

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #378 (2008-2009)

June 22, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD: ALASKA PILOT  
PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROJECT (AP3)

*ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by continuing to retain, recruit and train highly qualified staff, and collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$167,684 for the first year of a two-year project to provide preschools at Creekside Park and Willow Crest Elementary Schools.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School District has been awarded a grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for the Alaska Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Project (AP3). The purpose of the grant is to create a collaborative model program that provides voluntary, comprehensive preschool for four and young five year olds not eligible for kindergarten. This collaborative project combines the resources of the ASD and Kids Corps Head Start, Inc. (KCI).

Grant funds will support the implementation of preschools at Creekside Park and Willow Crest Elementary Schools. Enrollment priority will be given to children who are homeless, living in poverty and foster care, Migrant, ELL, and those who have a diagnosed disability or who experience other hardships. The goals of the project are 1) to develop a collaborative preschool model combining educational and comprehensive services of both ASD and KCI Head Start, 2) to engage, inform, and support families in their child's education, and 3) to narrow the achievement gap by providing high-quality early childhood experiences in school readiness, including language and literacy, math, social and emotional

learning, and physical and cognitive development.

Preschool classes will be held five days per week, 3.5 hours per day, with quarterly home visits. The preschools will use *Creative Curriculum* materials and assessments as the primary curriculum. This will be supplemented with Houghton Mifflin Pre-K curriculum. Each classroom will be staffed by one full-time ASD certificated teacher, one full-time KCI Head Start early education specialist/family advocate, and one part-time KCI Head Start teaching assistant.

Primary expenditures are full-time pre-school teachers, teaching supplies, digital photography equipment, and conference registration.

Major ASD Title I in-kind contributions include administrative and clerical support, an early childhood program coordination, and on-site mentoring by an early childhood instructional specialist.

KCI Head Start's in-kind contributions include two early education specialists/family advocates, two teaching assistants, administrative staff, parent training workshops, field trip costs, additional teaching supplies, classroom furniture and equipment, healthy snacks, and medical/dental/mental health services.

Budget Summary, Year One:

Elementary Teachers	\$109,314
Employee Benefits	43,623
Teaching Supplies	6,577
New Equipment	1,000
Registration/Membership Fees	1,000
Indirect Costs	<u>6,170</u>
TOTAL	\$167,684

CC/RG/EG/DO/BT

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