

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #4 (2002-2003)

August 12, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CONTINUATION OF GRANT AWARD:  
GEAR UP

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the continuation of grant funds from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$50,000 for the fourth year of a five-year project. This state and federal initiative supports partnerships that enable educationally disadvantaged youth to achieve academically and to prepare for successful enrollment in a four-year college.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development issued a request for applications under the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant competition. GEAR UP is designed to produce more college graduates among populations that are under-represented among holders of the baccalaureate degree. GEAR UP encourages tutorials, mentorships, college awareness counseling, academic guidance, and other approaches to help youth become college-bound. The program targets middle school students, but follows them with continuing support through high school.

Anchorage GEAR UP is a partnership with UAA's Educational Talent Search (ETS) program. Focusing on Clark Middle School, the project's primary goal is to increase the number of students enrolling and succeeding in pre-Algebra and Algebra, and to help them continue to succeed in rigorous academic choices through high school. The project director is Clark principal Sheri Stears. Clark has created an additional section of seventh grade pre-Algebra and an additional section of eighth grade Algebra for those students who might not otherwise

qualify for these classes. ETS works with Clark staff to expand its core services at the school. An ETS advisor provides college awareness counseling and preparation services for students and parents, professional development for Clark staff, and follow-up with GEAR UP students in high school. ETS college-level tutors provide intensive assistance daily in the two new math sections. Other services include Homework Club, academic counseling, workshops, career exploration, and recruitment and referrals from promising sixth graders at Clark feeder schools. GEAR UP also supports the ETS academic summer program to include students referred from Clark and its feeder schools.

The grant budget consists of a contract to UAA Educational Talent Search and funds for professional development mini-grants to Clark faculty teams. The budget does not include release time. Major in-kind contributions include the Clark faculty allocations for additional math sections, other Clark staff time, ETS staff time and UAA program resources.

Budget Summary:

3030	Contracted Services	\$42,397
3020	Indirect Costs	2,103
4040	Teaching Supplies	<u>5,500</u>
	TOTAL	\$50,000

CC/JC/GO/SS/BT

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