

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #82 (2002-2003)

October 14, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT: 21st  
CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS -ALASKA  
COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for after-school and summer programs through the Alaska Community Learning Centers Program. This state competition carries forward the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program through the No Child Left Behind Federal authorization. The Anchorage School District (ASD) application will propose the establishment of five additional after-school 21st Century programs in five high-needs schools, through a five-year grant period, at up to \$500,000 per year.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has issued a grant competition for programs that provide learning opportunities for children and youth beyond the regular school hours in communities with high needs. This grant program, which extends and reflects the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, supports school-based centers that create an enriching, safe, and drug-free environment for extended learning. These centers operate with the support and involvement of the community. Through Community Schools, the District in FY 2000 won two 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants for a three-year granting period. These centers serve students in five middle schools and twelve elementary schools.

The new competition specifies a program of expanded learning opportunities that assist students to meet or exceed state and local standards in core academic subjects. The competition also calls for additional services, such as youth

•

development activities, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling, art, music, recreation, technology education, and character education programs. Programs are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program. Centers will offer families of students opportunities for literacy and related education or career development. Competition guidelines require collaboration with community organizations. Suggested program models call for qualified instructors and activity leaders, a low adult/child ratio, and nutritious snacks and transportation. The District's application will establish programs in five additional elementary schools based on Title 1 school improvement eligibility.

The preliminary budget estimate is \$500,000 each year, at approximately \$100,000 per site, for a five-year grant period. This amount funds staff, including full-time coordinators at each school; staff development for teachers, paraprofessionals and community members who deliver programs; added duty for teachers; contractual services; program materials; transportation for students; food; external evaluation; and ancillary items. The budget will not include release time. Staff development takes place out of school. The budget will coordinate Federal funds through project management funded by current 21st Century grants, and the work of other Federal programs in the schools. Local in-kind contributions will include training, principals' time, and use of school facilities.

The FY 2001-2002 evaluation report of Anchorage 21st Century Community Learning Centers by Northwest Regional Educational Laboratories focused on teacher and student surveys to measure the mid-term impact of the program on students who attended regularly. Findings showed that academic, attendance, behavioral and attitudinal improvements were significantly more positive as the programs grew and children had more longevity in them. Evaluators suggest that centers continue to build on their successes and continue to use approaches that address all student needs.

CC/JC/PM/DB/BH/BT

Prepared by: Patricia McRae, Executive Director, Elementary Education  
Debbie Bogart, Director, Community Education  
Bonnie Hardy, Manager, 21st Century Community Learning Centers  
Beverly Thornburg, Coordinator, Discretionary Grants

Approved by: Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction