

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #192 (2007-2008)

February 25, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RILKE SCHULE CHARTER SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT

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

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve an increase in Rilke Schule Charter School's chartered enrollment to 350 students.

PERTINENT FACTS:

School Board Policy 333.7(e) requires "any revisions to the terms of the contract may be made only with the approval of the School Board and the charter school Academic Policy Committee." The current Rilke Schule German Immersion Charter School charter states that the maximum enrollment for the school is 200.

At this time, Rilke Schule German Immersion Charter School has 170 students enrolled. The Academic Policy Committee of Rilke Schule believes that its program meets the needs of a growing number of students and will continue to see an increase in interest and enrollment. Rilke Schule would like to be able to meet this increased interest and enroll more students in the future.

The current enrollment number was established by the APC and the school board during the chartering process. Since then, the school has taken occupancy of a building that can easily accommodate several more classrooms. The Academic Policy Committee would like to build up the school from kindergarten and primary grades because of the immersion model it uses. By doing so, there would be a base of students who have been taught from a very early age to speak and think in German. Research supports immersion models of teaching a world language. Children are most receptive to learning additional languages before

the onset of puberty and as early as three years of age when their native language is developing. With this in mind, Rilke Schule hopes to increase kindergarten and first grade classrooms to as many as four each while keeping other classrooms in line with these numbers and attrition rates. It will, therefore, be necessary to increase the charter number for the maximum number of students served to 350. The Academic Policy Committee of Rilke Schule is requesting that the Anchorage School Board grant this enrollment increase starting with the 2008-2009 school year.

CC/RG/CB

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Supervisor, Charter Schools

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction