

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #316 (2000-2001)

May 21, 2001

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: PHYSICAL
EDUCATION FOR PROGRESS GRANT

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, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's Physical Education for Progress Grant Program.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The U.S. Department of Education has issued a request for proposals for its Physical Education for Progress Grant Program. This one-time federal appropriation to local educational agencies is being offered for the first time ever. This competition seeks to initiate, expand, and improve physical education programs in schools. One half of the funding must benefit children who attend Title I schools, and for all students, it must be used to address standards in physical education.

The Anchorage School District's Health and Physical Education Program in the Curriculum and Evaluation Department is working with physical educators at all levels, administrators and staff at selected schools, and the University of Alaska, Anchorage to prepare an application for this competition. The project will enhance articulation of selected curricular strands across grade levels and emphasize the national benchmarks and proficiency assessments for participating students.

The project will:

- Address three essential strands of the Board approved physical education framework – fitness, movement/dance and adventure education – in the context of state and national standards and cross

curricular enhancement. Within these three strands there will be a focus at elementary and middle schools to better prepare students for the high school experience.

- Use experts from among existing physical education staff, on special assignment, to design and provide in-depth training and mentoring to other teachers in small cluster groups and in their classrooms with students. The teacher experts will be on special assignment for ten to twelve weeks working with schools to improve instruction in a single strand before returning to their regular schools and classes. This cycle will repeat itself three times over the course of the year to cover the three areas of focus. Title I schools and an approximately equal number of others will receive the benefits of this additional training. All instruction will be tailored to standards with appropriate use of assessments and best practices as outlined by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE).
- Provide a fitness focus at the elementary schools by establishing organized, cardiorespiratory-enhancing activities during recesses five days a week at selected schools. Training will be provided for paraprofessionals or college students in physical education and recreation who will be on-site to lead the activities, encourage and actively solicit participation by students, and establish and maintain associated records.

Under competition guidelines, grant funds cannot be used for extracurricular activities. The preliminary grant budget estimate is \$300,000 for the single year of funding. Funds will support assistance from a part-time coordinator, release time for long-term substitutes for teacher experts, contract addenda for training and assignment of paraprofessionals, purchase of supporting equipment, and design and development of program records and assessments. 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.

CC/PM/FS/GO/PM/SV/BT

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