

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #45 (2007-2008)

September 10, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CONTINUATION GRANT AWARD:  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: MISISON IS  
RUSSIAN ADVANCES! (PROJECT MIRA)

*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 \$207,286.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The ASD World Languages Program has been awarded a continuation grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP). This competition supports foreign language study for less commonly taught languages of major economic and political importance to the United States. The continuation funding is for the second year of a three-year grant.

The project will expand Project MIR, the Russian partial language immersion program at Turnagain Elementary School, into the fourth grade, and will continue weekly Russian language instruction (FLES--Foreign Language in the Elementary School) for K-6 classrooms that are not in the immersion program.

The program is designed to produce a sustainable, articulated Russian language program model in the elementary school that can be replicated for other less-commonly taught languages. Project MIR was established in FY 2004 with the

support of an initial three-year FLAP grant. In its first four years, the program has developed K-3 immersion classrooms, adding a grade level each year. FY 2008 funding will support the addition of fourth grade, and funding projected for FY 2009 will support the addition of fifth grade.

The program provides second language instruction in a seamless pipeline that will, with extended years of study, produce fluent Russian speakers. 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, materials and supplies, curriculum development, whole-school enrichment, and program recruitment. The personnel budget includes \$13,200 in release time for Russian teacher assessment training, peer observations, and grade-level team content collaboration for Russian language curriculum development. The grant program does not require a cash match. In-kind contributions consist primarily of regularly allocated FTEs for classroom teachers, regular school budget items, and administrators' staff time.

Budget Summary FY 2007-2008:

Personnel	\$ 90,874
Fringe Benefits	31,640
Supplies	24,134
Contractual	33,077
Travel	11,064
Training Stipends	9,217
Indirect Costs	<u>7,280</u>
Total	\$207,286

CC/RG/EH/PM/JG/BT

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