

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #68 (2002-2003)

October 14, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CONTINUATION GRANT AWARD:  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELING: CREATING  
SUCCESSFUL FUTURES

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Office, in the amount of \$329,248. The *Creating Successful Futures* (CSF) project provides counseling services that focus on prevention and early intervention for elementary students.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School District Elementary Education Department has received a continuation grant award from the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools program, for the third year of a three-year project that was initiated during the 2000-2001 school year. The federal competition calls for innovative and promising approaches to counseling programs in elementary schools. The first tier of this two-tiered initiative provides counselors for two elementary schools that previously did not have counselors. These counselors are developing an exemplary counseling program along with a school-wide discipline plan at each site. The second tier has established a focused counseling program that intervenes with high-risk behavior on the part of identified elementary students. This individualized program helps students learn and practice pro-social behaviors in the regular school setting. Williwaw Elementary School houses this program. Referrals from elementary schools throughout the District are accepted, with a target of 40-50 kindergarten, first, second, and third-grade students served at Williwaw throughout the school year. The project also provides professional development for school counselors, instructional staff, and parents to support prevention and intervention strategies.

This grant does not include a cash match. In-kind components consist primarily of regular District staffing and supplies. Release time at up to 20 days is for classroom teachers from CSF students' home schools to observe the CSF classroom; and to plan with CSF staff, students, and parents for students' transition back to the regular classroom.

The June, 2002 grant evaluation included the following information:

In 2001-2002, 54 behaviorally and emotionally distressed children from 29 schools received individualized personal, social and academic support at the intensive site.

The CSF transitional counselor made over 1,500 contacts with students, parents, school personnel and agencies regarding the CSF program. In addition to these contacts, 1,377 students in 54 schools received guidance lesson instruction that focused on proactive problem solving and conflict resolution. These were classrooms from which students were referred for the CSF intensive site program.

In evaluations provided by elementary teachers and principals with regard to the intensive site services and effectiveness, on a 5 point scale with 5 as high, teachers rated the site at 4.08 and principals rated it at 4.74.

Feedback collected from parents of students served at the intensive site was summarized in these responses:

- "My child is eager to do his homework, which before he wasn't."
- "[My child has learned] redirection of energy or attention, resolving situations without physical contact."
- "[This experience has] helped my child deal with change."

Budget Summary, Year Three (FY 2002-2003):

Personnel	\$215,034
Substitutes	3,280
Fringe Benefits	55,292
Supplies	13,146
Contractual	18,000
Out of District Travel	2,700
Telephone	1,500
Other	4,200
Indirect Costs	<u>16,096</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$329,248</u>

CC/JC/PM/BT

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