

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #54 (2000-2001)

September 25, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF TITLE VII COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL  
CONTINUATION GRANT AWARD: GOVERNMENT HILL  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept continuation grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs, in the amount of \$231,505 to fund the continuation of the Title VII Comprehensive School Grant for Government Hill Elementary School.

PERTINENT FACTS:

In 1996 the Anchorage School District was awarded the Title VII Comprehensive School grant for Government Hill Elementary School. The U. S. Department of Education has recently notified the District of re-authorization for the fifth year of funding.

The grant award is for a five-year period, with FY 2000-2001 (Year Five) funding at \$231,505. The Comprehensive School program is designed for schools like Government Hill, with high proportions of limited English proficient (LEP) students. This grant augments Government Hill's two-way Spanish Bilingual Immersion Program, but also extends the benefits of best instructional practices, professional development, and parent and family involvement to all students in the school. Its outcomes are directed to higher achievement for all.

During the application process, the Government Hill staff and parents were involved in the development of a total school restructuring plan. The five-year project is driven by these goals: (1) to restructure program delivery to eliminate fragmentation, integrate academic services, and create instructional teams; (2) to provide high-quality, ongoing professional development for all certified staff, and to include paraprofessionals and parents; (3) to promote academic achievement, focusing on literacy and mathematics; (4) to foster bilingualism and biculturalism in all students; and (5) to develop and support parents as partners in the education of their children.

The first two years of the project emphasized staff development and parent training. The third year continued schoolwide professional development activities for second language acquisition and strategies to increase literacy for second language learners. The fourth and fifth years continue schoolwide emphasis on increased skills in literacy and math. Year five also includes dissemination of the program model at state and national conferences. Professional development for all Government Hill teachers and support staff will include a one-week summer institute, credit courses after school and on weekends, and conferences. Release time funds of \$5,000 will support teachers and support staff for shared classroom observations, Foreign Language Oral Skills Evaluation Matrix (FLOSEM) assessment training, attendance at national conferences, and a new immersion program teacher workshop with a visiting international presenter.

The restructuring process supports instructional teams of teachers and paraprofessionals who are co-funded by Title I, Special Education, and Bilingual Education. Enrichment activities include English and Spanish classes for parents, after-school tutoring, summer school, technology training, multicultural celebrations, and referral to health and social services through Title I/Title VII Family/School Services Coordinators. The grant also will provide software, books, and classroom materials.

There is no requirement for a District match. In-kind contributions are projected to include in-place staff, co-funded positions by Federal programs, and materials and inservice days, which are part of the regular program budget.

**Budget Summary:**

Personnel	\$84,391
Fringe Benefits	28,280
Travel	23,235
Equipment	10,200
Supplies	21,000
Contractual	24,057
Other	8,043
Training	27,000
Indirect Costs	<u>5,299</u>

TOTAL \$231,505

CC/FS/BT/JG

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