

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #100 (98-99)

October 26, 1998

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: END-OF-MONTH MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY FOR
SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

PERTINENT FACTS:

The end-of-month membership report for September 30, 1998 is attached. The total active enrollment at the end of September was 49,551, an increase of 758 students over the September 30, 1997 total of 48,793. Table 1 compares the membership on September 30, 1998 with the totals from September 30, 1997.

TABLE 1
Comparison of
9/30/97 Membership vs. 9/30/98 Membership

<u>Category</u>	<u>9/30/97</u>	<u>9/30/98</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Elementary Schools	27,279	27,455	176
Middle Schools	7,212	7,324	112
Senior High Schools	11,573	11,858	285
Other Secondary Schools and Programs	1,574	1,734	160
Pre-Elementary, Level 3 Spec. Ed., and Special Services	1,155	1,180	25
TOTAL	48,793	49,551	758

The Senior High Schools had the largest increase with a gain of 285 students from September 30, 1997 to September 30, 1998. Elementary Schools had the second largest gain over the previous year, increasing 176 students from

September 30, 1997. The Middle Schools gained 112 students this year and the Other Secondary Schools and Programs gained 160 students.

The largest grade level observed this year is grade one with 4,113 students, followed by grade three with 4,048 and grade seven with 4,034 students. The total Kindergarten population declined by 204 students from last September 30. The size of the Kindergarten this school year is a cause for concern. Several years of declining Kindergarten classes would have a very significant impact on the District membership in succeeding years. The District has analyzed the decline in Kindergarten enrollment this year. The analysis indicates that the major factor in the decline is a decline in the 20-34 age group in the Municipality of Anchorage. The 20-34 age group is the group most likely to have Kindergarten aged children. However, why this is the first year for a significant Kindergarten decline and why grades one and two have not been affected are unanswered questions at this time.

Table 2 compares the membership on September 30, 1998 with the Fall budget projections for the same date.

TABLE 2
Comparison of
9/30/98 Membership vs. 9/30/98 Projections

Category	Actual 9/30/98	Projected 9/30/98	Difference Actual – Projected
Pre-Elementary			
Housed in Elem. Schools	231	204	27
Elementary Schools	27,455	27,543	-88
Middle Schools	7,324	7,386	-62
Senior High Schools	11,858	11,767	91
Other Secondary Schools and Programs	1,734	1,690	44
Special Education			
Elementary – Level 3	232	210	22
Special Education Secondary – Level 3	179	188	-9
Special Services	538	568	-30
TOTAL	49,551	49,556	-5

The total this year is the largest September 30 membership in the history of the Anchorage School District, surpassing the previous record of 48,793 recorded on September 30, 1997. The September 30 total this school year was only five students below the Fall budget projection of 49,556. The error of projection for the Fall budget forecast was 0.01 percent (one tenth of one percent). A projection of total enrollment that comes within one percent of the actual enrollment is considered excellent by professional forecasting standards.

The listing of elementary and secondary schools at or above 120 percent of program capacity is attached. There are six elementary schools at or above 120 percent of their program capacity. One senior high school, Chugiak, is at or above 120 percent of its program capacity.

BC/CC/NDH
Attachments

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Approved by: Carol Comeau,
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