

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #178 (1999-2000)

January 31, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD  
FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
SUBJECT: WORLD LANGUAGES CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Curriculum Framework, presented in Attachment A, for secondary World Language courses.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The curriculum review process for the World Languages Program was initiated in November of 1998. Following a cross-district inservice day session for all middle and high school world languages teachers, as well as a public announcement in the local newspaper soliciting committee members, a World Languages Review Committee was formed. The Committee included parents, students, District staff members and other members of the community (see inside cover of Attachment A for membership). The Committee reviewed current literature and research in second language instruction as well as relevant state and national standards. The Committee members also attended presentations and workshops with nationally recognized second language experts.

The World Languages Curriculum Framework (Attachment A), the resulting document from this review process, builds on the previous scope and sequence curriculum of the 1970s and incorporates the state (1995) and national (1996) standards which support a proficiency-based curriculum. The emphasis is on communication, on what students can do with the language, both within and beyond the classroom walls. The framework also includes revised descriptions for middle and high school World Languages courses.

Final drafts of the framework have been shared with all World Languages teachers, high school curriculum principals, middle school principals, the Student Advisory Board, the Anchorage Council of PTAs, the Minority Education Concerns Committee, the

Bilingual/Multicultural Program, the Indian Education Program, the University of Alaska Anchorage Department of Languages, and the South East Regional Resource Center.

The framework document will be utilized to develop curriculum, review text materials and design professional development support. The Review Committee has established and approved selection criteria for the evaluation of text materials. Adoption texts and ancillary materials will be identified by language specific committees currently reviewing materials. Recommendations regarding materials consistent with the Curriculum Framework will be forwarded to the School Board for action in March 2000. Funds to purchase middle and high school World Languages textbooks/materials have been allocated for FY 1999-2000.

BC/CC/JG/FS

Attachment

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Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction