

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #92 (2005-2006)

October 24, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CONTINUATION GRANT AWARD:
PROJECT MIR - MISSION IS RUSSIAN

ASD Goal: Increase student academic achievement using data to guide adoption of curriculum, methods, materials, and professional development specifically designed to ensure that each group as designated by No Child Left Behind and the Quality Schools Initiative makes adequate yearly progress.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program, in the amount of \$174,982. The project will implement the third year of the K-6 Russian Partial Immersion program at Turnagain Elementary School.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The ASD World Languages Program has been awarded funding for the third year of a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language Assistance Program. This competition supports foreign language study for less commonly taught languages of major economic and political importance to the United States. The Anchorage School District's Russian Partial Immersion program capitalizes on the District's longstanding track record in language immersion and on the city's economic, political, cultural, and social ties to Russia. The grant project is designed for capacity building. By the end of the third year, the program will develop Russian immersion in kindergarten through second grade at Turnagain Elementary School. Based on the District's growth models in Spanish and Japanese immersion, the Russian immersion design expands the program by one grade level each year. From sixth grade, students

can matriculate into existing middle school and high school Russian language programs.

The first year of the project was allocated to schoolwide planning and professional development. In year two, the program was initiated in four classrooms of kindergarten and first grade. By the end of the current school year, the program will be at grades kindergarten through second grade. The model replicates the District's current language immersion delivery model. Students receive content instruction in English for half of each day and in Russian for half of each day. Russian instruction is delivered by teachers who are native or near-native Russian speakers.

The budget supports a certified project coordinator/resource teacher in the school, professional development for teachers over the three years, materials and supplies, curriculum development, whole-school enrichment, and program recruitment. The third-year budget includes \$3,000 in release time for teachers to observe at other District immersion programs. In-kind contributions consist primarily of regularly allocated FTEs for classroom teachers, regular school budget items, and administrators' staff time.

Budget Summary for Year Three - FY 2005-2006:

Personnel	\$ 81,000
Fringe Benefits	36,423
Supplies	10,000
Contractual	21,745
Travel	15,000
Training Stipends	2,000
Registration/Membership	1,000
Indirect Costs	<u>7,814</u>
Total	\$174,982

CC/JC/EH/PM/JG/BT

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