

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #126 (2000-2001)

November 20, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROJECTIONS FOR
SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

PERTINENT FACTS:

Attachment A presents the fall forecast for the September 30, 2001 Anchorage School District student membership. The following items highlight trends in the 2001-2002 student population forecast:

- The total projection for September 30, 2001 is 49,663 students. This reflects an increase of 143 students from the September 30, 2000 official membership total of 49,520.
- The September 30, 2001 projection for Kindergarten is 3,484 students. This Kindergarten projection is 45 less than the 3,529 Kindergarten students observed on September 30 of this school year. Kindergarten is the most difficult grade to project as there is no preceding grade available. The Kindergarten projection for September 30, 2000 was based in part on data obtained from the State Demographer regarding the number of four year old students in the Anchorage population as well as the number of live births in Anchorage five years ago.
- Elementary schools are projected to decline by 245 students for next year. This can be compared against the actual loss of 270 students for elementary schools from September 30, 1999 to September 30, 2000.
- Middle Schools are projected to gain 51 students next year. This can be compared against the observed gain of 170 students from September 30, 1999 to September 30, 2000.

- Senior High Schools are projected to gain 224 students. This increase can be compared against the observed gain of 412 from September 30, 1999 to September 30, 2000.
- The Other Secondary Schools and Programs (secondary students not attending a Middle School or a Senior High School) are projected to increase by 104 students.
- Pre-elementary special education students, Level 3 special education students, and Special Services Program students are projected to increase by nine students.
- Charter schools are projected for 1,313 students next year, an increase of 58 students over the 1,255 students enrolled in charter schools this year. No applications have been received for consideration by the Administration and the School Board for the 2001-2002 school year.

It should be noted that the September 30, 2001 enrollment forecast is based on the following assumptions:

- The Anchorage area economy will remain at approximately current levels during the 2001-2002 school year.
- There will be no increase in the number of elementary schools offering full-day Kindergarten for the 2001-2002 school year. Schools with full-day Kindergarten attract a greater share of the available Kindergarten age student population resulting in a larger Kindergarten Districtwide. If the School Board approves an increase in schools with full-day Kindergarten, these figures will be adjusted.
- The grade to grade survival pattern observed from September 30, 1999 to September 30, 2000 will also hold true for September 30, 2001.
- The percentage of minority students in the District will again increase by approximately one percent for the 2001-2002 school year. This was true this school year and has been the trend for the past 25 years. It should be noted that while the overall District enrollment increased by only 143 students this year, the minority student population actually increased by 1,078 students. This gain in minority students was offset by the loss of 873 students in the white category. (Note: This difference does not equal 143. This is due to the fact that the ethnic report was run after September 30, thus resulting in slightly different figures.)

Economic and demographic trends will be closely monitored during the 2000-2001 school year. A revised forecast will be issued only if there are significant changes in the observed trends.

The following table compares fall projections to actual membership for the past 10 years. The average error of projection for the past 10 years is 0.75 percent. For any given year a projection error of less than 1.00 percent is considered excellent by professional standards.

**Anchorage School District
Enrollment Forecasts
1991 - 2000**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fall Forecast</u>	<u>Sept. 30 Actual</u>	<u>Difference from Fall Forecast</u>	<u>Percent Error</u>
1991	44,200	44,664	464	1.04%
1992	46,360	46,237	-123	-0.27%
1993	47,600	47,232	-368	-0.78%
1994	48,141	47,609	-532	-1.12%
1995	48,000	47,693	-307	-0.64%
1996	48,170	47,968	-202	-0.42%
1997	48,309	48,793	484	0.99%
1998	49,556	49,551	-5	-0.01%
1999	50,201	49,312	-889	-1.80%
2000	49,297	49,520	223	0.45%
ABSOLUTE VALUE AVERAGE			360	0.75%

CC/PM/NDH

Attachment

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