



PRESS RELEASE

Project Grad Kenai Peninsula Awarded \$128,000 Grant from the US Department of Education

For Immediate Release

Soldotna, September 26, 2011—Alaska Congressional Delegation announces [Project Grad Kenai Peninsula](#) awarded \$128,000 Grant from the US Department of Education. The \$128,000 grant will help prepare low-income students for success in post-secondary education.

Mike Petersen, executive director of Project GRAD Kenai Peninsula said, "This is something we could not have done without the wonderful partnership KPBSD has afforded us throughout the years. All of us are very proud and honored to be working with the staff, students, parents, and community of KPBSD; we look forward to the continued partnership and success."

Superintendent Steve Atwater said, "I am thrilled to learn that Project Grad will receive this funding. The grant takes some of the financial pressure off Project Grad and provides some stability to allow them to continue their excellent work that they do with our students."

The \$128,000 Gear Up Grant (GU) length is for six years, and requires a cohort model which begins at grade 2 and continues through grade 8. KPBSD schools in Nanwalek, Port Graham, Razdolna, Tebughna, and Voznesenka will follow this cohort through the six years.

The goals of the Gear Up Grant are:

1. Improve academic achievement of GU students to assist in obtaining HS diploma and being academically prepared for college
2. Raise educational aspirations of GU students
3. Increase college going rate of GU students
4. Empower communities and families

[Project GRAD Kenai Peninsula](#) was created in 2003 after the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District school board agreed to partner with Project GRAD USA. Services began during the winter of 2003 and Project GRAD Kenai Peninsula continues to be actively involved in seven K-12 schools.

Based on the successful Project GRAD USA model (but tailored for Alaskan students' unique circumstances), PGKP implements rigorous and relevant K-12 activities both in and outside the classroom in six core areas: Literacy, Math, Classroom Management, Teacher Professional Development, Campus Family Support (to mobilize parent and community support) and College Access. PGKP is the first pilot of the Project GRAD model for rural sites in the United States.

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