

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #110 (2001-2002)

November 12, 2001

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROJECTIONS FOR
SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

PERTINENT FACTS:

Attachment A presents the fall forecast for the September 30, 2002 Anchorage School District student membership. Table 1 compares the projections by program for September 30, 2002 with the actual totals of September 30th of this school year.

TABLE 1
September 30, 2001 Enrollment and
Fall Budget Projections for September 30, 2002

Programs	Actual 9/30/2001	Fall Budget Projections 9/30/2002	Difference (+/-) Project. - Actual
Elementary Schools Kindergarten	3,499	3,501	2
Elementary Schools Grades 1-8	23,437	23,099	-338
Middle Schools	7,579	7,620	41
Senior High Schools	12,557	12,895	338
Other Secondary Schools and Programs	1,539	1,622	83
Pre-Elementary, Level 3 Spec. Ed., and Special Services	1,065	1,185	120
Total	49,676	49,922	246

The following items highlight trends in the 2002-2003 student population forecast:

- The total projection for September 30, 2002 is 49,922 students. This reflects an increase of 246 students from the September 30, 2001 official membership total of 49,676.
- The September 30, 2002 projection for Kindergarten is 3,501 students. This Kindergarten projection is nearly identical to the 3,499 observed on September 30th of this school year. Hopefully, this will mark the end of the downward trend in the Kindergarten population that the District has experienced for the past five years. Kindergarten is the most difficult grade to forecast because there is no preceding grade to project from. The Kindergarten projection for September 30, 2002 was based in part on data obtained from the State Demographer regarding the number of four year old students in the Anchorage population as well as the number of live births in Anchorage five years ago.
- Elementary schools are projected to decline by 336 students for next year. This is primarily the result of the projected kindergarten population being smaller than the current year 6th grade class. This will reduce the total elementary school enrollment.
- Middle Schools are projected to gain 41 students next year. This can be compared against the observed gain of 188 students from September 30, 2000 to September 30, 2001.
- Senior High Schools are projected to gain 338 students. This increase can be compared against the observed gain of 300 from September 30, 2000 to September 30, 2001.
- The Other Secondary Schools and Programs (secondary students not attending a Middle School or a Senior High School) are projected to increase by 83 students.
- Pre-elementary special education students, Level 3 special education students, and Special Services Program students are projected to increase by 120 students. This increase can be compared against the observed decline of 106 students from September 30, 2000 to September 30, 2001. However, a comparison of the total projection of these programs for next year with the total observed enrollment for October 22, 2001 shows that the projections is only 17 higher than the current enrollment.

- Charter schools are projected for 1,045 students next year, an increase of 63 students over the 982 students enrolled in charter schools this year.
- The minority student population is projected to increase by two percent for next year. The minority population is at 40 percent this school year and is projected to increase to 42 percent next year. This will be the fourth year in a row where the minority student population has increased by two percent or more. All of the projected increase in the District membership will be due to a net increase in the minority student population.

It should be noted that the September 30, 2002 enrollment forecast is based on the following assumptions:

- The Anchorage area economy will remain at approximately current levels during the 2001-2002 school year.
- No additional charter schools will be approved by the Board for the 2002-2003 school year. If additional charter schools were to be approved then the total membership for next year would increase by a proportionate amount depending upon the type of charter school approved.
- The average grade to grade survival pattern observed over the past three years will hold fairly constant for the 2002-2003 school year.
- The percentage of minority students in the District will again increase by approximately two percent for the 2002-2003 school year. This was true this school year and has been the trend for the past three years. All of the projected growth of 246 students will be due to the growth in minority students. The total minority student population is projected to increase by over 1,000 students next year, while the white student population is projected to decrease by approximately 1,250 students. However, it should be kept in mind that this does not imply that only minority students move into Anchorage. The high mobility of students moving both into and out of the District is characteristic of all ethnic groups.

Economic and demographic trends will be closely monitored during the 2001-2002 school year. A revised forecast will be issued only if there are significant changes in the observed trends.

The following table compares fall projections to actual membership for the past 10 years. The average error of projection for the past 10 years is 0.65 percent. For any given year a projection error of less than 1.00 percent is considered excellent by professional standards.

**Anchorage School District
Enrollment Forecasts
1992 - 2001**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fall Forecast</u>	<u>Sept. 30 Actual</u>	<u>Difference from Fall Forecast</u>	<u>Percent Error</u>
1992	46,360	46,237	-123	-0.27%
1993	47,600	47,232	-368	-0.78%
1994	48,141	47,609	-532	-1.12%
1995	48,000	47,693	-307	-0.64%
1996	48,170	47,968	-202	-0.42%
1997	48,309	48,793	484	0.99%
1998	49,556	49,551	-5	-0.01%
1999	50,201	49,312	-889	-1.80%
2000	49,297	49,520	223	0.45%
2001	49,663	49,676	13	0.03%
ABSOLUTE VALUE AVERAGE			315	0.65%

Attachment

CC/GV/RA/RB/sl

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