

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ASDR 2001 - 2002 - 7

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DELAYING THE SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS
UNTIL 2004**

WHEREAS, in 1998, the legislature passed the school accountability law requiring school designators to be established in each Alaskan school in August 2002; and

WHEREAS, effective in the spring of 2002, the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development will replace the California Achievement Test (CAT) – Fifth Edition (part of the statewide assessment for the past seven years) with the TerraNova/CAT/6 – 2nd Edition; and

WHEREAS, the School Designator Committee has recommended the school designators be based on both achievement status and achievement growth; and

WHEREAS, achievement growth requires a minimum of two years of achievement data on the same students using the same tests and growth data that will not be available in August, 2002; and,

WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in December of 2001 contains a significant number of school and district accountability requirements that will need to be incorporated into the School Designator System; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the legislature passed a law to revise the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) to make sure it measures “essential” skills and knowledge and to extend its effective date to 2004; and

WHEREAS, designating a school as deficient or in crisis on the basis of test scores alone ignores certain factors such as the high level of mobility that occurs in our schools; and

WHEREAS, schools in low socioeconomic areas, schools in highly transient communities and schools designed to serve high needs populations are more likely to be labeled deficient as a result of factors other than the quality of education being delivered;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage School Board supports delaying the effective date until 2004 to align it with the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Anchorage School Board urges caution in labeling schools on the basis of test scores alone.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage School Board this 11th day of February 2002.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

Peggy Robinson, President

Harriet Drummond
Rita Holthouse
Jake Metcalfe

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Dave Werdal

Carol Comeau, Superintendent