

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #216 (2001-2002)

March 11, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: SECOND QUARTER SUSPENSION/WEAPONS/EXPULSION  
REPORT: 2001-2002

PERTINENT FACTS:

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. The information is shown in the narrative information below and as Attachments A-F.

**Second Quarter Suspensions**

Second quarter suspensions at the elementary level decreased slightly compared to incidents from the second quarter of the 2000-2001 school year. Elementary schools showed decreases in nearly every category except larceny/theft (5 to 7), vandalism (1 to 3), false witness/lying (0 to 1) and dangerous actions (17 to 27). Total suspensions in middle schools increased significantly from last year (555 to 666). The only area showing a decrease was tobacco (6 to 3). Suspensions increased at the high school level for fighting/threats (82 to 97) and harassment (19 to 29); however, suspensions were down in other areas, especially drug/alcohol (147 to 127). There were almost two hundred fewer suspensions at the high school level (967 to 769).

**Second Quarter Expulsions**

Nine middle school students and 28 high school students were expelled by the School Board during the second quarter of the 2001-2002 school year. No elementary students were expelled during this time. The 37 students expelled during second quarter this year compare with 34 students expelled during the same period last year. Action by the School Board is pending for two middle school students and five high school students who are accused of violations during the second quarter of 2000-2001.

## **Discipline Reports**

The elementary, middle, and high school discipline summaries follow. These show elementary schools second quarter by school and category (Attachment A & B), middle schools second quarter by school and category (Attachment C & D), and high schools second quarter by school and category (Attachment E & F).

A request for greater delineation of offenses grouped as "other" was made earlier this school year. In Discipline Reports (attachments B, D and F) "other" is the final category choice for recording offenses. At times, this descriptor has been used when a more definitive category would have been preferred. Instructional division leaders have committed to working with schools to restrict the use of the "other" category to times when none of the 13-19 specific labels are suitable.

The second use of an "other" category has been in the quarterly suspension and expulsion memorandum where highlighted offenses that are tracked over a three-year period do not explain a significant portion of the suspension statistics. In this memorandum and successive reports, this category titled "other" will be followed by narrative summarizing these pertinent suspension areas.

## **Elementary Schools**

The suspension reports for second quarter of the 2001-2002 school year are attached for your information. Suspensions involving weapons, drugs and alcohol, gang-related incidents and racially motivated occurrences are compared in this narrative for the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 school years. There were no expulsions or findings of causality for the second quarter of the 2001-2002 school year.

Suspensions during the second quarter of the 2001-2002 school year decreased slightly from the previous year: 172 for 2001-2002 and 174 for 2000-2001. There were six weapons violations (2 pocket knives resulting in 3 student suspensions, an airgun, a BB gun, and a knife with a four inch blade) which resulted in suspension during the second quarter of this school year, which was the same number reported last year.

There were two drug and alcohol suspensions for the second quarter compared to three during the second quarter last year. There were zero gang-related incidents to report during the second quarter of 2001-2002; there were two in 2000-2001. There were zero racially motivated offenses reported for the second quarter, while one was reported in 2000-2001.

**Elementary Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<b>Offense</b>	<b><u>1999-2000</u></b>	<b><u>2000-2001</u></b>	<b><u>2001-2002</u></b>
Fighting/Assault	91	95	82
Harassment	8	2	1
Sexual Harassment	0	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Other Weapons	6	6	6
Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco	2	3	2
Willful Disobedience	19	15	31
Other	25	53	50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>172</b>

Among the incidents listed in the “other” category are larceny/theft (7), profanity/obscenity (10), vandalism (3), dangerous actions (27), and false witness/lying (1).

**Elementary Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Quarterly Elementary Expulsions Comparison**

<b><u>1999-2000</u></b>	<b><u>2000-2001</u></b>	<b><u>2001-2002</u></b>
0	0	0

**Elementary Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Findings of Causality Comparison**

<b><u>1999-2000</u></b>	<b><u>2000-2001</u></b>	<b><u>2001-2002</u></b>
0	0	0

**Elementary Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Repeaters Comparison**

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
15	24	26

**Middle Schools**

The suspension rate for the second quarter of the 2001-2002 school year for grade 6, (Mirror Lake only), 7 and 8 was 666. There were 555 suspensions during the same period in 2000-2001 and 482 in 1999-2000. Increases occurred in the following categories: 18 in the category of harassment, 12 in drugs/alcohol, 15 in fighting/assault, 22 in disobedience, and 44 in “other.” Middle School students are especially sensitive to stresses in the environment. We believe that one of the reasons for the increases to suspensions is the tension brought on by our current national emergency. Other issues include more sensitivity to harassment issues, the use of inappropriate language in the school, and an increased enrollment of middle school students.

**Middle School Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

Offense	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Fighting/Assault	143	150	165
Harassment	20	30	48
Firearms	0	0	0
Other Weapons	4	2	5
Drugs/Alcohol/ Tobacco	8 7	35 6	47 3
Disobedience	41	27	49
Other	<u>259</u>	<u>305</u>	<u>349</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>666</b>

Some of the incidents reported in the “other” category include profanity/obscenity (78), dangerous actions (107), general disruptive behavior (86), and willful disobedience (49). This was an increase of 21 in profanity/obscenity/language and 12 for general disruptive behavior.

**Middle School Second Quarter Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fighting/Assault	3	0	3
Harassment	0	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Other Weapons	2	0	0
Drugs/Alcohol			
Tobacco	2	1	5
Disobedience	0	0	0
Threats to Staff	0	0	0
Other	3	3	1 (threats)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>

There were nine expulsions at the middle school level during the second quarter of 2001-2002. This is an increase of five expulsions from the second quarter of the 2000-2001 school year. Two were for second drug/alcohol policy violations. Three were for drug sales. One was for threats of violence. Three were for assault. There were no expulsions for firearms during second quarter. We have noted greater availability of drugs to our students and are working with the Anchorage Police Department on this issue.

Two expulsion recommendations are pending. One student was not expelled due to a finding of causality.

**Middle School Second Quarter Suspensions/Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Expulsions by School**

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Clark	Assault
Gruening	Assault
Hanshew	Assault/Staff
Mears	Drug/Alcohol (second offense)
Mears	Drug Sales
Wendler	Drug/Alcohol (second offense)
Wendler	Drug Sales (2)
Wendler	Threats

**Middle School Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Findings of Causality**

	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>
	0		
		0	
Dangerous Acts (Wendler)			1
Emotionally Disturbed			

**Middle School Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Repeaters Comparison**

	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>
	76	90	106

**Second Quarter Expulsion/Suspension Report  
Polaris K-12 School**

**Expulsions:**

There were no expulsions from Polaris K-12 School for the second quarter of 2001-2002.

**Suspensions:**

There were three (3) suspensions for the second quarter at Polaris K-12 School for the 2001-2002 school year. This represents a reduction of six suspensions as compared to the same quarter last year. Of the three suspensions, one was for fighting, one was for dangerous actions, and one was for sexual harassment.

**High Schools**

The high school suspension rate for second quarter 2001-2002, was 769, down by 198 suspensions during second quarter last school year. All categories were down, with the exception of harassment and fighting/threats.

**High School Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>
Fighting/Threats	81	82	97
Assault	21	26	18
Harassment	28	19	29
Firearms	1	3	0
Weapons	9	10	5
Drug/Alcohol	87	147	127
Smoking	12	13	6
Willful Disobedience	32	58	49
Other	296	609	438
<b>Totals</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>769</b>

Some of the incidents listed in the “other” category included profanity (70), truancy (26), excessive tardies (14), larceny/theft (31), dangerous actions/materials (19), general disruptive behavior (83), refused option to suspension (118), suspension until parent conference (11), failure to identify self (14), false witness/lying (14), and vandalism/fire (14).

**High School Second Quarter Expulsion Report  
Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>
Assault	0	1	4
Assault/Staff	1	0	3
Weapons	3	2	0
Firearms	1	3	0
Drug/Alcohol	20	22	18
Threats to Staff	0	1	0
Fighting/Threats	0	1	1
Theft	3	0	0
Vandalism	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>

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

<b>School</b>	<b>Offense</b>
Bartlett	2nd Drug/Alcohol (2)
Bartlett	3rd Drug/Alcohol (1)
Chugiak	2nd Drug/Alcohol (2)
Dimond	2nd Drug/Alcohol (4)
Dimond	Threats (1)
East	2nd Drug/Alcohol (2)
East	Assault (3)
East	Assault/Staff (1)
Service	2nd Drug/Alcohol (3)
Service	Assault/Staff (1)
Service	Vandalism (2)
West	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)
West	Assault/Dangerous Acts (1)
West	Assault/Staff (1)
B. Benson	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)
KCC	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)
KCC/SAVE	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)

**High School Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Finding of Causality**

	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>
Assault/Staff (Chugiak)	1		
Emotionally Disturbed			
Weapon/Knife/Threats (East)	1		
Severely Emotionally Disturbed			
Arson at School (Bartlett)		1	
Emotionally Disturbed			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Drug Alcohol (Dimond)		1	
Emotionally Disturbed			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Drug Alcohol (Dimond)		1	
Mentally Retarded			
Fighting/Assault/Staff (East)		1	
Emotionally Disturbed			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Drug/Alcohol (Dimond)			1
Learning Disabled			
Threats (Dimond)			
Learning Disabled			1

**High School Second Quarter Suspension Report  
Repeaters Comparison**

<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>
64	107	90

**Charter Schools**

Village Charter School reported one suspension for assault during the second quarter of 2001-2002. There were no reported suspensions for Family Partnership Charter School or Aquarian Charter School.

There were no expulsions from any of the Charter Schools.

CC/PM/MH/GO/PM/mlh

Attachments

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