

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #198 (98-99) February 8, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The U.S. Department of Education has issued a request for proposals for its Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP). This competition seeks innovative model programs that establish, improve, or expand foreign language study for elementary and secondary students. The ASD World Languages Program is working with Sand Lake Elementary School, Mears Middle School, Dimond High School, and the University of Alaska Anchorage's College of Arts and Sciences to prepare an application for this competition. The project will expand and enrich the Japanese Immersion Program, and will extend the benefits of Japanese language and culture study to Sand Lake students in the regular school program.

The project will:

- Enhance the current high school Japanese Immersion Program by developing curriculum specifically for high-achieving students. The project also will collaborate with the University's Japanese program for

students who are ready for advanced study.

- Develop a mentorship program which links students K-12 in the project schools with Anchorage's Japanese organizations, businesses, and native Japanese speakers. An objective is career awareness and exploration for students who are studying Japanese. The Japanese program's existing network of partners will provide a strong base for this component.
- Develop opportunities within Sand Lake's regular program so that all students can have daily exposure and practice in Japanese language and culture. This "whole school" approach can encompass the music and art programs, classroom songs and activities, and visuals and events that help to make a cohesive school community.

Under competition guidelines, grant funds may support up to 50 percent of project activities each year. The preliminary grant budget estimate is \$140,000 for the first year of a three-year project. Funds will support curriculum development, organization and coordination of the mentorship program, materials and supplies, and professional development. The grant does not require a cash match from the Anchorage School District. Major in-kind contributions will include staff time and materials, which already are part of the schools' programs and of the District's World Languages Program, and the participation of community partners.

BC/CC/FS/JG/BT

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