

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #73 (2002-2003)

October 28, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROJECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 30,  
2003

PERTINENT FACTS:

Attachment A presents the fall forecast for the September 30, 2003 Anchorage School District student membership. Table 1 compares the projections by program for September 30, 2003 with the actual totals of September 30, 2002.

**TABLE 1**  
**September 30, 2002 Enrollment and**  
**Fall Budget Projections for September 30, 2003**

Programs	Actual 9/30/2002	Fall Budget Projections 9/30/2003	Difference (+/-) Project. - Actual
Elementary Schools Kindergarten	3,573	3,539	-34
Elementary Schools Grades 1-8	23,013	22,731	-282
Middle Schools	7,756	7,829	73
Senior High Schools	12,919	13,125	206
Other Secondary Schools and Programs	1,641	1,710	69
Pre-Elementary, Level 3 Spec. Ed., and Special Services	1,127	1,267	140
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,029</b>	<b>50,201</b>	<b>172</b>

The following items highlight trends in the 2003-2004 student population forecast:

- The total projection for September 30, 2003 is 50,201 students. This reflects an increase of 172 students from the September 30, 2002 official membership total of 50,029.
- The September 30, 2003 projection for Kindergarten is 3,539 students. Although this Kindergarten projection is less than the 3,573 observed on September 30, 2002, it is 40 students greater than the September 30, 2001 actual. Kindergarten is the most difficult grade to forecast because there is no preceding grade from which to project. The Kindergarten projection for September 30, 2003 was based in part on data obtained from the State Demographer regarding the number of four-year-old students in the Anchorage population as well as the number of live births in Anchorage five years ago.
- Elementary schools are projected to decline by 282 students next year. This is primarily the result of the smaller entering Kindergarten classes impacting the total elementary school enrollment.
- Middle Schools are projected to gain 73 students next year. This can be compared against the observed gain of 177 students from September 30, 2001 to September 30, 2002.
- Senior High Schools are projected to gain 206 students. This increase can be compared against the observed gain of 362 from September 30, 2001 to September 30, 2002.
- The Other Secondary Schools and Programs (secondary students not attending a Middle School or a Senior High School) are projected to increase by 69 students.
- Pre-elementary special education students, Level 3 special education students, and Special Services Program students are projected to increase by 140 students. This increase can be compared against the observed increase of 62 students from September 30, 2001 to September 30, 2002.
- Charter Schools are projected for 1,131 students next year, an increase of 71 students over the 1,060 students enrolled in charter schools this year.
- The minority student population is projected to increase by 2 percent for next year. The minority population is at 41 percent this school year and is projected to increase to 43 percent next year. This will be the fourth year in a row where the minority student population has increased by

approximately 2 percent or more. All of the projected increase in the District membership will be due to an increase in the minority student population.

It should be noted that the September 30, 2003 enrollment forecast is based on the following assumptions:

- The Anchorage area economy will remain at approximately current levels during the 2003-2004 school year.
- No additional charter schools will be approved by the School Board for the 2003-2004 school year. If additional charter schools were to be approved then the total membership for next year would increase by a proportionate amount depending upon the type of charter school approved.
- The average grade to grade survival pattern observed over the past three years will hold constant for the 2003-2004 school year.
- The percentage of minority students in the District will again increase by approximately 2 percent for the 2003-2004 school year. This was true this school year and has been the trend for the past three years. All of the projected growth of 172 students will be due to the growth in minority students. The total minority student population is projected to increase by approximately 1,000 students next year, while the white student population is projected to decrease by approximately 800 students.

Economic and demographic trends will be closely monitored during the 2002-2003 school year. A revised forecast will be issued only if there are significant changes in the observed trends.

The following table compares fall projections to actual membership for the past 10 years. The average error of projection for the past 10 years is 0.645 percent. For any given year a projection error of less than 1.00 percent is considered excellent by professional standards.

**Anchorage School District  
Enrollment Forecasts  
1993 - 2002**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fall Forecast</u>	<u>Sept. 30 Actual</u>	<u>Difference from Fall Forecast</u>	<u>Percent Error</u>
1993	47,600	47,232	-368	-0.78%
1994	48,141	47,609	-532	-1.12%
1995	48,000	47,693	-307	-0.64%
1996	48,170	47,968	-202	-0.42%
1997	48,309	48,793	484	0.99%
1998	49,556	49,551	-5	-0.01%
1999	50,201	49,312	-889	-1.80%
2000	49,297	49,520	223	0.45%
2001	49,663	49,676	13	0.03%
2002	49,922	50,029	107	0.21%
<b>ABSOLUTE VALUE AVERAGE</b>			<b>313</b>	<b>0.645%</b>

Attachment

CC/GV/RA/ODS/sl

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