

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #8 (2001-2002)

August 13, 2001

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FOURTH QUARTER AND END OF 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR
SUSPENSION/WEAPONS/EXPULSION REPORT

PERTINENT FACTS:

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. This information, as well as year-end summaries by school and category for each Instructional Division level for the 2000-2001 school year, is shown in the narrative information below and in Attachments A - L.

In accordance with the School Board's adopted goal to "Establish a supportive learning environment by providing safe and caring schools which are barrier free, by promoting health and wellness, and by collaborating with other community agencies where appropriate," all efforts were focused to provide safe and healthy schools. This goal has been supported by the employees at each school as well as by the students and their parents and the business and general community. Again this year, the Anchorage Police Department was extremely supportive in its assistance to the schools. The attached discipline/suspension reports from the elementary, middle, and high schools show the statistics for the fourth quarter and the recently completed school year and the schools' efforts to address this important goal.

Fourth Quarter Expulsions

A total of nine middle school students and 24 high school students were expelled by the School Board during the fourth quarter, for a total of 33 students. There were no elementary expulsions during the fourth quarter. Of the middle school students expelled, four were for fighting/assault, two for weapons (one knife and one BB gun), two for their second drug/alcohol offense, and one for threats to staff and students. Four high school students were expelled for fighting/threats, one for assault, one for assault/staff, one for weapons (pellet gun), one for firearms, and sixteen for sales or second offense drug/alcohol.

Expulsions During 2000-2001

A total of 116, middle school and high school students were expelled by the School Board for various reasons during the 2000-2001 school year. This compares to 156 expulsions during the 1999-2000 school year. There were no elementary students expelled during the 2000-2001 school year, compared to three students during the 1999-2000 school year.

More than 80% of secondary expulsions included either fighting/assault (17%), or drug/alcohol (64%), two types of offenses we hope to treat more effectively if the District is awarded a Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant. Planned is a continuation program, pairing our academic component with treatment/counseling by our community partners. The School Board has amended its policy to enable some long-term suspension and expulsion cases to be referred to this program so that young people can continue their education and address their behavioral or substance abuse issues.

Causality

Two recommendations from middle school were not brought forward to the School Board due to a finding of causality by the IEP team. The incidents and causality are reflected below:

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>School</u>
Assault Staff	Learning Disabled	Clark
Threats to School	Emotionally Disturbed	Central

Twelve high school students found to have causality were not brought forward to the School Board. This compares to 13 cases during the 1998-99 school year and 12 during the 1999-2000 school year.

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>School</u>
Sexual Harassment	Emotionally Disturbed	Chugiak
Arson at School	Emotionally Disturbed	Bartlett
2nd Drug/Alcohol	Emotionally Disturbed	Dimond
2nd Drug/Alcohol	Mentally Retarded	Dimond
Fighting/Assault/Staff	Emotionally Disturbed	East
2nd Drug/Alcohol	Learning Disabled	Chugiak
2nd Drug/Alcohol/Sales	Learning Disabled	Service
2nd Drug/Alcohol	Other Health Impaired	KCC
2nd Drug/Alcohol	Traumatic Brain Injury	Service
Threats to School	Emotionally Disturbed	Chugiak
Threats to School	Mentally Retarded	KCC/ACE
Threats to School	Learning Disabled	Service

Discipline Reports

The elementary, middle school, and high school discipline summaries follow; these are shown for fourth quarter and for the entire school year. Fourth quarter information by school and category for elementary schools is shown on Attachments A and B; elementary cumulative information is shown on Attachments C and D; middle school fourth quarter information by school and category is shown on Attachments E and F; middle school cumulative information is shown on Attachments G and H; high school fourth quarter information by school and category is shown on Attachments I and J; and high school cumulative information is shown on Attachments K and L.

Elementary Schools

Suspensions during the fourth quarter of the 2000-2001 school year increased from the fourth quarter of 1999-2000. There were 387 suspensions in the fourth quarter of 2000-2001 and 287 suspensions in the fourth quarter of 1999-2000. Suspensions increased in the fighting/assault, harassment and disobedience categories from the fourth quarter of 1999-2000.

There were 15 weapons incidents in 2000-2001 compared to 9 in the fourth quarter of 1999-2000. There were four drug and alcohol suspensions for the fourth quarter compared to eight in 1999-2000. Twelve police contacts were made during the fourth quarter in elementary schools.

Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison

<u>Fourth Quarter</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fighting/Assault	149	135	171
Harassment	8	13	25
Firearms	0	2	0
Other Weapons	6	7	15
Drugs/Alcohol	0	8	4
Tobacco	0	3	3
Disobedience	28	17	42
Other	86	102	127
Totals	277	287	387

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fourth Quarter	0	3	0

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Findings of Causality Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fourth Quarter	0	0	0

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fourth Quarter	30	32	60

In comparing the cumulative yearly totals for the past three years, suspensions for drugs and alcohol have significantly decreased, suspensions for fighting/assault have remained stable, and suspensions for weapons in 2000-2001 increased from 1999-2000, but are similar to the totals from 1998-1999.

**Elementary Schools 2000-2001
Yearly Suspension by Category Report**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Drugs/Alcohol	14	18	10
Fighting/Assault	483	472	483
Weapons	26	19	29
Firearms	0	2	0
Other	337	389	473
Totals	860	900	995

**Elementary Schools 2000-2001
Yearly Expulsions by Category Report**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Drugs/Alcohol	0	1	0
Firearms	0	2	0
Totals	0	3	0

Middle Schools

The major categories reflected in the increases are fighting/assault, where the number of suspensions went from 582 to 652, an increase of 70; harassment, where the incidents of suspensions went from 131 to 174, an increase of 43; and in the category of Other, under the sub-category of Disruptive Behavior, where there was an increase of approximately 100 short-term suspensions. The increases are attributed partly to the increase in the number of middle school students enrolled this year. Also, training on harassment and bullying prevention presented to staff and students at most middle schools resulted in additional identification of students whose behaviors were considered inappropriate and disruptive.

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fighting/Assault	165	139	174
Harassment	36	36	51
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	8	12	7
Drugs/Alcohol/ Tobacco	21	13	29
Willful disobedience	58	31	56
Other	366	413	529
Total	654	644	846

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fighting/Assault	1	1	4
Harassment	4	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	5	9	2
Drugs/Alcohol/ Tobacco	2	4	2
Willful disobedience	0	0	0
Other	0	12	1
Total	12	26	9

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by School**

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Clark	Weapon (2)
Clark	Assault (3)
Mears	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)
Mirror Lake	Drug/Alcohol Sales (1)
Romig	Assault (1)
Romig	Threats (1)

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Findings of Causality**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>School</u>
Threats to school	Emotionally Disturbed	Central

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fourth Quarter	95	111	143

Middle Schools 2000-2001
Yearly Suspensions by Category Comparison

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fighting/Assault	764	582	652
Harassment	132	131	174
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	30	31	19
Drugs/Alcohol	63	81	106
Tobacco	51	33	16
Willful disobedience	206	140	137
Other	1,334	1,287	1,426
Total	2,580	2,285	2,530

Middle Schools 2000-2001
Yearly Expulsions by Category Comparison

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fighting/Assault	6	4	8
Harassment	0	0	1
Firearms	0*	0	0
Weapons	9	8	3
Drugs/Alcohol	7	8	5
Willful disobedience	0	0	0
Other	7	19	4
Total	29	39	21

Polaris K-12 School

There were 11 suspensions from Polaris K-12 School during the fourth quarter of 2000 2001, compared to 15 suspensions for the same period in 1999-2000

There were no recommendations for expulsion for Polaris K-12 School for fourth quarter. There was one expulsion for a second drug/alcohol violation from Polaris K-

12 during the 2000-2001 School Year. This compares with no expulsions during 1999-2000 and one expulsion during 1998-1999.

**Polaris Fourth Quarter Suspension Report
Suspensions by Category**

Offense	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fighting/Assault	0	0
Harassment	0	4
Firearms	0	0
Weapons	0	0
Drugs/Alcohol	1	1
Tobacco	1	0
Willful Disobedience	2	0
Other	11	6
Total	15	11

High Schools

The high school suspension rate for fourth quarter 2000-2001 was 718, an increase of 257, compared to 609 suspensions during the fourth quarter of 1999-2000.

The increases were in the following categories: Suspensions related to fighting/threats were 86, compared to 47 in the fourth quarter last year; harassment suspensions were 30, compared to 18 last year; drug/alcohol suspensions were 85, compared to 47 last year. Measured against the fourth quarter of 2000, the decreases were in smoking, down to 8 compared to 20 last year, and willful disobedience at 23, compared to 34 in the fourth quarter of last year.

Overcrowding at high schools, coupled with increased awareness of harassment, likely contribute to higher suspension rates this past quarter.

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fighting/Threats	82	47	86
Assault	16	17	17
Harassment	20	18	30
Firearms	4	2	1
Drive by Shooting	2	0	0
Weapons	9	1	1
Drug/Alcohol	72	47	85
Smoking	19	20	8
Willful Disobedience	42	34	23
Other	343	275	467
Totals	609	461	718

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Assault	0	3	1
Assault/Staff	0	1	1
Weapons	2	1	1
Firearms	2	2	1
Drug/Alcohol	13	28	16
Threats to Staff	0	0	0
Fighting/Threats	6	0	4
Harassment	0	0	0
Gang-like Activity	0	3	0
Totals	23	38	24

There are two recommendations for expulsion pending for incidents that occurred during the fourth quarter. The hearings will be held during the first quarter of the 2001-2002 school year.

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by School**

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Benny Benson	2nd Drug/Alcohol (4)
Bartlett	2nd Drug/Alcohol sales (1)
Chugiak	Threats to school (1)
Dimond	2nd Drug/Alcohol (4)
	Assault (1)
	Threats to school (1)
	Weapon/pellet gun (1)
East	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)
KCC	Threats to school (1)
SAVE	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)
Service	2nd Drug/Alcohol (3)
	Threats to school (1)
West	2nd Drug/Alcohol sales (1)
	Assault/staff (1)
	Firearm/9mm (1)

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Finding of Causality Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>School</u>
Threats to School	Emotionally Disturbed	Chugiak
Threats to School	Mentally Retarded	KCC/ACE
Threats to School	Learning Disabled	Service
2nd Drug/Alcohol	Traumatic Brain Injury	Service

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Fourth Quarter</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
	80	47	69

**High Schools 2000-2001
Yearly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fighting/Threats	470	387	392
Assault	*	*	79
Harassment	81	130	123
Firearms	7	7	4
Weapons	43	40	43
Drugs/Alcohol	287	361	445**
Tobacco	73	78	47
Willful Disobedience	179	136	149
Other	1,219	1,277	1,713***
Total	2,359****	2,442	2,995

*Fighting/Threats/Assault were reported as one category in 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

**Vigilance by staff members, coupled with substance availability, have served to increase figures for drug/alcohol suspensions.

***The large increase in the other category includes significant numbers of students who were sanctioned for being an accessory to an act (watching organized fights).

****Drug/Alcohol expulsions were incorrectly included in the suspension numbers previously reported. This total was adjusted.

**High Schools 2000-2001
Yearly Expulsion by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Fighting/Assault	22	10	12
Firearms	2	7	4
Drive-by Shootings	0	5	0
Weapons	5	5	5
Drugs/Alcohol	41	77	68
Other	1	10	5
Total	71	114	94

CC/PM/PM/GO/MH

Attachments

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