of certified and

classified staff data. This phase will facilitate the initial steps for the eventual linkages between teachers and the students they teach.

The Unity Project accomplished several goals critical to sustaining work on a P-20/workforce longitudinal data system. The Unity Project electronically eliminated barriers to district level reporting and creating statewide data snapshots. The Unity Project also enhanced the framework for collecting individually identifiable records at the state level for all public P-12 students by further automating the process. Alaska proposes to leverage the work started with the Unity Project to design and deploy an efficient expansion of its SLDS into other areas of education, including institutions of higher education, and to coordinate with other state agencies to track student outcomes once they leave Alaska's education system, and as they progress (or fail to progress) through Alaska's education system. During the development of the Unity Project, EED was able to facilitate stakeholder buy-in, which was essential especially given Alaska's isolated districts and historical reluctance to share information. As a result of these prior efforts, the stage has been set. The State of Alaska considers this proposal as a priority, recognizing it is essential to move forward with the SLDS expansion now, due to the costs associated with delaying progress and losing momentum.

This early work was focused on P-12 data systems only, and work is now needed to link with the postsecondary sector. At the postsecondary level, UA's statewide office maintains access to individual-level records for all its enrollees. Given the limited number of non-UA providers of postsecondary education in Alaska, this means UA has information on the vast majority of postsecondary participants in the state. Yet apart from linking data in order to respond to federal reporting requirements, such as for Perkins participants, there have been no systematic efforts to link student data across the P-12 and postsecondary levels. The major obstacle standing in the way of making such linkages is that the student information systems at UA and EED use different student identifiers. Also, while UA captures students' social security numbers (for reporting related to tuition tax credits for the Internal Revenue Service), EED assigns its own unique student ID rather than collect student social security numbers. Recently, the UA system has been accepting electronic high school transcripts for some enrollees. But to date, these transcripts are imported only as image files, so while they include the student's EED identifier number, there has been little activity so far to electronically obtain the information contained within them for use in populating UA's student information system. Regardless, a UA modification of its student information system to capture the EED student identifier would be a partial solution at best, since it would not provide for matching with workforce data, nor would it include students who may not have an EED identifier. Furthermore, UA capture of the EED identifier would not address the question of tracking postsecondary enrollment at other institutions.

Labor data is the third critical component in the state's data alignment goals. Alaska's DOLWD currently maintains several unique and confidential administrative data stores. The primary data source is historical Alaska unemployment insurance (UI) wage records containing employer, industry, occupation, place of work and earnings for most wage and salary workers in Alaska, using the SSN as the unique individual identifier. The data is confidential and is generally not reported outside DOLWD except in aggregate reports.

In addition to the UI wage record information, DOLWD has agreements with and access to a variety of state and national databases that may be used to track the outcomes of a variety of programs as specified in each of the associated data sharing agreements. These administrative databases include:

1. Alaska unemployment insurance recipients
2. Alaska GED recipients
3. Alaska education and training programs eligible for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding (WIA Eligible Training Providers)
4. WIA and State Training and Employment Program (STEP) participants
5. Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) files to determine current residency status and residence location in Alaska
6. Alaska secondary student records
7. Alaska occupational license files
8. Alaska business license files
9. National wage record interchange system (WRIS)
10. Federal military and civilian payroll records
11. US Postal Service records
12. National Student Clearinghouse records providing information on continuing postsecondary enrollments and degrees earned

Although matching individual data at the P-12 and postsecondary levels in Alaska has been infrequent, there is considerable effort taking place to link these data with workforce information. Through several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), DOLWD has been granted access to individual-level data held by EED and UA. These MOUs are each the product of separate negotiations between DOLWD and one or more other state agencies. Some have been in place for many years, while other MOUs are fresh and have little history. Originally, MOUs were developed to answer a discrete question or meet a specific reporting requirement. Recently developed MOUs have allowed for more open-ended arrangements without specific termination dates, although the parties retain the ability to unilaterally terminate the agreement at any time. Under these arrangements, DOLWD matches the other agencies' data with its own data (usually the UI database) to examine former students' experiences in the labor market.

Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) database provides the state with a unique ability to match records in data systems with incompatible identifiers. The Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) Division is a component unit of the Alaska Department of Revenue, charged with administering annual payment of the state's PFD to its citizens. The Permanent Fund was created in state law in 1976 to conserve a portion of the state's revenue from petroleum and mineral resources to benefit all generations of Alaskans. The PFD database is a record, updated annually, of Alaskans applying for this resident benefit. The PFD database allows DOLWD to validate identifying information such as name and birth date with a social security number, since this is the only means by which the UI data can be accessed. Leveraging the rich data available within the PFD database enables a much higher matching rate and access to the wage records maintained by DOLWD. From the linked data, DOLWD produces aggregated results,

according to the procedures outlined in the specific MOU. DOLWD has had an MOU to share data with UA since May 17, 2007.

On July 1, 2009, DOLWD and EED executed an MOU to share individual-level data to expand EED's understanding of former students in its system, including how many students stay in the state to work or go to college. With access to the PFD database, it is technically possible for Alaska to bring together data from both educational sectors, EED and UA.

The new request for proposals for statewide longitudinal data systems under ARRA requires seven data system capabilities and twelve data system elements. The progress made during the funding stream from the first SLDS grant to EED established a strong foundation on which Alaska can build.

Guiding Policy Questions

To help guide decisions for reporting once data linkages are made, the following eight critical policy questions were developed by the Alaska entities participating in the summer 2009 Alaska data summit. Each question addresses several issues relating to educational policy and addresses one or more of the following areas of interest: 1) graduation and dropout issues, 2) postsecondary preparedness (student's need for remediation), 3) measurement of the efficacy of intervention programs, and 4) retention of completers in the state to contribute to the state's economy.

1. **How many and which students are progressing through an education program/system to achieve college, workforce, and life readiness?** Related data includes: performance on periodic assessments, high school completion rates, college-going rates, remediation rates, credential achievement rates, workforce participation rates, wage and hour information, social services participation rates, and incarceration rates.

This is a comprehensive query which, when the capabilities are in place, will allow for many sub-queries spawning from this initial data set. By incorporating the features needed to respond to this query, the capability will enable Alaska to examine student progress and outcomes over time, including students' preparation to meet the demands of postsecondary education and the 21st century workforce. Achieving this proposed analytical capability will require Alaska to facilitate and enable the exchange of data among agencies and institutions within the state as well as conduct analyses for policy purposes using these data. As a result, Alaska will be able to track student progression through the education pipeline, distinguishing between the program areas of success and those areas which need improvement. Student progression will also be traced through academic completion, via degree, certificate or diploma, and into the workforce, or other outcomes, such as enlistment in the military, participation in public assistance programs, or incarceration. Areas of interest addressed by this question include: 1) graduation and dropout issues, 2) postsecondary preparedness (student's need for remediation), and 3) measurement of the efficacy of intervention programs.

2. **What are the migration rates and patterns for Alaskans accessing postsecondary programs outside of Alaska and subsequently returning to Alaska?** Related data includes: credential achievement rates, workforce participation rates, wage and hour information, social services participation rates, and incarceration rates.

