

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #89 (2000-2001)

October 9, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
SUBJECT: TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY

PERTINENT FACTS:

Last spring, the School Board asked the Administration to review the issue of Anchorage School District participation in the annual Take Our Children To Work Day prior to committing to participating in the event during the 2000-2001 school year. The purpose of the review was to ascertain whether participating in this community event was more important than losing one more day of classroom instruction in these times of high-stakes accountability.

The Administration has discussed this issue with principals and other staff. In almost all cases, it was felt that though the purpose of students visiting their parents' work sites was valuable, the education available to those students who did not participate was not up to the normal standard. There was a feeling that the day was really a loss of quality time for the students remaining at the schools. The Administration also discussed the fact that there are many other opportunities for students to visit their parents work sites: parent teacher conference days, in service days, school holidays and vacations, etc.

In light of these discussions, and with the knowledge that the School Board also had expressed concerns in the past about the rationale for continuing to participate in this event, I am recommending that the Anchorage School District not participate in future Take Our Children To Work Day activities. I will notify the various agencies that the ASD will not be participating and ask employers to support our students visiting the work sites at various times during the school year when it will not disrupt student instructional time.

CC

Prepared and Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent (Acting)

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