



The Rural Alaska Principal Preparation and Support Project (RAPPS) is a comprehensive leadership development program focused on preparation of principals for high-poverty and remote Alaska schools, and support for those who are currently serving in those schools. The US Department of Education School Leadership Program funded this 5-year project (10/1/08 – 9/30/13).

RAPPS provided scholarships to 70 promising practicing teacher-leaders in 16 high-need rural districts so that they could obtain their Type B credential and become principals.

RAPPS offered a complete system of support for aspiring and practicing school leaders including: a distance-delivered, rural-focused cohort within the UAA Educational Leadership Program; mentoring for aspiring principals during their internship with coaches from the Alaska Administrator Coaching Project; and no-cost distance-delivered and face-to-face professional learning opportunities for all staff from the 16 partner districts throughout the year from the Alaska Staff Development Network.

Our major goal was to train and certify 55 new principals and to strengthen the leadership skills of principals from 135 of Alaska's highest need schools. SY 2012-2013 is the final year for the RAPPS project.

Project Outcomes

- 61 teacher or central office leaders have completed the UAA program and are certified as school administrators, and eight more are on track to complete and graduate by 2014. Of this group:
 - 28 are currently serving in a site administrator position in a RAPPS district
 - 2 are Assistant Superintendents in a RAPPS district
 - 8 are in central office positions in a RAPPS district
 - 14 are certified and looking for principal positions
 - 6 are continuing to teach
 - 3 moved out of state
- Each year 15-17 RAPPS interns received coaching from the Alaska Administrator Coaching Project. All RAPPS UAA graduates have received coaching services.
- Each year over 100 school leaders attended the Alaska School Leadership Institute
- Over 2,000 registrations (*duplicated count*) from RAPPS district staff were received for the 29 ASDN/RAPPS webinar series offered over the course of the grant. 123 no-cost webinars were offered in total.
- UAA has created over 15 rural Alaska case studies for use in its Educational Leadership program.

The Alaska Staff Development Network is in the process of writing for a new School Leadership Grant to continue the work begun by RAPPS. The proposal is due 7/8/13. If you have any feedback about the RAPPS project or suggestions for our new proposal, please contact Kelly Tonsmeire. He is at the institute, or his email is asdn@ptialaska.net. The draft abstract for the new proposal is on the back of this page if you would like to review it.

Leaders for Alaska's Rural Schools (LARS) (AKA RAPPS II) Project Abstract

• A Partnership of the Alaska Staff Development Network, EED, UAA, UAS and 23 Rural School Districts •
(This Abstract describes a proposal under the federal School Leadership Grant Program – CFDA#84.363A)

The Challenge: Aspiring and practicing school administrators do not have all the skills they need to lead Alaska's rural schools.

The Response: District-Directed Rural Administrator Preparation

The Program: Professional Learning to Meet the Challenges of New Initiatives and Realities

"Skills +": A District-Driven Type B Certificate

The **District** selects admin prep candidates and identifies Skills + content. Type B attainment scholarships are provided to candidates. • The **Alaska Staff Development Network** arranges and delivers enhanced, for credit skills training not provided by University for prospective administrators through webinars and Institutes. • **EED** Provides instructional and institutional support for Skills + training related to essential State initiatives and mandates. • **UAA and UAS** provide existing foundation school administration courses and where possible creates new courses based on District and EED needs.

II. Induction of New Principals

Alaska Administrator Coaching Program will provide intensive training and onsite coaching for first and second year principals and UA administrator interns from partner districts.

III. Supporting Professional Learning Needs of School Leaders

At an annual **Alaska School Leadership Institute**, district administrators, principals, site leaders, assistant principals, and teacher leaders take part in timely, critical professional learning. Cooperatively delivered by, ASDN, AACP, UAA, UAS, NWRCC, and DEED and focused on standards implementation, assessment roll-out, educator effectiveness, and integrating 21st century technology into instruction.

IV. Innovative Principals Academy

Alaska Administrator Coaching Program and ASDN consultants will provide an intensive leadership development program for principals of from the highest-need, persistently lowest-performing schools.

V. Intensive Support for Leaders from High Need Districts

Alaska Staff Development Network and NWRCC will work with EED staff, coaches, and selected district leaders to strengthen EED's State System of Support for highest need schools and districts.

Grant Quick Facts

- New rural principal preparation and support and enhancing skills of practicing rural school leaders.
- 5 Year Project x \$1,000,000 per year
- Organized by Alaska Staff Development Network
- **Contact: Kelly Tonsmeire, Director, 907-364-3802 asdn@ptialaska.net**

23 Eligible Districts

Alaska Gateway • Annette Island • Bering Strait • Chatham • Craig City • Dillingham City • Hoonah City • Hydaburg City • Iditarod Area • Kake City • Kashunamiut • Klawock City • Kuspuk • Lake And Peninsula • Lower Kuskokwim • Lower Yukon • Nenana City • Northwest Arctic Borough • Pelican City • Southwest Region • St. Marys City • Tanana • Yukon Flats • Yukon-Koyukuk • Yupiit

Work Products

- Type B Scholarships
- District-Driven Type B Content
- Expanded Numbers of Type B Course Providers
- Summer Leadership Institutes and on-going professional learning with Webinars
- Coaching
- EED Interaction and Involvement on Important Initiatives
- Skill Building on Essentials with National and State Experts (Standards, Teacher Evaluation, School Improvement, Assessments, Technology etc.)
- More & Better Prepared Rural School Principals
- More and Better Prepared Alaska Native Rural School Principals

District Commitments

- Recruit prospective administrators
- Assist the Type B candidate in identifying preparation content that is relevant to your schools
- Approve on-going distribution of Type B scholarship funds based on your review of candidate progress
- Participate in annual summer institute and webinars during the school year
- Participate in Project Evaluation
- Letter of Support
- Partnership Agreement