

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #283 (1999-2000)

April 24, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: GOALS 2000

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a GOALS 2000—Local Reform and Professional Development grant, from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has issued a Request for Applications for GOALS 2000 projects to implement professional development initiatives that increase student learning related to state and local standards, and that are aligned with approved GOALS 2000 Local Improvement Plans. GOALS 2000 funds for competitive grants are allocated to the states by the U.S. Department of Education, and are subject to the parameters contained within the federal legislation that creates and authorizes GOALS 2000. This program specifically supports professional development focused on improvement of student achievement at the building level, in response to needs determined by school districts and by individual school communities. Projects must strive for student attainment of standards in core areas. Applicants must direct the major portion of resources to special needs schools. The FY 2001 competition calls for projects in the areas of reading, writing, or mathematics.

In order to be eligible to receive funds, a District must have on file with DEED, or must be in the process of developing, a GOALS 2000 Local Improvement Plan. The completed Local Improvement Plan must be approved and adopted by the School Board. The Plan must grow out of a process or processes involving a broad range of stakeholders in local public education. It must contain strategies for standards-related student achievement and for family and community support of student achievement at the school level, particularly in under-achieving or high-risk schools. The

Anchorage School District in 1995 completed a Local Improvement Plan, which was adopted by the School Board and accepted by the Alaska Department of Education. That plan established eligibility for a three-year GOALS 2000 grant that the District won in 1995, and that helped initiate schoolwide reform at Muldoon Elementary School. The District's Local Improvement Plan expired in FY 1998-1999.

A newly revised Local Improvement Plan, growing out of existing District processes, advisory boards, and committees, will be ready for Board review and approval in FY 2000-2001. Grant guidelines specify that a portion of the GOALS 2000 funds must support the development of that plan. The major portion of the grant proposal will focus on middle level literacy, with an emphasis on Reading. The project will support and expand existing Reading efforts at Clark and Wendler Middle Schools. Extended professional development will enable content area teachers as well as Reading, Special Education, and ESL teachers to integrate research-based Reading intervention strategies into their classroom practice. The project design ties in with the District's Training and Professional Development plan for standards implementation.

GOALS 2000 grants are for three-year projects, with awards made on a yearly basis. The preliminary first-year budget for this application is estimated at \$100,000. Approximately \$75,000 will be allocated to the middle school Reading initiative, and \$25,000 to the development of a Local Improvement Plan. Contract addenda for the Reading initiative provide stipends to school staff for yearlong credit courses and for project support. Line items for Institute registration and for travel are for teams of teachers from each school to be prepared as literacy leaders and peer trainers. Release time provides for peer observation, coaching, and demonstration of model approaches in Reading assessment and intervention. The Contracted Services line item supports expert presenters in Reading strategies for middle school. The preliminary Local Improvement Plan budget provides stipends for District staff and contracted services for facilitators.

Preliminary Budget

<i>Middle school Reading initiative</i>	
Contract Addenda	\$38,000
Release Time	15,000
Benefits on personnel items	5,160
Contracted Services	1,500
Other (Literacy Institute registration and travel)	13,661
Indirect Costs	<u>1,679</u>
Sub-total	\$75,000

<i>Local Improvement Plan</i>	
Contract Addenda	\$21,000
Benefits on Contract Addenda	2,239
Contracted Services	1,201
Indirect Costs	<u>560</u>
Sub-total	\$25,000
TOTAL COSTS	\$100,000

BC/CC/TJ/FS/BT

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