

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #27 (98-99) (REVISED)

September 28, 1998

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: REVISION TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 450: STUDENT  
SURVEYS (SECOND READING)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading, the revisions to School Board Policy #450, section 14 of the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* document, as shown on Attachment A.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The School Board referred Policy 450 (section 14) which deals with the administration of student surveys to the School Board Policy Subcommittee at its June 22, 1998, School Board meeting. The School Board wanted to review all issues surrounding the legality and potential liability to the School Board if the 1998-99 Youth Risk Behavior Survey was administered to students in grades 7-12 during the 1998-99 school year as requested by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Education under its current policy.

The School Board Policy Subcommittee met on July 23, 1998, to discuss possible revisions to their policy on Student Surveys. Three options drafted by Ms. Andrena Stone, attorney for Jermain, Dunnagan, and Owens, P.C., at the request of the Superintendent, were reviewed. Those attending the School Board Policy Subcommittee meeting have a strong interest in ensuring that School Board Policy is in alignment with federal and state law and not more restrictive. Ms. Stone, legal counsel, advised the School Board Policy Subcommittee that due to conflicting Attorney General opinions in 1996 and 1997 regarding the definition of "private family affairs" and the original legislative intent, the District may incur liability if the Youth Risk Behavior Survey is administered. The Superintendent and legal counsel advised the School Board members present

that they should focus their recommendation to the full School Board on what is best for the Anchorage School District and what it wants to accomplish with any policy change with regard to student surveys. All School Board members agreed that they do not want to violate either state or federal law.

The proposed policy change will allow School Board Policy 450, section 14, to be in conformity with federal and state law.

The School Board amended School Board Policy 450 (14) on Attachment A on First Reading on September 14, 1998, to correct an error in language; otherwise, the suggested changes to the policy remain the same. The School Board passed School Board Policy 450 (14) as amended on a 5-2 vote. Once this policy change is approved on Second Reading, the information will be disseminated to all school staff and other departments in the Instructional Division as well as the Anchorage Council of PTAs and other organizations.

BC/CC

Attachment

Prepared by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction