

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #59 (2005-2006)

October 10, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ENROLLMENT STATUS UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

ASD GOAL: *Ensure public accountability through effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

Enrollment as of September 30, 2005, the official membership date for the District, was a total of 49,589 students. This enrollment represents 135 (.27%) more students than the 49,454 reported for the same time last year.

Table 1 compares the September 30, 2005 enrollment, by category, to the comparable figures for September 30, 2004. The enrollment increases this school year, over last year, were in the Senior High, Other Secondary, and Special Services programs.

TABLE 1
Comparison of
9/30/2004 Membership vs. 9/30/2005 Membership

<u>Category</u>	<u>9/30/2004</u>	<u>9/30/2005</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Elementary Schools Kindergarten	3,691	3,674	-17
Elementary Schools Grades 1-8	21,875	21,707	-168
Middle Schools	7,514	7,324	-190

Senior High Schools	13,199	13,603	404
Other Secondary Schools and Programs	2,045	2,077	32
Pre-Elementary, Level 3 Spec. Ed., and Special Services	1,130	1,204	74
Total	49,454	49,589	135

The increases in Senior High Schools and Other Secondary can be attributed to the large Kindergarten classes of the early 1990's. The large enrollment in the upper grade levels is expected to continue through 2006.

The current September 30 enrollment is 300 students more than the projection of 49,289. This represents a 0.6% deviation from the projection. Modified student activation procedures, over the past few years, have helped to stabilize student enrollment numbers. This stability was needed to ensure valid and comparable data are used for future planning and budgeting, as well as enrollment projections. Table 2 compares the September 30, 2005 enrollment by category to the projections.

TABLE 2

**September 30, 2005 Actual and
Projected Enrollment**

Programs	Actual 9/30/2005	Projected 9/30/2005	Difference
Elementary Schools Kindergarten	3,674	3,573	101
Elementary Schools Grades 1-8	21,707	21,866	-159

Middle Schools	7,324	7,356	-32
Senior High Schools	13,603	13,367	236
Other Secondary Schools and Programs	2,077	2,063	14
Pre-Elementary, Level 3 Spec. Ed., and Special Services	1,204	1,064	140
Total	49,589	49,289	300

Last year a policy change for the Kindergarten program resulted in an increase of 121 kindergarten students over 2003-04. Because this increase was expected to affect one year only, the kindergarten numbers were projected to return to their prior levels. However, Kindergarten enrollment decreased by just 17 students over 2004-05. Migration and immigration are thought to account for this sustained enrollment.

Enrollments in the Elementary schools, Middle schools, and Special Services programs were projected to decline. Elementary schools enrolled 159 fewer students than projected, while Middle schools had 32 students less than projected. Special services enrolled 140 more students than projected.

Enrollment increases were projected for High schools and Other Secondary schools. High schools had 236 students more than their projected enrollment. Other Secondary schools were also up from projected by 14 students. Migration, immigration, and greater retention of students in the upper grade levels are thought to account for this increase.

To review the detailed membership for each school, please refer to Attachment A. For schools at or above 120% of program capacity, please see Attachment B. While Chugach Optional is listed as being at or above 120% of program capacity, the school has undergone a major renovation. An additional 9,000 square feet were added to the facility, which includes one new kindergarten classroom.

School space utilization and program data are currently being collected for calculation of the 2005-06 program capacity. Attachment C contains the comparison of the EED capacity and the 2004-05 program capacity. Attachment D contains maps showing the percent of 2004-05 program capacity by attendance area, using 2005-06 student enrollment numbers.

Attachments

CC/GV/RA/ODS/

Prepared by: Ophelia Dargan-Steed, Demographer
Ray Amsden, Director of Facilities

Approved by: George Vakalis, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services