

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #286 (2000-2001)

May 21, 2001

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: SAFE
SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Justice.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Three federal agencies have issued a joint request for proposals for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. This grant competition seeks comprehensive community efforts that promote healthy childhood development and that prevent violence and alcohol and drug use. The Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant program requires a three-year plan that takes into account the needs of children from preschool age through adolescence, and their families, who are at risk of being involved in violence as perpetrators, victims, or witnesses. The plan must be comprehensive and integrated for a school district, and must implement or enhance community-wide strategies for safe and healthy development. The ASD Instructional Division is collaborating with community agencies and with state and local law enforcement and public health agencies to develop a grant proposal. The three-year concept extends and responds to long-term collaborative efforts of the Juvenile Justice Working Group coalition, and of related initiatives involving ASD programs and community partnerships.

The federal goals are: (1) to help students develop the skills and emotional resilience necessary for positive mental health, prosocial behavior, and resistance to violence and drug use; (2) to ensure a safe, disciplined, and drug-free school environment; and (3) to produce an infrastructure that will

institutionalize and sustain services beyond grant funding. Moreover, the program requires that the comprehensive plan address six elements. They are: safe school environment, alcohol/drug use prevention and intervention, mental health preventive and treatment services, early childhood psychosocial and emotional development, educational reform, and safe school policies.

The cornerstones of the Anchorage plan are:

Coordinated assessment and services among the school district and community partners for students who are suspended, expelled, or at very high risk, K-12.

Alternative academic/treatment/community service programs for suspended and expelled youth in grades six through twelve provided in partnership with community agencies.

Follow-up services for students who return to the regular classroom after enrollment in alternative programs during suspension or expulsion.

Schoolwide professional development on school climate and management of challenging behaviors, across the District.

Coordination with mental health agencies which currently provide treatment within the schools; with early childhood service providers; and with municipal and state public health educators and providers.

Coordination with such existing school improvement efforts as high school Smaller Learning Communities, Resolving Conflict Creatively Program in middle schools and in high schools, elementary counseling innovations, and after-school programs.

Although the program does not specify an in-kind budget portion, substantial in-kind contributions from both the District and the community should be identified in order to make a competitive application. This demonstrates that the community is making a coordinated effort on behalf of children and youth. It also shows good faith for sustaining services when grant funds end.

Some examples of these in-kind commitments are: existing school improvement efforts mentioned above; existing partnerships with Juvenile Probation and law enforcement; existing school-based mental health treatment for self-elected families; comprehensive school health self-assessment and improvement efforts in elementary schools through the Curriculum and Evaluation Department; and Safe and Drug-Free Schools Peace in the Family classes for parents.

The budget is likely to include release time for professional development, peer coaching, and model classroom observations.

The preliminary annual budget is estimated at \$2 million to \$3 million each year

for three years. This includes grant management; staff for continuation programs for suspended and expelled students; staff experts to provide professional development for schools; contract addenda for staff professional development; contracted services from community agencies; outside technical assistance and external evaluation; and building improvement costs for a community site for the suspension/expulsion program; and materials.

The preliminary budget for FY 2001-2002 is:

Salaries and benefits	\$1,200,000
Contract Addenda	900,000
Contracted Services	450,000
Supplies	70,000
Construction	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL FY 2001-2002	\$2,670,000

CC/PM/FS/JT/GO/PM/RR/MK/BT

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