

April 10, 2014

Memo to the CEAAC Board of Directors

From: Charles Wohlforth, Executive Director

Action Memorandum: Conceptual Approval of Amendment to the Moore Settlement Agreement

As the second project in our three-year-plan, CEAAC has worked to create a new entity to support administrators in accessing and sharing resources, which we tentatively called the Education Research and Support Initiative (ERSI), but which we are now calling the Ed Connector. Sarah Sledge completed the Phase 1 project report ([linked here](#)), and Lora Jorgensen is under contract for Phase 2, which includes project design and development. Lora is working with a Steering Committee comprised of Commissioner Mike Hanley; Annmarie O'Brien and Paul Ongtooguk, both of UAA; superintendents Jacob Jensen, Brad Allen and Angie Lunda; and Richard Kern of NEA-Alaska.

We will be seeking grant funding for the project. We don't think it makes sense for districts to pay for the service, since one of their main barriers to accessing resources is cost. Grant funds will be difficult to obtain, but we believe we can put together a portfolio of grants in the range of \$25,000 per year to run the program and prevent any one funder from being make-or-break for its survival. Lora has not reached the stage of creating a detailed budget, but we anticipate a full-time professional person with IT work and some support, and \$150,000 a year seems a reasonable ballpark figure.

An opportunity has presented itself to provide baseline funding for the project for an extended period of time.

The Moore Settlement was structured with four programs. One of the four, HSGQE Remediation Reimbursement, has been under-used. The Moore Collaborative Committee allocated \$1 million to this purpose, of which about \$65,000 has been expended. At its March 31 meeting, the committee closed the program after the next round of reimbursements, due May 1. It appears that in excess of \$900,000 will be left over from this program.

Commissioner Hanley has tentatively agreed to a change in the Moore Settlement to direct \$450,000 to CEAAC to fund the Ed Connector, to provide six years of funding at \$75,000 per year. The commissioner and I have negotiated terms which I presented to the CEAAC Executive Board on February 26. The board voted to forward the agreement to legal drafting. An initial draft by the Department of Law was unsatisfactory and will be redrafted.

ACTION: The Board of Directors is requested to conceptually approve a settlement agreement as outlined in this memo, for detailed review and final approval by the Executive Board.