

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM # 122 (2007-2008)

December 3, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: MONTHLY UPDATE STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM -  
ZANGLE

*ASD Goal: Ensure public accountability through 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.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Zangle Student Information System implementation continues to move forward. Phase I of the project is the Fit Gap Analysis, during which the district will determine how well the proposed solution meets District requirements. Phase II is installation and implementation of the system, contingent upon the successful completion of the Fit Gap Analysis.

- The three Fit/Gap sessions have been successfully conducted. During the process, no “show-stopper” gaps were identified and the implementation continues.
- The initial SIS Project Plan was based on a start date of 1/07, with Secondary “go live” scheduled for 8/08. Due to an extended procurement review process, the project start was delayed. The actual project start was 08/07, though the Secondary “go live” date did not change. Based on the information learned during Fit/Gap, we have realized that the initial timeline was ambitious, and with the loss of 7 months it has become unworkable.
- District staff have been very specific about what they want the new system to do, and we are confident that Zangle can provide what they are looking for. Zangle is a product that is highly adaptable for individual

district needs. That was a strong selling point and one of the aspects ASD rated highly in the selection process. However, creating the adaptations to support ASD business processes will require time. The legacy system has many “behind the scenes” processes which will need to be duplicated in Zangle. Examples of this include the “flag” that alerts the user when a Special Education student is being suspended, or the alert which prevents an expelled student from enrolling anywhere except the Continuation Program. There are also many new and exciting opportunities that will come about with the Zangle implementation. Departments that currently store data in multiple disparate systems will be able to have that information “under one roof”. Configuring the system to house that information will take time. As much as we would like to stay on the original time-line for implementation, it is more important that we take the time to do it right.

- Prior to the Fit/Gap sessions, it was not possible to know the level of work required for full implementation of Zangle to ASD specifications. With the completion of Fit/Gap sessions, we are now better able to determine a manageable project plan for our district. The technical aspects of implementation (analysis, data conversion, configuration, and customization) are estimated to require 12 months for substantial completion. Following that, the training process can begin. The amount of time required for training will vary depending on the selected implementation model. Based on estimates of time required for implementation tasks, we estimate a “go-live” date of 8/09.
- A thorough assessment of implementation models needs to be completed. With the change in project plan, all potential implementation models can be given consideration. More information about those options will be forthcoming.

MM/JW

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