

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2002

TO: CAROL COMEAU  
SUPERINTENDENT

FROM: RITA J. HOLTHOUSE  
CHAIR, SCHOOL BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE

RE: DRUG/ALCOHOL POLICY REVISIONS

Throughout this winter, the School Board Policy Committee has met with school and central administrators, representatives from community agencies, and ASD support staff to discuss possible revisions to the current drug/alcohol policy. After the third such meeting, the Policy Committee realized that although there was a strong consensus on the desired changes to the policy, funding is not currently available to implement those changes. The Policy Committee therefore is not recommending any major changes in the current drug/alcohol policy.

We did decide, however, to delineate for you the changes we believe are needed in the school district's drug policy and for which we hope you will seek funding. Those desired changes are as follows:

1. an immediate assessment of all students who violate the drug/alcohol policy to determine the seriousness of the behavior, e.g. physical habit, isolated incident. (We believe this service could best be provided by a community agency, either on a per-assessment charge or a continuing contract. While the assessment for an expelled student is the fiscal responsibility of his/her family, the assessments of suspended students [under current procedures] would be a district expense. In all cases, regardless of funding, the assessment results should be shared with the family and school district.)
2. an educational program for expelled students, similar in nature to the current programs at SAVE I and II, at McLaughlin (students on probation and not attending any regular school) and at Outreach (for Special Education students). (Treatment programs should be provided by community agencies.)

## Attachment B

3. close monitoring of and assistance to expelled students to facilitate their return to the school district, provided by a designated person, e.g. case manager. (The Committee and resource people in the community and school district are concerned that while the families of some expelled students provide this assistance, many families do not. The advantages of providing such a service not only “even” the situation for all students, but also have a fiscal not in that this service could effect the re-enrollment during a subsequent school year of more expelled students, thus offsetting to a degree some of the expense.)

This committee process was a valuable one in that administrators from all levels including central support staff were able to share their concerns and recommendations for students who violate the drug/alcohol policy; also, the dialogue between community agency and school district personnel was of benefit. If/When funding is obtained to implement any or all of the committee’s recommendations, we hope that the planning will involve a wide range of involved personnel.