

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #125 (2008-2009)

November 10, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AQUARIAN CHARTER SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT ADJUSTMENT

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 authorize the Superintendent to approve an increase in Aquarian Charter School's budgeted enrollment from 360 to 365 students for the 2008-2009 school year.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School Board Policy requires that all charter schools adhere to the minimum and maximum enrollment figures stated in each charter school's contract. In Article 12 of the charter school contract for Aquarian Charter School, the maximum enrollment is currently listed at 360 students. During the school year, 2008-2009, it will not be possible to be in compliance with this maximum enrollment.

The school and the Academic Policy Committee are requesting an increase to 365 students for its maximum enrollment for the following reasons. Each year, the principal asks all parents to let the school know if their children will be returning the following school year. Several of these parents are members of the United States military and as such are given deployment orders in the spring only to find out later that the deployment has either been postponed or cancelled. This occurred in the spring of 2008 with a family whose children were in classes with no openings except their children's seats. After being notified of the deployment, Ms. Forbes gave the children's seats to the first students who were picked using the lottery procedure. In June, after the new children's parents were notified of the placement, the original children's parents were notified by the military that

they were not going to be deployed after all. This created extra students in two classes in the school; the school had been full since the lottery at 360 students. The Academic Policy Committee voted to allow both the original children and the new children to remain in the classes. Consequently, the school's enrollment is now over the cap of 360 students. To turn away students who had been enrolled for several weeks would be devastating to the students, their families and the school.

CC/RG/CB

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Supervisor, Charter Schools

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction