

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #30 (98-99)

September 14, 1998

TO: SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD GOALS FY 1998-99

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals as shown on Attachment A.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School Board, by policy, is responsible for the establishment of goals for the District. In 1996 the School Board revised the mission statement to clearly and succinctly indicate the major purpose of the District is: To educate students for success in life. In addition, goals have been adopted annually for several years in order to communicate to staff, parents, community members and students the priorities that guide the District staff to achieve the mission. It is the Administration's belief and in recent years the School Board has concurred, that the goals should not be radically changed each year if long term improvement is expected. Each year the School Board does receive the goals with some modifications and improvements to reflect changes expected through School Board adoption. On September 8, 1998 the School Board met in a Work Session to discuss potential goals for 1998-99. The goals as recommended on Attachment A reflect the discussion between the Board and the Administration at that Work Session.

The proposed goals for 1998-99 continue the major emphasis from the past two years with focus on student achievement improvement in reading, math, writing and spelling. The critical role of the family is recognized as an essential component in the academic success of students. The District also is striving to build coalitions with parents, business people and political leaders to understand and support issues of critical importance to the District. One goal

related to the expansion of the School-Business Partnerships is being deleted because of the outstanding success in this effort the past three years.

For 1998-99, the Administration is recommending two additional goals to reflect recent State of Alaska Department of Education mandates that must be addressed this school year. First, the District must recommend and the School Board adopt standards in the areas of reading, math and language arts this year. These will then be submitted to the Department of Education for approval. We began that process last spring when the School Board met in a day long session to begin discussion and review of standards in these areas. Community participation along with staff members is being sought currently so the School Board can address this issue this school year.

The second goal related to State of Alaska is the issue of student competency requirements for graduation beginning with the class of 2002. The goal this year will be to begin to focus on preparing students to successfully pass the State required high school graduation examination. It is the Administration's belief that community and staff awareness must be raised regarding the expectation for all students to pass an exit exam in order to receive a graduation diploma. While students entering high school this year will not be required to take the exam until 10th grade, it is important to begin to communicate that all levels of teachers must contribute positively to the learning process for all students as they progress through their public school years.

Upon adoption, the goals will be shared with all schools and departments in the District. Adoption now will allow schools to incorporate the Board's direction into their School Report Card Goals and will reinforce the District's emphasis in the stated goal areas.

BC/mt
Attachment

Prepared and Approved by: Bob Christal, Superintendent

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION AND GOALS

1998-99 Anchorage School District Mission

The mission of the Anchorage School District is to educate students for success in life.

1998-99 Goals

- Increase **academic excellence** by emphasizing student achievement, developing respect for diversity, maintaining quality staff recruitment and training, and maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning.
- Establish a **supportive learning environment** by providing safe and caring schools which are barrier-free, by promoting health and wellness, and by collaborating with other community agencies where appropriate.
- Ensure **public accountability** by continuing standardized testing and other performance assessment, through the wise use of financial resources, through construction and maintenance of school facilities, and through effective communication to internal and external audiences.

We, the Anchorage School Board, Superintendent and District staff commit that:

- all students will acquire basic skills and strategies to read independently by the end of the third grade.
- all students will show measurable success and increased achievement at each successive grade level in math, reading and writing conventions including spelling.
- student performance standards will be adopted in the areas of reading, mathematics and Language Arts.

We, the Anchorage School Board, Superintendent and District staff will focus on:

- preparing students to pass the State required high school graduation examination.
- increasing student achievement in spelling by three percentile points as measured by the national standardized test at each grade level while maintaining or improving in all other areas.
- increasing parental and community awareness of the critical role families play in the academic success of students.

- creating positive community relations and understanding of issues critical to the Anchorage School District by establishing coalitions with parents, business leaders and political leaders at all levels.

Adopted by the Anchorage School Board September 14, 1998