

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #70 (2009-2010)

October 12, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LIGHTS ON  
AFTERSCHOOL - OCTOBER 22, 2009

*ASD Goal: Education in the highly diverse ASD will be accessible, culturally responsive, supportive of students, and safe.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

“Lights On Afterschool” is a nationwide effort to focus on the importance of after-school programs in America. Early childhood education expert James Heckman recently concluded that participation in afterschool programs, in compliment to early education, reduces initiating drug use among youth by nearly 50 percent and reduces the likelihood of skipping school by half.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, the only federal program dedicated solely to after-school programs, provided safe places for more than 5,000 of Alaska’s kids after school last year—with many more students in self-care that could be served if programs were available. In Anchorage last year, nearly 1,500 students attended 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center programs at some Title I schools in the Anchorage School District. This year, the number may climb as Clark Middle School has reopened.

Numerous national studies show positive results in student behavior and achievement for students who regularly attend 21<sup>st</sup> Century CLCs. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century CLCs provide academic enrichment activities that help students meet state standards. The centers also focus on a broad array of services such as drug and violence prevention programs, social skills counseling, art, music and recreation programs as well as technology education, character education programs and social-emotional learning at the district’s most needy schools.

Activities to celebrate “Lights On Afterschool” are set for Oct. 22, including book giveaways, family nights, safety demonstrations and literacy activities at ASD schools.

The administration recommends the approval of the attached resolution for  
"Lights On Afterschool."

CC/HS/RD

Approved by: Heather Sawyer, Executive Director, Communications  
Prepared by: Ronnie Dent, Communications Specialist

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD**  
ASDR 2009-2010-06

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OCTOBER 22, 2009 AS LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY**

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Anchorage stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences and help youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills;
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;
- Build stronger communities by involving our students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people;
- Engage families, schools and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

**WHEREAS**, 21st Century Community Learning Centers in the district have provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth; and

**WHEREAS**, "Lights On Afterschool," a national celebration of after-school programs on October 22 promotes the critical importance of quality after-school programs in the lives of many children, their families and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, many schools in the Anchorage School District are hosting activities to celebrate "Lights On Afterschool;"

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Anchorage School Board does hereby proclaim October 22, 2009, as "Lights On Afterschool Day" in the Anchorage School District and supports after-school programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for children after school.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 12th day of October, 2009.

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**John Steiner, President**

Jeff Friedman  
Pat Higgins  
Crystal Kennedy

Jeannie Mackie  
Kathleen Plunkett  
Tim Steele

Carol Comeau, Superintendent