

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #99 (2000-2001)

October 23, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: END-OF-MONTH MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY FOR
SEPTEMBER 30, 2000

PERTINENT FACTS:

The end-of-month membership report for September 30, 2000 is attached. The total active enrollment at the end of September was 49,520, a gain of 208 students from the September 30, 1999 total of 49,312. Table 1 compares the membership on September 30, 2000 with the totals from September 30, 1999.

TABLE 1
Comparison of
9/30/1999 Membership vs. 9/30/2000 Membership

<u>Category</u>	<u>9/30/1999</u>	<u>9/30/2000</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Elementary Schools Kindergarten	3,622	3,529	-93
Elementary Schools Grades 1-8	23,630	23,453	-177
Middle Schools	7,221	7,391	170
Senior High Schools	11,845	12,257	412
Other Secondary Schools and Programs	1,819	1,719	-100
Pre-Elementary, Level 3 Spec. Ed., and Special Services	1,175	1,171	-4
TOTAL	49,312	49,520	208

The elementary schools had the largest decrease with a loss of 270 students from September 30, 1999 to September 30, 2000. The senior high schools experienced the largest gain with an increase of 412 students followed by the middle schools with an increase of 170 students. These trends were not unexpected and are a result of two factors:

The decline at the elementary school level is a result of the smaller kindergarten enrollment observed for each the past four years.

The increases in the middle school and senior high school membership are a result of the larger grades that entered in the early 1990s reaching the secondary school level.

The largest grade level observed this year is grade seven with 4,094 students, followed by grade three with 4,060 students. The total kindergarten population declined by 93 students from last September 30. The size of the kindergarten class continues to be a cause for concern. Succeeding years of declining kindergarten classes have a significant impact on the District membership. Most of the growth that the District has observed for the past six years has been due to the difference between larger entering kindergarten classes and significantly smaller 12th grade classes exiting the District. Four years ago the difference between the kindergarten and 12th grade classes was approximately 1,000 students. This year the difference has shrunk to 433 students. It is estimated that in approximately five years the difference between kindergarten and 12th grades will be nearly zero. This will have a significant impact on future District enrollment.

The 49,520 students observed this year is the second largest total in the history of the Anchorage School District, exceeded only by the 49,551 observed on September 30, 1998. The gain in students this year, while moderate, is a reversal from the declining trend observed last year.

Table 2 compares the September 30, 2000 membership with the projections for the same date. The projections are the fall budget projections and were developed in October 1999. Table 2 shows that the overall projection of 49,227 was only 223 less than the observed total of 49,520. The error of projection was only 0.045%, less than one-half of one percent.

TABLE 2
Comparison of
9/30/2000 Membership vs. 9/30/2000 Projections

Category	Actual 9/30/2000	Projected 9/30/2000	Difference Actual – Projected
Pre-Elementary Housed in Elem. Schools	222	203	19
Elementary Schools Kindergarten	3,529	3,533	-4
Elementary Schools Grades 1-8	23,453	23,393	60
Middle Schools	7,391	7,219	172
Senior High Schools	12,257	12,100	157
Other Secondary Schools and Programs	1,719	1,894	-175
Special Education Elementary – Level 3	253	235	18
Special Education Secondary – Level 3	184	173	11
Special Services	512	547	-35
TOTAL	49,520	49,297	223

The listing of elementary and secondary schools at or above 120 percent of program capacity is attached. There are two elementary schools, Ptarmigan and Sand Lake, at or above 120 percent of their program capacity. There is one secondary program, SAVE I, at or above 120 percent of program capacity.

CC/PM/NDH

Attachments

Prepared by: Norman Holthouse, Executive Director, Technology/MIS
 Approved by: Pat McDowell, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction (Acting)