

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #11 (1999-2000) August 9, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: POLICY 345: HOMELESS STUDENTS (SECOND READING)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading, the new Policy 345 on Homeless Students as shown on Attachment A. All sections subsequent to Section 345 shall be renumbered consecutively.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Title I Program and the Child in Transition/Homeless Project staffs were notified by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development that the Anchorage School District must have a School Board Policy adopted which specifically speaks to how the Anchorage School District assures that students who are homeless are provided equal access to education and services without regard to their homeless situation. This is a requirement of Section 722 of the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act which sets forth general principles to be followed for serving students who are experiencing homelessness (Attachment B).

Even if a district does not directly receive McKinney funds, it still must follow these requirements:

- Consider the child's best interest and parental requests when making placement decisions regarding students who are in homeless situations.
- Provide comparable services to students experiencing homelessness.
- Maintain school records in a manner that they are available in a timely fashion and in accordance with Section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act.

Anchorage School District policies ensure that all students who live within District boundaries may be enrolled in Anchorage schools. During this year we have been

refining administrative procedures to ensure that all homeless students will be treated equitably with regard to enrollment, free lunch, etc. and that they will not be isolated or stigmatized due to their homelessness.

The Administration requested examples of policies and procedures for homeless students from State Coordinators for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth as well as the National School Boards Association, and received samples from school districts in several states (among them Nevada, Oregon, Nebraska, Iowa). In addition, the Director for Transportation Services has worked with the CITC/H Project to ensure, wherever possible, that students can access the District's transportation services.

Attachment A to this memorandum was reviewed by the School Board Policy Subcommittee on June 17 and forwarded to the full School Board for action. The areas addressed will reduce the unintended barriers that homeless students may experience. All staff will be in-serviced on this policy in the fall.

The School Board passed these recommended policy revisions on the Consent Agenda for First Reading at the June 28, 1999 School Board meeting.

BC/CC/KW/JL

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