

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #374 (1999-2000)

June 26, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: SMALLER
LEARNING COMMUNITIES

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 enable one or more large Anchorage School District high schools to implement a planning process for creating smaller learning communities within the high school.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The U.S. Department of Education has issued a request for applications for a grant competition for large urban high schools. This program provides both planning grants and implementation grants for high schools to create model learning communities that produce the effect of smaller and more personal learning experiences within the larger institution. The planning grant cycle gives high schools resources to conduct needs assessments and to plan for a larger implementation grant in the subsequent fiscal year. Schools can consider research-based models ranging from schools-within-schools to team structures, mentoring programs, grade level themes, school-to-career pathways, and special programs based on content area specialties. ASD High School Education is preparing an application that may involve as many as six high schools in planning during the 2000-20001 school year to design implementation grants for a summer 2001 competition.

The budget will consist primarily of contract addenda for school staff and personal service contracts for planning facilitators. No cash match is required.

The preliminary budget estimate is at \$200,000 for this one-year project.

BC/CC/PM/BT

Prepared by: Beverly Thornburg, Coordinator, Discretionary Grants
Pat McDowell, Executive Director, High School Education

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction