

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #114 (98-99)

November 9, 1998

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROJECTIONS FOR
SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

PERTINENT FACTS:

Attachment A presents the fall forecast for the September 30, 1999 Anchorage School District student membership. The following items highlight trends in the 1999-2000 student population forecast:

- The total projection for September 30, 1999 is 50,201 students. This reflects an increase of 650 students or 1.3 percent from the September 30, 1998 official membership total of 49,551.
- If the projection of 50,201 students is realized, it will be the largest total membership in the history of the Anchorage School District. The previous record of 49,551 students was set this school year. The projected total, if realized, would mark the ninth year in succession that the District has had a record breaking total membership on September 30. The projected total is 7,979 larger than the total of 42,222 observed on September 30, 1990.
- The September 30, 1999 projection for kindergarten is 3,736 students. This kindergarten projection is 70 larger than the 3,666 kindergarten students observed this past September 30. However, it is considerably lower than the average kindergarten size of 3,935 for the 1993-94 through 1997-98 school years. Kindergarten is the most difficult grade to project. The kindergarten projection for September 30, 1999 was based in part on data obtained from the state

demographer regarding the number of four year old students in the Anchorage population.

- Grades K-6 are projected to increase by 331 students (1.2 percent) for next year. This can be compared against the actual gain of 63 students for Grades K-6 from September 30, 1997 to September 30, 1998.
- Grades 7-12 are projected to gain 274 students (1.3 percent) next year. This can be compared against the observed gain of 670 students from September 30, 1997 to September 30, 1998.
- Middle schools are projected to decrease by 55 students next year. This decrease can be compared against the observed gain of 112 students from September 30, 1997 to September 30, 1998. The decrease is due to the size of grade six of 3,670 this year compared to 3,817 last year.
- Senior high schools are projected to gain 213 students. This increase can be compared against the observed gain of 285 students from September 30, 1997 to September 30, 1998.
- The other secondary schools and programs (secondary students not attending a middle school or a senior high school) are projected to increase by 45 students.
- Pre-elementary special education students, Level 3 special education students, and special services program students are projected to increase by 45 students.
- Charter schools are projected for 976 students next year, an increase of 181 students over the 795 students enrolled in charter schools this year. Most of this gain is an increase in the projection for the Family Partnership Charter School. It should be noted that if additional charter schools are approved by the School Board for the 1999-2000 school year, then the total District enrollment for September 30, 1999 would also increase by a proportionate amount. The amount of the increase would depend upon the type of charter schools approved, i.e., charter schools that have a home school focus, such as Family Partnership, tend to enroll more new to the District students, while other charter schools tend to draw the majority of their students from existing ASD schools.

It should be noted that the 1999-2000 student membership forecast is based on the following assumptions:

- That the Anchorage area economy will remain at approximately current levels during the 1999-2000 school year.
- That while families with school age children will continue to move into and out of the Anchorage area in large numbers, in-migration will slightly outweigh out-migration during the coming year.
- There will be no increase in the number of elementary schools offering full-day kindergarten for the 1999-2000 school year.
- The grade to grade survival pattern observed from September 30, 1997 to September 30, 1998 will also hold true for September 30, 1999.
- The percentage of minority students in the District will again increase by approximately one percent for the 1999-2000 school year. Nearly all of the projected growth of 650 students will be minority students. However, it should be kept in mind that this does not imply that only minority students move into Anchorage. The high mobility of students moving both into and out of the District is characteristic of all ethnic groups.

Economic and demographic trends will be closely monitored during the 1998-99 school year. A revised forecast will be issued only if there are significant changes in the observed trends. The forecast of 50,201 students should be considered as the probable mid-point of a range of 49,700 to 50,700.

The following table compares fall projections to actual membership for the past 10 years. The average error of projection for the past 10 years is 0.78 percent. For any given year, a projection error of less than 2.00 percent is considered good, and a projection error of less than 1.00 percent is considered excellent by professional standards.

**Anchorage School District
Enrollment Forecasts
1989-1998**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fall Forecast</u>	<u>Sept. 30 Actual</u>	<u>Difference from Fall Forecast</u>	<u>Percent Error</u>
1989	40,600	40,819	219	0.54%
1990	41,400	42,222	822	1.95%
1991	44,200	44,664	464	1.04%
1992	46,360	46,237	-123	-0.27%
1993	47,600	47,232	-368	-0.78%
1994	48,141	47,609	-532	-1.12%
1995	48,000	47,693	-307	-0.64%
1996	48,170	47,968	-202	-0.42%
1997	48,309	48,793	484	0.99%
1998	49,556	49,551	-5	0.01%
ABSOLUTE VALUE AVERAGE			353	0.78%

BC/CC/NDH

Attachment

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