

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #139 (2006-2007)

December 11, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FIRST QUARTER PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE REPORT
2006-2007

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

PERTINENT FACTS:

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

For many years, Anchorage School District schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow 15 to 20 minute individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarters. More recently, the middle schools and high schools began the practice of providing opportunities at the end of the same grading periods for parents to pick-up their student's report cards and confer briefly with teachers.

These efforts have generally been well supported by parents and teachers, as can be seen in the information provided by each division. Where there has been a decrease in participation at a school, the appropriate Instructional Division supervisor works with principals, their staffs and PTA or parent group to increase involvement. Through work with the Public Affairs staff, the web site, and our School/Business partners, the District will continue attempts to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities in the hope that parents can be released from work to attend. At any time of the school year, parents are welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

Elementary Schools

Twice each year, the elementary schools in Anchorage conduct parent/teacher conferences for the purpose of reporting student progress to parents. These conferences are held at the end of the first and third quarters of each school year.

Elementary parent/teacher conference results for the first quarter are shown in Attachment A.

The following information is a comparison of the last five years' participation rate in these conferences.

	Fall 2002	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006
Enrollment	26,124	25,505	25,000	24,713	24,346
District Average	95%	96%	95%	95%	93.45%

Currently, the teacher schedules individual conferences for the parents of each student in the class. The current ASD/AEA negotiated agreement has a provision to allow telephone conferences in lieu of personal conferences if the principal gives prior approval. This is the 22nd year this information has been recorded.

Middle Schools

Central, Gruening, Hanshew, Wendler, Mears, Romig, and Clark are all implementing student-led conferences. It is believed that this conference model is playing an important role in increasing conference participation. Telephone calls reminding parents of report card pick-up through the ASD automated telephone program was also of assistance this year.

Following are the percentages for report card pick up for the first quarter of the 2006-2007 school year for middle schools:

School	Total Printed	Cards Picked Up	%
Central	531	415	78%
Clark	801	545	68%
Goldenview	889	632	71%
Gruening	607	511	84%
Hanshew	906	746	82%
Mears	1,052	871	82%
Mirror Lake	693	489	70%
*Polaris K-12	467	467	100%
Romig	790	713	90%
Wendler	841	694	82%

Following are the report card pick-up percentages for first quarter for the last four years.

School	2003	2004	2005	2006
Central	63	62	75	78
Clark	60	57	48	68
Goldenview	74	73	75	71
Gruening	69	78	91	84
Hanshew	85	88	86	82
Mears	66	64	70	82
Mirror Lake	77	76	74	70
*Polaris K-12	100	100	100	100
Romig	76	81	78	90
Wendler	58	65	78	82

*Polaris distributes report cards through individual appointments. They had 100 percent participation again this year.

Pick-up percentages for middle schools ranged from 68 percent to 90 percent with the numbers of picked up report cards ranging from 415 to 871. The schools with the highest rates of report card pick-up were Romig (90%) followed by Gruening (84%), Hanshew, Mears and Wendler (82%). Noteworthy is the twenty percent increase at Clark, as well as the twelve percent increase seen at Mears and Romig.

High Schools

Senior High School Report Card Pick-up was held on November 8, 2006, in all area high schools. This effort is intended to facilitate parent/teacher/student communication. All of a school's teachers are available in a contiguous area, such as the library or the cafeteria, and parents and staff meet as time permits. Appointments for more extensive dialogue can be made at that time.

As reported by principals, parents were actively engaged in discussion with nearly every teacher. The vast majority of those in attendance deem the conferences valuable and informative. Appropriately, many high school students accompany their parents during these visits.

Encouraging parental attendance continues to be both a school and division goal. All sites publicize this opportunity through parent newsletter announcements which start several months in advance, invitations issued at fall open houses, items on school web sites, notations on the activity calendar, and numerous reminders at monthly parent meetings.

Report card pick-up for senior high students averaged 45 percent across the District as compared to 53 percent during the same time last year and 50 percent for the 2004-2005 school year. Following is a chart comparing pickup percentages for the last three years.

School	2004	2005	2006
Bartlett	39	32	32
Chugiak	60	60	55
Dimond	55	52	30
Eagle River	n/a	65	50
East	42	47	42
Service	50	49	51
South	55	62	61
West	49	60	36

Charter Schools

School	Enrollment	# of Conferences	% 1st Qtr 2006
Aquarian	351	351	100%
Eagle Academy	163	160	97%
*Family Partnership	492	N/A	
*Frontier	379	N/A	
**Highland Tech High	271	N/A	
Winterberry	152	150	99%

*Parents and teachers meet on an "as needed basis" due to the individualized nature of these programs. FPCS has an on-line progress report (submitted by parents and sponsor teachers) due January 20, and another due in April.

**Highland Tech High issues progress reports, but report cards are distributed only at semester.

CC/JC/PM/LV/MH

Attachment

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