

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #26 (98-99)

August 10, 1998

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: *AMERICA  
READS* TUTOR TRAINING SUBCONTRACT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a contract from the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory for a subcontract to train community volunteers to tutor children in grades K through three in reading.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The national America Reads Challenge calls for community partnerships to ensure that all children read well and independently by the end of third grade. This Congressional initiative is founded on volunteer and community-based tutorial programs to reach young children in greatest need. The U.S. Department of Education has issued contracts to regional educational laboratories throughout the country to sponsor six-month subcontracts in states, regions, and cities within their regions.

The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory's Request for Proposals invites proposals from partnerships comprising, at minimum, school districts, universities, and community-based organizations. Subcontracts are for \$50,000, covering a period between October 1998 and April 1999. Proposers are invited to submit a plan for a training program that can prepare at least 300 volunteer, work-study, and/or National Service Corps volunteers to tutor children through grade three in reading. The Anchorage School District's proposal will include a plan for a high-quality training program and for coordinating the placement of reading tutors in elementary schools or related sites. The training will be designed so that tutoring can complement the Reading curriculum and support individual schools' reading plans. The program will help provide needed

training for the many volunteers already working with children in reading, will improve the effectiveness of volunteer tutoring, and will increase the pool of available volunteer tutors.

Collaborators in developing the proposal are ASD Elementary Education, ASD Reading Program, ASD Title I, ASD Assessment and Evaluation, and ASD Instructional Support; Ninestar Enterprises; and University of Alaska Anchorage. This team is coordinating with community groups, other ASD programs, and the Alaska State Community Service Commission. No cash in-kind match is required. ASD in-kind contributions will include staff time to administer the training program and to monitor the tutoring program. Ninestar will contribute one full-time VISTA volunteer to coordinate the training/tutoring program and activities specified in the contract, under ASD supervision.

BC/CC/AJ/FS/TJ/BT

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