

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska
Department of Education
& Early Development

To: Michael Nizich
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor

Date: August 4, 2009

Phone: 465-2802
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File: Partnership Liaison

From: Larry LeDoux
Commissioner

Subject: Position/Appointment Approval
RP 05-0-0051

OFFICE OF
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
AUG 04 2009

In order to move forward department efforts aimed at graduating students who are prepared for careers or postsecondary education and to form strong partnerships between schools, families and communities, the Department of Education & Early Development is requesting approval to create the position of Partnership Liaison.

This position is critical in fulfilling the Alaska Education Plan, one of whose three main goals is that "schools will form strong partnerships with families and communities, and will respect and embrace local culture."

The Alaska Education Plan specifies that Alaska will:

- formulate a shared vision of community-based education that respects culture, school governance, and community ownership;
- ensure that schools reflect and respond to student, family, and community values and needs;
- support opportunities for school choice, educational opportunities, and distance-delivery options; and provide support and resources for parents who choose to home school their children.

The Alaska Education Plan recognizes the problems that students and parents now face in knowing their educational options and finding resources in government and the communities that address their educational needs. Educators often do not have ready access to information about those resources, limiting the resources' usefulness. Policy-makers from the government, the private sector and nonprofits need this type of information, as well, so they can efficiently allocate human and financial resources.

The position of Partnership Liaison will help Alaska meet these needs:

- Encourage a shared commitment because partnerships are necessary to achieve our graduation goals.
- Use resources efficiently through a coherent and unified plan.

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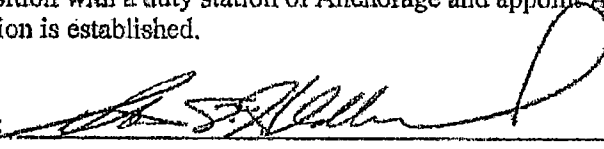
- Assist in the identification of human or financial resources for organizations that serve at-risk students.
- Demonstrate a commitment: Effective partnerships require a commitment to ongoing communication, cooperation and problem-solving.
- Communication: So much information is now available that it has become difficult for parents to know what works well. The department must take additional responsibility to ensure that parents have valid, reliable and succinct information to make educational decisions.

The Partnership Liaison will be a resource to families by helping them find public and private resources in districts when available, as well as connecting them to state resources; providing information regarding alternative education opportunities for at-risk students; working to increase at-risk students' access to a variety of services by building and strengthening partnerships between the department and other entities such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Communities in Schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other agencies that serve the diverse needs of youth; and connecting families with available resources to help at-risk students find multiple avenues to success.

The qualifications for this position include knowledge of a wide range of school district, community and statewide resources for student success and resources from possible partners, as well as the ability to work with constituents in a variety of settings. The applicant must have highly developed oral and written communication skills.

The Partnership Liaison will be based in Anchorage and will report to the Commissioner of Education & Early Development. Based on current year personal services projections at salary range 21, step A, this position will cost approximately \$98,285 annually. Existing funding will be used to cover the personal services expenses associated with this position.

The Department of Education & Early Development requests approval to create a long term non-permanent position with a duty station of Anchorage and appoint Alyce Galvin effective immediately once the position is established.

Approved:  Date: August 4, 2009

OMB APPROVED

Disapproved: _____ Date: _____

