

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity Awards Fairbanks North Star
Borough School District \$750,000 Grant to expand STEAM programing**

December 15, 2021, Fairbanks, Alaska - The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District was awarded a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). This grant funding will provide the school district with significant resources to build on and expand STEAM educational programming, which, according to the National Science and Technology Council, is critical to our national security.

“Technical training, vocational education, and career exploration activities are only available for high school students in our school district. This DoDEA grant will also ensure younger students get earlier introductions to Career and Technical Education with an emphasis in the Health Sciences field.” - Karen Melin, FNSBSD Superintendent

Funds will launch the Stealth Sciences project at Crawford Elementary, Ben Eielson Junior High, Hunter Elementary, North Pole Elementary, North Pole Middle, and Midnight Sun Elementary. At each school, DoDEA grant funds will sponsor Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math, plus Health Sciences extracurricular activities such as clubs, competitions, and summer programs to spark students' interests in subjects linked to high demand and high wage college and career pathways.

The FNSBSD will collaborate with community partners to support project success and sustainability.

The Stealth Sciences project has begun and will continue until May 31, 2026.

DoDEA awarded \$22 million in 21 grants across 13 states as part of its 2021 Cohort. DoDEA's Education Partnership and Resources division strives to ensure all military-connected K-12 students have access to quality educational opportunities through engagement in partnerships with school districts and professional organizations. The division provides school personnel and stakeholders with evidence-based resources and supports to increase understanding and awareness related to the unique challenges faced by military-connected students and families.

About the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District was established in 1904 and covers 7,444 square miles including six distinct communities and two military installations. FNSBSD has

grown to 35 schools, over 12,000 students, and nearly 1,700 full-time staff. The district's mission is to provide an excellent, equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students will succeed and contribute to a diverse and changing society.

About DoDEA

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is a field activity of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. DoDEA has congressional authority to provide resources to public schools to support the continuity of education for military-connected students through a competitive grant program. DoDEA's vision of "Excellence in education for every student, every day, everywhere" is realized through this partnership with public school districts. DoDEA's mission is to plan, direct, coordinate, and manage the education programs for eligible dependents of U.S. military personnel and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense.