

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #13 (2002-2003)

August 12, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FOURTH QUARTER AND END OF 2001-2002 SCHOOL YEAR  
SUSPENSION/WEAPONS/EXPULSION REPORT

PERTINENT FACTS:

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. This information, as well as year-end summaries by school and category for each Instructional Division level for the 2001-2002 school year, is shown in the narrative information below and in Attachments A - L.

In accordance with the School Board's adopted goal to "Establish a supportive learning environment by providing safe and caring schools which are barrier free, by promoting health and wellness, and by collaborating with other community agencies where appropriate," all efforts were focused to provide safe and healthy schools. This goal has been supported by the employees at each school as well as by the students and their parents and the business and general community. Again this year, the Anchorage Police Department was extremely supportive in its assistance to the schools. The attached discipline/suspension reports from the elementary, middle, and high schools show the statistics for the fourth quarter and the recently completed school year and the schools' efforts to address this important goal.

**Fourth Quarter Expulsions**

A total of 13 middle school students and 39 high school students were expelled by the School Board during the fourth quarter, for a total of 52 students. There were no elementary expulsions during the fourth quarter. Of the middle school students expelled, three were for fighting/assault, two for weapons (one knife and one utility knife), four for their second drug/alcohol offense, and four for vandalism and threats. One high school student was expelled for assault, one for assault/staff, two for weapons (pellet gun), one for firearms, and 34 for sales or second offense drug/alcohol.

## **Expulsions During 2001-2002**

A total of 134 middle school and high school students were expelled by the School Board for various reasons during the 2001-2002 school year. This compares to 116 students in 2000-2001 and 156 expulsions during the 1999-2000 school year. One elementary student was expelled during the 2001-2002 school year, compared to none during the 2000-2001 school year.

Secondary expulsions in 2002-2003 school year continued the upward trend in fighting/assault and drugs/alcohol that was evident last year. More than 87 percent of the total secondary expulsions included either fighting/assault (14 percent), or drugs/alcohol (73 percent). The District has again submitted an application for a Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant. Should the District be successful in obtaining this grant, it is hoped these two categories could be more effectively treated. Planned is a continuation program, pairing our academic component with treatment/counseling by our community partners. The School Board has amended its policy to enable some long-term suspension and expulsion cases to be referred to this program so that young people can continue their education and address their behavioral or substance abuse issues.

## **Causality**

During the 2001-2002 school year, five recommendations for expulsion from middle school were not brought forward to the School Board due to a finding of causality by the IEP team. The incidents and causality are reflected below:

<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Disability</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>
Assault/Staff	Emotionally Disturbed	Wendler
Dangerous Acts	Emotionally Disturbed	Wendler
Criminal Acts	Learning Disabled	Goldenview
Drug Sales	Learning Disabled	Hanshaw
Weapon (knife)	Learning Disabled	Goldenview

Ten high school students found to have causality were not brought forward to the School Board in 2001-2002. This compares to 12 students during the 2000-2001 school year and 12 during the 1999-2000 school year.

<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Disability</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>
2nd Drug/Alcohol	Emotionally Disturbed	East
Weapon (leatherman)	Emotionally Disturbed	Bartlett
2nd Drug/Alcohol	Learning Disabled	Dimond
Threats	Learning Disabled	Dimond
Assault/Staff	Learning disabled	West
2nd Drug/Alcohol	Other Health Impaired	Service
Larceny/Theft	Learning Disabled	West
Drug/Alcohol (Attempted sale)	Emotionally Disturbed	East
Assault of Staff	Multiple Disabilities	Bartlett
Larceny	Learning Disabled	West

### **Discipline Reports**

The elementary, middle school, and high school discipline summaries follow; these are shown for fourth quarter and for the entire school year. Fourth quarter information by school and category for elementary schools is shown on Attachments A and B; elementary cumulative information is shown on Attachments C and D; middle school fourth quarter information by school and category is shown on Attachments E and F; middle school cumulative information is shown on Attachments G and H; high school fourth quarter information by school and category is shown on Attachments I and J; and high school cumulative information is shown on Attachments K and L.

### **Elementary Schools**

Total fourth quarter elementary suspensions decreased from 387 in the fourth quarter of 2000-2001 to 370 suspensions in the fourth quarter of 2001-2002. There were, however, fourteen sexual harassment incidents compared to eight in the fourth quarter of 2000-2001. All other categories showed a decrease except fighting (an increase of one) and willful disobedience (an increase of one) as compared to the fourth quarter last year.

There were seven weapons incidents in fourth quarter 2001-2002 compared to 15 in 2000-2001. There were six drug and alcohol suspensions for the fourth quarter this year compared to four in 2000-2001. Only one police contact was made during the fourth quarter this year in elementary schools.

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Fourth Quarter</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fighting/Threats	126	157	166
Assault	9	14	6
Harassment	4	25	14
Sexual Harassment	9	0	14
Firearms	2	0	0
Other Weapons	7	15	10
Drugs/Alcohol	8	4	6
Tobacco	3	3	0
Disobedience	17	42	43
Other	102	127	111
<b>Totals</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>370</b>

Among incidents listed in the “Other” category are larceny/theft (nine), profanity/obscenity (23), vandalism (seven), dangerous actions (27), and false witness/lying (1).

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Expulsions Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fourth Quarter	3	0	0

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Findings of Causality Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fourth Quarter	0	0	0

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fourth Quarter	32	60	50

**Elementary 2001-2002  
Yearly Suspension by Category Report**

<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>1999-2000</u></b>	<b><u>2000-2001</u></b>	<b><u>2001-2002</u></b>
Drugs/Alcohol	18	10	16
Fighting/Threats	444	443	458
Assault	28	40	29
Weapons	19	29	30
Firearms	2	0	0
Harassment	15	27	27
Sexual Harassment	21	21	22
Other	353	425	439
<b>Totals</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>1,021</b>

In comparing the cumulative yearly totals for the past three years, suspensions for elementary students have increased each year except in the firearm category. There have been no firearms incidents in elementary schools for the past two years.

**Elementary 2001-2002  
Yearly Expulsions by Category Report**

<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>1999-2000</u></b>	<b><u>2000-2001</u></b>	<b><u>2001-2002</u></b>
Drugs/Alcohol	1	0	0
Firearms	2	0	0
Weapons	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Middle Schools**

The suspension rate for the fourth quarter of the 2001-2002 school year for grade 6 (Mirror Lake only), 7, and 8 is 1,064 suspensions, an increase from the 846 suspensions during 2000-2001. Categories showing increases are fighting/assault (174 to 269) and harassment (56 to 75). Included in the increased number of suspensions in the "Other" category are profanity/obscenity (106) and dangerous actions or materials (199). Of the 269 suspensions for fighting

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fighting/Threats	127	137	254
Assault	12	37	15
Harassment	23	42	47
Sexual Harassment	13	9	21
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	12	7	9
Drugs/Alcohol	7	28	38
Tobacco	6	1	5
Willful disobedience	31	56	75
Other	413	529	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>1,064</b>

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fighting	1	4	2
Assault/Staff	0	0	1
Harassment	0	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	9	2	2
Drugs/Alcohol	4	2	4
Tobacco	0	0	0
Willful disobedience	0	0	0
Other	12	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>

There is one recommendation for expulsion pending a hearing by the School Board for an incident that occurred during fourth quarter 2001-2002. The hearing will be held during first quarter 2002-2003.

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Expulsions by School**

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Central	Drug Sales (2)
Central	Weapon (1)
Clark	Assault/ Staff (2)
Clark	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (1)
Clark	Fighting (1)
Goldenview	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (1)
Gruening	Threat/Staff (1)
Mears	Weapon (1)
Mirror Lake	Vandalism (3)

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Findings of Causality**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Drug Sales-Hanshew (learning disabled)			1
Weapon(knife)-Goldenview (learning disabled)			1
Threats to school-Central (emotionally disturbed)		1	
Burglary/weapon-Wendler (learning disabled)	1		
Threat to staff- Wendler (learning disabled)	1		

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fourth Quarter	111	143	189

**Middle School 2001-2002  
Yearly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fighting/Threats	497	562	721
Assault	85	90	64
Harassment	104	131	143
Sexual harassment	27	43	62
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	31	19	28
Drugs/Alcohol	81	106	134
Tobacco	33	16	15
Willful disobedience	140	137	180
Other	1,287	1,426	1,548
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>2,895</b>

Middle school yearly suspension rates have increased steadily for the last few years. The suspension increases are attributed partly to the increase in the middle school enrollment and to the schools' quick responses to inappropriate behavior.

**Middle School 2001-2002  
Yearly Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fighting/Assault	4	8	9
Harassment	0	1	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	8	3	5
Drugs/Alcohol	8	5	20
Willful disobedience	0	0	0
Other	19	4	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>40</b>

Although the number of suspensions increased in several categories, expulsions remained relatively the same except for drugs/alcohol, which increased considerably this year. Most of the increase is attributable to a short period of time during which ecstasy was widely distributed. The Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Police Department addressed this issue quickly, and the expulsion rate for drugs fourth quarter returned to the previous rate. It is felt that with early response to inappropriate behavior the schools set guidelines for students before more serious disciplinary action became necessary.

## **Polaris K-12 School**

Seventeen students were suspended from Polaris K-12 School during the fourth quarter of 2001-2002, compared to 11 suspensions for the same period in 2000-2001. There were no recommendations for expulsion for fourth quarter 2001-2002, nor for the 2001-2002 school year compared to the one expulsion for a second drug/alcohol violation during in 2000-2001.

### **Polaris Fourth Quarter Suspension Report Suspensions by Category**

<b>Offense</b>	<b><u>1999-2000</u></b>	<b><u>2000-2001</u></b>	<b><u>2001-2002</u></b>
Fighting/Assault	0	0	0
Harassment	0	4	1
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	0	0	0
Drugs/Alcohol	1	1	0
Tobacco	1	0	1
Willful Disobedience	2	0	2
Other	11	6	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>

## **High Schools**

There were 756 high school suspensions for fourth quarter of the 2001-2002 school year, compared to 718 suspensions in the fourth quarter of 2000-2001.

Among the categories showing increases are fighting/threats (from 86 to 114), assault (17 to 27), drug/alcohol (85 to 108) and weapons (1 to 7). Both harassment and sexual harassment incidents decreased

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fighting/Threats	47	86	114
Assault	17	17	27
Harassment	8	30	28
Sexual Harassment	10	12	5
Firearms	2	1	1
Weapons	1	1	7
Drug/Alcohol	47	85	108
Smoking	20	8	15
Willful Disobedience	34	23	40
Other	275	455	411
<b>Totals</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>756</b>

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Assault	3	1	1
Assault/Staff	1	1	1
Weapons	1	1	1
Firearms	2	1	1
Drug/Alcohol	28	16	34
Threats to Staff	0	0	0
Fighting/Threats	0	4	0
Harassment	0	0	0
Gang-Like activity	3	0	0
Dangerous Actions	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>

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

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Benny Benson	2nd Drug/Alcohol (5)
Bartlett	2nd Drug/Alcohol sales (3) Sexual Assault (1)
Chugiak	2nd Drug/Alcohol (3)
Dimond	2nd Drug/Alcohol (4) Assault/Staff (1)
East	2nd Drug/Alcohol (6) Drug/Alcohol/Sales (2) Weapon/Dangerous Acts (1)
Service	2nd Drug/Alcohol (9) Firearm (1) Weapon (1)
West	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1) Larceny/Auto (1)

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Finding of Causality Comparison**

<b>Fourth Quarter</b>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
2nd Drug/Alcohol			
Service, Traumatic Brain Injury	1		
Service Traumatic Brain Injury		1	
Assault			
East, Emotionally Disturbed/ Learning Disabled	1		
Threats to School			
Chugiak, Emotionally Disturbed		1	
KCC, Mentally Retarded		1	
Service Learning Disabled		1	
Drug/Alcohol (attempted sale)			1
East, Emotionally Disturbed			1
Assault/Staff			1
Bartlett, Multiple Disabilities			1
Larceny			1
West, Learning Disabled/written language placed at MYC			1

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report  
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fourth`	47	69	85

**High School 2000-2001  
Yearly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fighting/Threats	297	392	458
Assault	90	79	76
Harassment	99	86	97
Sexual Harassment	31	37	24
Firearms	7	4	2
Weapons	40	43	36
Drugs/Alcohol	385	445*	464*
Tobacco	78	47	44
Willful Disobedience	136	149	167
Other	1,279	1,713**	1,633
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>3,001</b>

Included in the “Other” category are 414 suspensions for students who refused the options for suspension.

\*Vigilance by staff members, coupled with substance availability, have served to increase figures for drug/alcohol suspensions.

\*\*The large number in the other category in 2000-2001 includes significant numbers of students who were sanctioned for being an accessory to an act (watching organized fights).

**High School 2000-2001  
Yearly Expulsion by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Fighting/Assault	10	12	9
Firearms	7	4	1
Drive-by Shootings	5	0	0
Weapons	5	5	3
Drugs/Alcohol	77	68	78
Other	10	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>95</b>

Incidents in the “Other” category for 2001-2002 include larceny (1), threats (1) and vandalism (2).

CC/JC/PM/GO/MH

Attachments

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