

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #318 (2008-2009)

May 28, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF WEST HIGH SCHOOL'S 75 YEARS OF  
MEMBERSHIP WITH THE NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF  
ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

*ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, barrier-free schools; collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

Since 1917, the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools has worked to advance excellence in education through the process of accreditation. Anchorage High School, now known as West High School, first achieved accreditation in 1932, becoming only the second school in Alaska to receive this designation. Today, West is being honored by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools for 75 years of membership.

In order to obtain accredited status, schools must demonstrate that they meet the rigorous Standards for Accreditation and continually work to improve student performance. Once accredited, they must continue to meet these standards and report their progress on an annual basis.

Stowell Johnstone, NAAS State Committee Secretary and former West principal states, "The Northwest Association of Accredited Schools is one of six accreditation agencies in the nation that are widely acknowledged and renowned. The Association's primary purpose is to ensure that the schools it accredits meet its rigorous standards. These standards are designed to promote educational excellence, continual school improvement, and high levels of student achievement. West High School, as well as the rest of the ASD secondary schools that are accredited, have been very well served by NAAS."

This is a request to officially recognize West High School for its 75 years of membership with the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.

CC/HS

Prepared by: Heather Sawyer, Executive Director of Communications

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent