

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #329 (2005-2006)

June 12, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT:  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT GRANT

*ASD Goal: Ensure public accountability through: continued participation in the state and federal required testing programs, continued preparation and publication of the Profile of Performance, budget basics, and budget and bond summaries, effective consultation with the community to ensure wise use of financial resources and responsible construction and maintenance of facilities, and effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education to strengthen the District's emergency action planning and crisis readiness.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The U.S. Department of Education has issued a request for proposals for its Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant Program. The purpose of the competition is to improve school district emergency response and crisis management plans, with an emphasis on training and on coordination with local responders. The Anchorage School District proposal will build on the District's Emergency Action Plan and on individual school plans, as well as on District and municipal emergency operations infrastructures and procedures.

The eighteen-month project will take every school's incident command team as well as central administration personnel through "tabletop" simulations of crises requiring rapid responses; communication with District-level emergency operations; and coordination with police, fire department, and health care responders. These "what if" drills involve practice with immediate decision-making, using school emergency action plans.

The project includes two full-scale field exercises. Field exercises are scripted with sudden, realistic, and often unforeseeable events. They will take place at high school sites chosen for their vulnerability in earthquake or wildfire emergencies. These action drills will bring together school and central ASD personnel, and community and municipal responders, in a fully-described natural disaster. These drills will enact both municipal and school district emergency response procedures.

Tabletop drills will take place after school over twelve months, spaced in groups of schools by attendance areas. The two high school site field exercises are on Saturdays in spring and fall 2007.

The project is supported and assisted by the Anchorage Police Department, Anchorage Fire Department, Municipal emergency management functions, and public and private emergency health care providers. The initiative is designed to build awareness, confidence, and skills among school district personnel; to identify areas of improvement for emergency planning and community coordination; and to improve school and district emergency action plans.

Preliminary budget estimate for the eighteen-month grant period is \$450,000. Major expenditures are projected to be in contract addenda for school staff, contractual overtime for police officers and fire fighters, a full-time project coordinator, equipment for an ASD emergency command center, and materials and supplies. Project evaluation is in-kind by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center. The budget does not include release time.

CC/GV/MM/BT/CM

Prepared by: Mark Mew, Director, Security and Emergency Preparedness  
Beverly Thornburg, Coordinator, Discretionary Grants  
Corinne McVee, Writer, Discretionary Grants

Approved by: George Vakalis, Assistant Superintendent, Support Services