

Lower Yukon School District gets language grant from feds

The Lower Yukon School District is proud to announce that it has been awarded a 5-year grant from the United States Department of Education under the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994. The District will receive an average of \$233,000 a year for a total of \$1.164 million.

Among other things, the grant funds will be used to revitalize and strengthen the District's Yup'ik

Language program, develop and add a Yup'ik cultural values component to the Yup'ik Language program, develop and integrate language teaching methods that take advantage of preferred Yup'ik learning styles, and strengthen the college training program for bilingual aides. The District's English Language Program will also be reconfigured and strengthened through the de-

velopment of a language processing program.

At a time of increased competition among school districts nationwide for a decreasing pool of federal grant monies, the award of this competitive grant gives the District a unique and exciting opportunity in the field of bilingual education. According to Edwin T. Gonion, Superintendent of the District, the strengthening of the

English language program and the Yup'ik language program will ultimately result in higher levels of student achievement among the District's students.

Tim Kaganak from Scammon Bay, Alaska, Chairperson of the Lower Yukon School District Board of Education, is especially pleased that the grant funds will be used to develop a locally relevant language program by incor-

porating more effective language teaching methods as well as richer cultural content.

Both Mr. Kaganak and Mr. Gonion expressed appreciation to the entire Board of Education for its support of the District's grant application and to the staff members who's skill, dedication, hard work and expertise made this grant award possible.