

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #166 (2000-2001)

January 8, 2001

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: FOREIGN  
LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The U.S. Department of Education has issued a request for proposals for its Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP). This competition seeks innovative model programs that establish, improve, or expand foreign language study for elementary and secondary students. The Anchorage School District World Languages Program is working with Chugiak Elementary School, Mirror Lake Middle School, Chugiak High School, and the University of Alaska Anchorage's College of Arts and Sciences to prepare an application for this competition. The project will extend the benefits of the Spanish Immersion Program to include Spanish language and culture opportunities for all students in the Chugiak attendance area, and to articulate the Immersion Program from the elementary to university levels by developing Spanish language benchmarks and proficiency assessments.

The project will:

- Expand Spanish language and culture opportunities for all students at Chugiak Elementary through a summer immersion program that will target the arts through Hispanic music, dance and visual arts. The program also will instruct students in Spanish language in small groups appropriate to their level of proficiency. In addition, the summer

program will serve as a professional development institute for pre-service and inservice Spanish language teachers.

- Develop partnerships with local Hispanic organizations and businesses in order to link students in the project schools, K-12, with native Spanish speakers. An objective is career awareness and exploration that illuminate opportunities for Spanish language speakers. As an example, a partnership under exploration includes the two near-by military bases. These employ native Spanish speakers and are part of the Chugiak/Mirror Lake attendance area.
- Develop opportunities within Chugiak Elementary to infuse Hispanic culture throughout the school; e.g., artists-in-residence, community volunteers, and after-school enrichment classes. This “whole school” approach can involve Chugiak’s music and art programs, classroom songs and activities, and visuals and events that help to make a cohesive school community.

Under competition guidelines, grant funds may support up to 50 percent of project activities each year. The preliminary grant budget estimate is \$120,000 for the first year of a three-year project. Funds will support organization and support of an extended school year summer program, professional development, and contract addenda for teachers to develop benchmark and assessment for Spanish language development. The grant program does not require a cash match from the Anchorage School District. Major in-kind contributions will include staff time and materials, which already are part of the schools’ programs and of the District’s World Languages Program, and the participation of community partners.

CC/PM/FS/JT/GO/PM/JG/BT

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