

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #50 (2001-2002)

September 24, 2001

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PROFILE OF PERFORMANCE: 2000-2001

PERTINENT FACTS:

The enclosed Profile of Performance: 2000-2001 reviews some of the achievements of the Anchorage School District for last year. The analysis has two sections. Part A displays and discusses Districtwide data and the extent to which the District reached the achievement-related goals set by the Board. Part B includes detailed information regarding each school.

The Profile focuses on academic outcomes and success in meeting local goals. It also includes results for State Benchmark Tests, the State High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and High School Advanced Placement Tests.

Anchorage School District demographics continue to change. Anchorage had a September 30 enrollment of over 49,000 students, placing it in the top 1% of U.S. school districts by size. There were record levels of cultural and linguistic diversity. Substantial numbers of students were eligible for free and reduced lunches and thousands are served in programs for students with special needs.

Overall student academic performance continues to be strong. Norm-referenced test scores show overall performance above the 60th percentile on standardized tests. Performance on Alaska Benchmark Tests and the High School Qualifying Exam results are equal to or better than State averages. Nearly 60 percent of graduating seniors took college entrance examinations and Anchorage average scores continue to be above those of the state and nation.

Results on local Anchorage tests including the Anchorage Writing Assessment show that most students are meeting Anchorage Performance Standards. Exact year-to-year comparisons in writing are not possible because the writing prompt has changed from year to year. Writing Conventions is again the most difficult area for students to master.

The grade six Pre-Algebra qualifying exam resulted in an increased percentage of students being recommended for Pre-Algebra, although there are substantial differences among the schools in the proportion of students recommended for Pre-Algebra placement.

Other District performance indicators remain positive. Students attend school regularly with about 93 percent in class on any given day. Around three percent of Anchorage students were reported as dropouts during the year.

Parent, staff and student responses to School Report Card surveys at elementary, middle level, and high school indicate a substantial level of satisfaction and support for local school programs. Parents find Anchorage schools to be positive environments where students and academic success are valued. Parent satisfaction with the Anchorage School District and the school their child attends remains high.

While overall student performance is positive, data shows that not every student is successful. American Native, Black, and Hispanic students do not do well as White and Asian American students. Differences show up across indicators including test scores, grades, credits earned, and dropout rates. There are also notable differences among schools.

Our continued focus on goal setting, accountability for performance, and the improvement of District programs should allow the District to maintain or improve our high level of student achievement. Good teaching, good curriculum, the hard work of students, and the support of parents and community continue to result in overall performance well above the national average.

CC/PM/DC/RF/TS

Attachment

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