

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
REVISED

ASD MEMORANDUM #291 (2008-2009)

March 23, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ACCEPTANCE OF EDUCATION FUNDS UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Anchorage School Board President that the School Board approve a resolution supporting the acceptance of education funds by the Alaska legislature under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

It is further recommended that, upon passage, the superintendent forward this resolution to the Anchorage Caucus legislators, the Alaska Association of School Boards, the Alaska State Superintendent's Association, and other entities or individuals as are thought to be appropriate.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The school board president, along with the superintendent, strongly encourages support for the attached resolution.

JF/jjl

Prepared and approved by: Jeff Friedman, School Board President

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
ASDR 2008-2009-13

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING
ALASKA'S ACCEPTANCE OF EDUCATION FUNDS UNDER
THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

WHEREAS, Congress has passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), making federal funds available to the states to stimulate the national economy through investment and support in key state and local government services; and

WHEREAS, education is a key service for which federal funding is available under the ARRA, particularly targeting areas already regulated by, but not fully funded by, the federal government under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

WHEREAS, although ARRA funds are intended to save or create jobs, they are also designed to help school districts develop innovative programs to improve academic performance; and

WHEREAS the limited duration of ARRA education funds poses a legitimate concern and need to ensure that such funds do not create an unsustainable fiscal obligation or expectation on state and local resources that outlasts and outweighs the benefits of ARRA funding; and

WHEREAS, school districts throughout Alaska, including the Anchorage School District, have begun to plan for creative and productive use of funds available under ARRA, fully recognizing their limited duration; and

WHEREAS, ARRA education funding could be used across Alaska to contribute significantly toward increasing student achievement and reducing the dropout rate through limited-term efforts with long-lasting effects, all the while stimulating the state and local economies at a time when employment is otherwise depressed; and

WHEREAS, the potential for such long-lasting educational benefits is enormous, while the Department of Education and Early Development and local school districts are fully capable of, and their school boards fully accountable for, avoiding fiscal obligation or expectation after the ARRA funds are no longer available; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage School District and other districts in Alaska have already proven this capability and accountability through extensive prior experience, receiving and wisely using one-time federal and state grant funds without committing to, or creating undue public expectation of, future spending once those grants expire; and

WHEREAS, with ARRA education funds available, the Department of Education and Early Development could, if necessary, work with local districts to develop additional principles and criteria to ensure that ARRA funding does not obligate or pressure districts to spend additional local or state money after ARRA funding expires; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage School Board's Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee recently passed a resolution supporting the acceptance of ARRA education funds; and

WHEREAS, rejection of Alaska's share of ARRA education money would not reduce federal stimulus spending, but only divert to schools in other states money that rightfully should be used to strengthen the education of some of Alaska's neediest students and schools ;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage School Board urges Governor Palin and the Alaska Legislature to take all action necessary to ensure that the State of Alaska can and will receive the full amount of stimulus funds for education available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage School Board this 23rd day of March, 2009.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

Jeff Friedman, President

Pat Higgins
Crystal Kennedy
Jeannie Mackie

Macon Roberts
Tim Steele
John Steiner

Carol Comeau, Superintendent