

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #321 (1999-2000)

May 22, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: EFFECTIVE
ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES

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 to reduce middle school student suspensions and expulsions and ensure the educational progress of suspended and expelled students.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug and Free Schools program has issued a request for applications for a grant competition to reduce suspensions and expulsions, and ensure the educational success of suspended and expelled students. ASD Middle School Education is preparing an application for a program on-site at the middle schools that will address at-risk students' individual academic concerns and behavioral issues in small-group settings. The all-day program will provide a teacher/student ratio of one to 15. The project outcomes include academic gains and changes in students' behaviors and choices. Project components include a multi-disciplinary academic program based on individual needs; alternatives to suspension as community service; and a structured discipline program based on consequences. The project also expands outreach for students on long-term suspension and expulsion.

The project does not include release time. No cash match is required. In-kind components will consist primarily of student supplies; regular District staffing according to District staff allocations at the middle schools, to match staff provided by the grant budget; and administrative time.

The preliminary budget estimate is at \$600,000 per year for this three-year project.

BC/CC/GO/BT/

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