

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #13 (2007-2008)

August 13, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE FY2006-2007

*ASD Goal: Ensure public accountability through continued participation in the State and Federal required testing programs and effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires states and districts to report on the progress of schools based on a measurement known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Under this measure, schools have to meet as many as 31 targets related to student participation in testing, proficiency on state exams in language arts and math, and either attendance or graduation rates, depending upon the grade level of the school.

Schools that do not make AYP are given varying degrees of consequences based on whether they receive federal Title I funds and on how many years they have missed making AYP. Non-Title I schools that miss making AYP must create school improvement plans detailing goals and action plans for increasing students' proficiency. Title I schools that miss AYP for more than one year must offer extra help to students (after-school tutoring, for example), offer parents an opportunity to send their children to other schools, or change the curriculum or operational structure of the school, depending on the number of years they have missed AYP.

For the 2006-2007 school year, 58 of 94 schools made AYP (62 percent) this year whereas 36 did not (38 percent). Of the 36 schools that did not make AYP, 22 schools missed only one of the 31 targets required to meet AYP. Sixteen of the 22 schools missing by one target only missed in the cell of students with disabilities. As a result of changes in regulation, the minimum cell number required for being accountable for performance changed from 40 to 25 for students with disabilities

and limited English proficient students, so more ASD schools are now accountable for AYP for these groups of students. No schools missed the performance targets for limited English proficient students. The minimum cell number required for being accountable for all remaining groups for performance increased from 20 to twenty-five.

Of the 25 Title I schools, 14 made AYP (56 percent) whereas 11 did not (44 percent). In addition, four ASD schools came off the "school improvement" list - meaning they were at Level 2 or higher and now have made AYP for two years in a row. Eleven schools at Level 2 or higher made AYP this year and are in a position to be removed from the "school improvement" list if they make AYP in the coming school year. It is important to know, however, that next year's targets increase from 71.48 to 77.18 percent proficient in language arts and from 57.61 to 66.09 percent proficient in math.

### **NCLB Public School Choice**

Seven ASD Title I schools will offer NCLB Public School Choice in 2007-2008. Compared to last year, the only changes to this program are the addition of Chinook Elementary School (Chinook is newly identified as a Title I school for 2007-2008) and the deletion of Clark Middle School due to construction. The schools that will be offering school choice in the coming school year are as follows:

Creekside Park Elementary - Chester Valley or Nunaka Valley  
Fairview Elementary - Lake Hood or Turnagain  
North Star Elementary - Lake Hood or Turnagain  
William Tyson Elementary - Chester Valley or Nunaka Valley  
Williwaw Elementary - Abbott Loop or Kasuun  
Willow Crest Elementary - Lake Hood or Northwood

### **NCLB Supplemental Education Services**

Under No Child Left Behind, Title I schools in Level 3 or higher must offer students eligible for free or reduced lunch Supplemental Education Services (SES) by contracting with state-approved private Providers. Districts in improvement status are not permitted to be Providers. The Anchorage School District has been approved to implement for a second year two pilot projects related to Supplemental Educational Services. Under the first pilot, the District is permitted to switch the order of choice and SES and offer SES for Title I schools at Level 2. If the school were to enter Level 3, then the District would have to offer choice in addition to SES. Under the second pilot, a status achieved in large part due to the efforts of the Council of the Great City Schools on behalf of ASD,

the Anchorage School District may be a Provider of services in addition to the state-approved private Providers. These pilots will enable the District to offer additional services to more students. For 2007-2008, in addition to the seven school-choice locations listed above, Whaley and AVAIL will offer SES to eligible students, as well as Ptarmigan elementary and Tudor elementary, which are both in Level 2 status.

### **District Data**

The data shows that the percentage of full-academic year students in Grade 3 through Grade 10 who were grade-level proficient in language arts increased from 80.7 percent last year to 82.3 percent in 2007. Math proficiency climbed from 71.3 percent to 76.3 percent.

The District is pleased with the gain in the graduation rate – up from 63.9 percent last year to 64.9 percent this year. Though there is much work to do, the results show that ASD is moving in the right direction.

District personnel will be present to brief the Board on this year's Adequate Yearly Progress and answer any questions.

CC/RG/LV/VC

Prepared by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Laurel Vorachek, Director, Assessment and Evaluation  
Vernon Campbell, Director, Accountability

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction