

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #196 (2007-2008)

January 28, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: GRANTS TO
REDUCE ALCOHOL ABUSE

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by promoting health and wellness and maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning, including the development of 21st century skills.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools has issued a notice inviting applications for its Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse grant program. This competition supports the development and implementation of research-based alcohol abuse prevention programs in secondary schools.

The District's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, in collaboration with High School Education, will apply for funding to develop a high school elective class that infuses Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) standards and practices into effective prevention curricula. These curricula include Prime for Life, an information-based prevention program, and Positive Action, a U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration identified model program. The course will incorporate best practices that are supported by research for building developmental assets and strengthening students' abilities to make positive choices. Thus, media literacy, peer education, service learning, and experiential learning activities all will be infused into the course pedagogy.

This class will be offered in the eight comprehensive high schools through a two-

year phase-in plan. The target population is the broader high school population, not just high-risk students. The concept is to inoculate students at large against pervasive media, peer, and societal pressure to abuse alcohol, and to build resilience and SEL skills for long-term life choices. The project's service learning and peer education components will be designed to coordinate with ongoing SEL initiatives in the schools for positive benefits to the school community. This project supports Six-Year Instructional plans for both High School Education and Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

The preliminary budget estimate is \$350,000 per year for three years. The budget will support salaries for teachers in each comprehensive high school to collaboratively develop and teach the course, at an average of .60 FTE per school. The grant also will fund project coordination through ASD Safe and Drug-Free Schools, professional development, external evaluation, and equipment and teaching materials.

CC/RG/MH/ES/MK/BT

Prepared by: Mike Henry, Executive Director, High School Education
Enid Silverstein, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instructional Support
Michael Kerosky, Supervisor, Safe and Drug-Free Schools
Beverly Thornburg, Coordinator, Discretionary Grants

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction