

Anchorage School District (ASD), AK (Implementation) Academies of Anchorage Project

This project will increase socioeconomic diversity in secondary school programs by allocating additional resources to higher needs schools, utilizing a liberal student transfer policy, and implementing geographically diverse targeted career pathways for varying student interests. The purpose is to provide universal career technical education (CTE) wall-to-wall academies at eight comprehensive high schools across the district using Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL), Universal Design Learning, and Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) frameworks to guide implementation. A wall-to-wall CTE academy model is an educational approach that integrates career-focused learning throughout a school's curriculum. It aims to provide students with real-world experiences, industry-aligned skills, and academic knowledge, preparing them for successful careers and post-secondary education. This project will provide wall-to-wall academies progressively for each secondary grade level beginning in Year 2 for grade 9 and reaching grade 12 by Year 5 of the project serving 10,458 9-12 students by Year 5. This project would attract attention to the links that ASD has already built within our CTE infrastructure into a larger and broader service designed for increasing socioeconomic diversity in CTE programming across the district by utilizing evidence-based strategies to implement the Ford NGL wall-to-wall Career Academies at all comprehensive high schools, expanding access to CTE to all high school students and ensuring that students have access to a high-quality CTE program in their neighborhood schools. By implementing the Ford NGL model, which focuses on business and education partnerships, rigorous curriculum, teaching core classes through the lenses of CTE pathways, and real-world experiences, the Anchorage School District can provide students with high-quality CTE opportunities that align with industry needs, preparing them for future careers. Additionally, incorporating the UDL model ensures that instructional approaches and materials are flexible and accessible, meeting the diverse needs of students and promoting inclusive learning environments. By implementing the EOS model, the district can close opportunity gaps and provide equitable access to CTE programs, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to benefit from comprehensive and rigorous education. By leveraging these models, the Anchorage School District can create a system that supports academic growth, excellence, and equity by offering a range of CTE pathways for students to accelerate their learning and thrive in their educational journey.

Expected outcomes include:

- All ASD students will have access to well-rounded educational opportunities;
- ASD will have robust community partnership engagement and involvement in wall-to-wall academy initiatives;
- ASD students will report improved well-being, engagement, school connectedness, and academic outcomes in student achievement and graduation rates;
- ASD will report reduced school discipline rates of EDS, SPED, and Minority student populations
- ASD will provide clear, demonstrable success and public accountability through committees, public website, and integration into national conferences;
- educators will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to create inclusive and supportive learning environments; and
- ASD will have increased capacity to adequately address diverse student needs

All secondary high school students in the Anchorage School District, their families, and the Anchorage community including businesses and community organizations are the intended beneficiaries of the project.

