

Mission: To educate all students for success in life.

2002– 2003 Goals:

- Increase **academic excellence** by emphasizing student achievement, ensuring that each subgroup as designated by No Child Left Behind and the Quality School Initiative will make adequate yearly progress, developing respect for diversity, maintaining quality staff retention, recruitment and training, and maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning.
- Establish a **supportive learning environment** by providing safe and caring schools which are barrier-free, by promoting health, wellness, preparedness, and by collaborating with other community agencies where appropriate.
- Ensure **public accountability** by continued participation in the State and federal required testing programs, through wise use of financial resources, through construction and maintenance of facilities, and through effective communication to internal and external audiences.

We, the Anchorage School Board, Superintendent and district staff commit that:

1. Students will demonstrate academic excellence as indicated by performance on State and District measures of academic performance. Students from all subgroups will make adequate yearly progress toward meeting Anchorage and State Benchmarks for Reading, Writing, and Math. Performance will be assessed on:
 - a. Alaska Benchmark Exams (Grades 3-6-8)
 - b. Terra Nova Basic Skills Exams (Grades 4,5,7, and 9)
 - c. Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying ExamThese various assessments will provide information on the status of student group performance at grade levels 3-10.
- 2) A higher percentage of students will acquire basic skills and strategies to read independently by the end of the third grade as indicated by:
 - Meeting the Alaska standard for performance on the grade three Alaska Benchmark Reading Exam
 - Teacher assessment. Teacher pre and post assessment using a variety of measures as well as teacher observation and judgment will be used.
- 3) A higher percentage of students will demonstrate a high level of math skills at the end of each grade level in grades three through ten. Performance will be assessed based on:

- The percentage of students meeting State standards in mathematics as indicated on Alaska Benchmark Examinations, Terra Nova, and the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam will increase.
 - The percentage of students who have been successful in completing Algebra 1 in grade 8, Geometry in grade 9, and Algebra 2 in grade 10 will increase. Grades earned in each class will also be reported.
 - Student grades and credits earned by students in Algebra classes for each middle and high school will be reported by student grade level.
 - The District will continue to develop and implement training in math content and teaching strategies for elementary and middle school teachers.
 - The District will work with students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, and community representatives to increase expectations for elementary, middle and high school math.
 - The District will begin to align its K-12 curriculum to State and District performance standards, as indicated in the curriculum audit. This will include model lessons and pacing guides for teachers.
- 4) All students will demonstrate a high level of spelling skills or growth in spelling at the end of each grade level in grades 2 through 10.
- The number of students achieving proficiency in the conventions of writing (spelling, punctuation, capitalization usage) will increase as measured by the Alaska Student Assessment system in grades 3-10.
- 5) There will be a decrease in the drop out rate of middle school and high school students as compared to the 2001-2002 school year.

We, the Anchorage School Board, Superintendent and district staff will focus on:

- Developing a preliminary six-year instructional plan to address the recommendations in the curriculum audit particularly the achievement gap that exists throughout the district.
- Beginning the alignment of the K-12 math curriculum.
- Strengthening the effective delivery of instructional services to students using all financial resources available.
- Attempting to minimize the impact of budget constraints on student achievement.
- Increasing parental and community awareness of the critical role families and the community play in the academic success of students.
- Continuing to create positive community relations and understanding of issues critical to the Anchorage School District by establishing coalitions with parents, business leaders and political leaders at all levels.

- Continuing to refine our emergency preparedness in order to keep our schools and facilities safe and barrier free, and our students and staff free from disruptions to the teaching and learning environment.