

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #18 (2000-2001)
14, 2000

August

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FOURTH QUARTER AND END OF 1999-2000 SCHOOL YEAR
SUSPENSION/WEAPONS/EXPULSION REPORT

PERTINENT FACTS:

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. This information, as well as year-end summaries by school and category for each Instructional Division level for the 1999-2000 school year, is shown in the narrative information below and in Attachments A - M.

The 1999-2000 school year should again be characterized as a year where the schools, the Administration, and the School Board continued to aggressively pursue the School Board's adopted goal of "Establishing a supportive learning environment by providing safe and caring schools which are barrier free, by promoting health and wellness, and by collaborating with other community agencies where appropriate." This goal has been supported by the employees at each school as well as by the students and their parents and the business and general community. Deputy Chief, Mark Mew, and the Anchorage Police Department were especially supportive in their assistance to the schools during the past school year. The attached discipline/suspension reports from the elementary, middle, and high schools show the statistics for the fourth quarter and the recently completed school year and the schools' efforts to address this important goal.

It should be noted that the concerted efforts of the elementary, middle, and high school principals, assistant principals, deans, interns, their teaching and support staffs, their students, and their parents have resulted in schools with strong, yet fair, disciplinary standards and practices. There is a growing recognition on the part of everyone that parents and school staff must communicate more frequently and earlier when students are showing evidence of challenging the accepting rules and policies of the school and the District. The Instructional Division made this a priority goal for the 1999-2000 school year.

Fourth Quarter Expulsions

A total of three elementary, 26 middle school, and 38 high school students were expelled by the School Board during the fourth quarter, for a total of 67 students.

Two elementary students were expelled for possession of a firearm at a school bus stop and one for violation of the drug/alcohol policy. Of the middle school students expelled, nine were for weapons, 11 for gang-like activity, one for assault, one for arson, and four for their second drug/alcohol offense. High school students were expelled for the following reasons: assault (3), assault on staff (1), weapons (1), firearms (2), gang-like behavior (3), and drugs/alcohol (28).

Expulsions During 1999-2000

A total of 156 elementary, middle school, and high school students were expelled by the School Board during the 1999-2000 school year for various reasons. Two high school students suspended during the 1998-99 school year for a drive-by shooting were expelled during the first quarter of the 1999-2000 school year. Two recommendations for expulsion (one for a second drug/alcohol offense and one for a threat to a staff member) are pending and will be taken to the School Board during the first quarter of the 2000-2001 school year.

Six recommendations from middle school were not brought forward due to a finding of causality by the IEP team. The following incidents and causality are reflected below:

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>School</u>
Weapon/Knife	Mentally Retarded	Mirror Lake
Assault/Staff	Learning Disabled	Hanshaw
Assault/Weapon	Learning Disabled	Clark
Threats to Shoot Students	Learning Disabled	Clark
Burglary/Weapon	Learning Disabled	Wendler
Threat to Staff	Learning Disabled	Wendler

Six high school students who had been found to have causality were brought forward to the first level of appeal. Upon determining that causality had been found, it was decided not to bring these forward to the School Board. There were 13 cases brought forward for causality during the 1998-99 school year compared to 12 during the 1999-2000 school year.

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>School</u>
Weapon/Knife/Threats	Emotionally Disturbed	Dimond
Drug/Alcohol 2 nd Offense	No IEP	Service
Assault Staff	Emotionally Disturbed	Chugiak
Weapons/Knife/Threats	Severely Emotionally Disturbed	East
2 nd Drug/Alcohol Assault	Traumatic Brain Injury Emotionally Disturbed/ Learning Disabled	Service East

Discipline Reports

The elementary, middle school, and high school discipline summaries follow; these are shown for fourth quarter and for the entire school year. Fourth quarter information by school and category for elementary schools is shown on Attachments A and B; elementary cumulative information is shown on Attachments C and D; middle school fourth quarter information by school and category is shown on Attachments E and F; Polaris K-12 4th quarter information as shown on Attachment G; middle school cumulative information is shown on Attachments H and I; high school fourth quarter information by school and category is shown on Attachments J and K; and high school cumulative information is shown on Attachments L and M.

Elementary Schools

Suspensions during the fourth quarter of the 1999-2000 school year increased about four percent from the fourth quarter of 1998-1999 school year. There were 287 suspensions in the fourth quarter of 1999-2000; and 277 suspensions in 1998-1999. There were nine weapons incidents reported in 1999-2000 compared to six in the fourth quarter of 1998-1999. Two of the nine weapons incidents were incorrectly reported; they should have been reported as firearms, which resulted in two students being expelled for the possession of one firearm. An additional student was expelled for drugs/alcohol, which brought the total to three elementary students expelled during the fourth quarter of 1999-2000 compared to zero in 1998-99.

There were eight drug and alcohol suspensions for the fourth quarter compared to zero in 1998-1999. More emphasis will be placed on substance abuse education and the consequences for violations of these policies during the 2000-2001 school year. There were no gang-related incidents reported this quarter compared to one reported in 1998-1999. There was one racially-motivated incident reported during the fourth quarter of 1999-2000 and one reported during the same time last year. Six police contacts were made during the fourth quarter in elementary schools.

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Fourth Quarter</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fighting/Assault	135	149	135
Harassment	20	8	13
Firearms	0	0	2
Other Weapons	12	6	7
Drugs/Alcohol	19	0	8
Tobacco	2	0	3
Disobedience	21	28	17
Other	89	86	102
Totals	298	277	287

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fourth Quarter	0	0	3

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by School**

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Fire Lake	Firearms (2)

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Findings of Causality Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fourth Quarter	0	0	0

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fourth Quarter	34	30	32

**Elementary Schools 1999-2000
Yearly Suspension by Category Report**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Drugs/Alcohol	30	14	18
Fighting/Assault	536	483	472
Weapons	33	26	19
Firearms	0	0	2
Other	407	337	389
Totals	1,006	860	900

**Elementary Schools 1999-2000
Yearly Expulsions by Category Report**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Drugs/Alcohol	0	0	1
Firearms	0	0	2
Totals			3

Middle Schools

The number of students suspended for the fourth quarter of the 1999-2000 school year for grades 6 (Mirror Lake only), 7, and 8 is 633 suspensions. There were 654 suspensions during 1998-1999 and 682 suspensions in 1997-1998. This represents a decrease of 1.5 percent from the previous year. The suspension rate for the 1999-2000 school year for grades 6 (Mirror Lake only), 7, and 8 is 2,285 suspensions. There were 2,580 suspensions during 1998-1999 and 2,291 in 1997-1998. This represents a decrease of 295 or 11 percent from last year. The major category reflected in the decreases is fighting/assault where the number of suspensions dropped from 764 to 582, a decrease of 182 suspensions. Willful disobedience also experienced a large decrease decreasing from 206 to 140. The decrease in suspensions in these categories

are the result of a two-pronged approach to discipline at the middle schools. First, the schools delivered a consistent message through words and actions that violence and any behavior, which would result in violence, is not tolerated at school. Second, the schools adopted an aggressive approach to education focusing on school climate and non-violent approaches to settling differences. The result has been student pride in their school and the perception that schools are and should continue to be safe.

Of the 2,285 suspensions, 501 or 22 percent were assigned to repeaters. Taking into account the repeat suspensions, the total number of individuals suspended was 1,279; this is a decrease of 81 individuals from the 1998-99 School Year (1,360).

The number of students expelled for the fourth quarter of 1999-2000 is 26 students. This is an increase of 14 students from the 1998-1999 School Year. The expulsion rate for the 1999-2000 school year is 39 students. There were 29 expulsions during the 1998-1999 school year, and 18 in 1997-1998. This represents an increase of ten expulsions from the previous year. During the fourth quarter, two incidents involving gang-like behavior at the middle school level resulted in a larger than usual number of students expelled. Although the number of expulsions went up during the 1999-2000 school year, the very clear message of no-tolerance for activities, which contribute to violent behavior, was an important factor in the major decrease in suspensions in the fighting/assault category. **There were no suspensions or expulsions for firearms during the 1999-2000 school year at the middle level.**

During the fourth quarter of 1999-2000, two recommendations for expulsion were modified due to findings of causality. In both cases, alternative placements were made.

The change from the Conflict Resolution (CRC) Program to the CASE Manager Program took place at the beginning of the 1997-98 school year. The change has not substantially affected the number of suspensions or expulsions for drug/alcohol related offenses at the middle school level. Based on statistics alone, both programs appear to be effective in discouraging a second drug/alcohol violation on the part of the student. The Safe and Drug Free Schools Program and the middle schools within the District deliver education programs concerning the dangers of drugs and alcohol which have assisted in keeping the number of first offenses at middle schools around 1 percent of the total population. Any student with a first offense in the area of drugs/alcohol goes through an education program with the CASE Manager at the school, takes an informational test, and attends group sessions which address these issues. The number of second offenses resulting in a recommendation for expulsion has been about .1 percent of the total middle school population. The schools are constantly working to reduce the numbers of both first and second offenses and to keep up with the latest information. New information, which can protect our students, is added to our education program as soon as it becomes possible.

There were no recommendations for expulsion for Polaris K-12 School either for fourth quarter or for the 1999-2000 school year. This compares with one expulsion during 1998-99 school year.

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fighting/Assault	149	165	139
Harassment	43	36	36
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	6	8	12
Drugs/Alcohol/ Tobacco	41	21	13
Willful disobedience	66	58	31
Other	377	366	413
Total	682	654	644

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fighting/Assault	0	1	1
Harassment	0	4	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons (Other)	3	5	9
Drugs/Alcohol/ Tobacco	2	2	4
Willful disobedience	1	0	0
Other	0	0	12
Total	6	12	26

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by School**

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Clark	Weapon (5)
Clark	Gang Like Activity (11)
Clark	Assault (1)
Goldenview	2nd Drug/Alcohol (2)
Hanshew	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)
Hanshew	Weapon (1)
Mears	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)
Mears	Weapon (1)
Romig	Weapon (1)
Wendler	Arson (1)
Wendler	Weapon (1)

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Findings of Causality**

Fourth Quarter

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>School</u>
Burglary/Weapon	Learning Disabled	Wendler
Threat to Staff	Learning Disabled	Wendler

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fourth Quarter	110	95	111

Middle Schools 1999-2000
Yearly Suspensions by Category Comparison

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fighting/Assault	585	764	582
Harassment	162	132	131
Firearms	0	0*	0
Weapons	21	30	31
Drugs/Alcohol	106	63	81
Tobacco	49	51	33
Willful disobedience	211	206	140
Other	1,157	1,334	1,287
Total	2,291	2,580	2,285

*One Non-Student

Middle Schools 1999-2000
Yearly Expulsions by Category Comparison

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fighting/Assault	5	6	4
Harassment	0	0	0
Firearms	0	0*	0
Weapons	7	9	8
Drugs/Alcohol	4	7	8
Willful disobedience	0	0	0
Other	2	7	19
Total	18	29	39

* One Non-Student

High Schools

The high school suspension rate for fourth quarter 1999-2000 is 461, an overall decrease of 24 percent compared with 609 suspensions during the fourth quarter of 1998-99.

There were significant decreases in almost all categories: weapons incidents were down by 91 percent (from 11 to 1) and firearms incidents were down 50 per cent (from 4 to 2); fighting/threats decreased by 43 percent (from 82 to 47); drug/alcohol decreased by 35 percent (from 72 to 47); and willful disobedience decreased by 19 percent (from 42 to 34) during the fourth quarter. When comparing fourth quarter

1998-99 to fourth quarter 1999-2000, the only increases were one incident of assault (up from 16 to 17) and one incident of smoking (up from 19 to 20).

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fighting/Threats	68	82	47
Assault	17	16	17
Harassment	33	20	18
Firearms	1	4	2
Drive by Shooting	0	2	0
Weapons	15	9	1
Drug/Alcohol	63	72	47
Smoking	50	19	20
Willful Disobedience	52	42	34
Other	354	343	275
Totals	653	609	461

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Assault	6	0	3
Assault/Staff	0	0	1
Weapons	0	2	1
Firearms	1	2	2
Drug/Alcohol	18	13	28
Threats to Staff	0	0	0
Fighting/Threats	2	6	0
Harassment	2	0	0
Gang-like Activity	0	0	3
Totals	29	23	38

It is important to note that neither of the firearm incidents actually occurred in the schools. One student fired several rounds on the campus at Clark Middle School while attending community sponsored open gym in the evening after school hours. The second student was keeping stolen firearms at her home for students from another school. There were three high school students expelled for gang-like activity this year and there are no comparisons for this category in previous years.

There are two recommendations for expulsion pending for incidents that occurred during the fourth quarter. The hearings will be held during the first quarter of the 2000-2001 school year.

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by School**

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Benny Benson Bartlett	Assault/Student (1) 2nd Drug/Alcohol (9) Weapon/BB Gun (1)
Chugiak	2nd Drug/Alcohol (4) Assault/Student (1)
Dimond	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1) Gang-like Activity (3)
East	2nd Drug/Alcohol (10) Assault/Staff (1) Firearms (1)
SAVE Service	Firearm (1) 2nd Drug/Alcohol (3) Assault/Student (1)
West	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Finding of Causality Comparison**

Fourth Quarter

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>School</u>
2 nd Drug/Alcohol	Traumatic Brain Injury	Service
Assault	Emotionally Disturbed/ Learning Disabled	East

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Fourth Quarter</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
	81	80	47

**High Schools 1999-2000
Yearly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Fighting/Assault	473	470	387
Drive-by Shooting			3
Firearms	6	7	7
Weapons	69	43	40
Drugs/Alcohol	361	287	361
Other	1,918	1,574	1,644
Total	2,833*	2,359*	2,442

*Drug/alcohol expulsions were incorrectly included in the suspension numbers previously reported. These totals have been adjusted.

**High Schools 1999-2000
Yearly Expulsion by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Weapons Related Incident	41		
Fighting/Assault		22	10
Firearms		2	7
Drive-by Shootings			5*
Weapons		5	5
Drugs/Alcohol	57	41	77
Other	6	1	10
Total	104**	71	114*

**Five of the 109 (1997-98) students recommended for expulsion had modified long-term suspensions or placement at Whaley School in lieu of being expelled.

*Two students were suspended in fourth quarter 1998-99 for a drive by shooting and were expelled in the first quarter of 1999-2000.

BC/CC/PM/GO/PM

Attachments

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