

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #136 (2002-2003)

December 9, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FIRST QUARTER SUSPENSION/WEAPONS/EXPULSION
REPORT - 2002-2003

PERTINENT FACTS:

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. The information is shown in the narrative information below and as Attachments A-F.

First Quarter Expulsion

Sixteen students, including seven middle school students and nine high school students, were expelled by the School Board during the first quarter of the 2002-2003 school year; no elementary students were expelled. This compares to fourteen students expelled during the first quarter of 2001-2202. Of the middle school expulsions, one was for fighting/assault, two were for second offense drug/alcohol, two for threats, and two for vandalism. All nine high school expulsions were second offense drug/alcohol.

Discipline Reports

The elementary, middle, and high school discipline summaries follow: elementary first quarter by school and category (Attachment A & B); middle school first quarter by school and category (Attachment C & D); and high school first quarter by school and category (Attachment E & F).

Elementary Schools

The suspension report for the 2002-2003 school year (reasons for suspension and suspensions for the first quarter) is attached for your information. Also attached is a chart comparing suspensions by category and by repeaters for the last three years. Suspensions involving weapons and drugs and alcohol, as well as suspensions that are gang related, racially motivated, or deal with sexual harassment are compared in this narrative for the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003

school years. There were no expulsions or findings of causality for the first quarter of the 2002-2003 school year.

Suspensions during the first quarter of the 2002-2003 school year decreased from 135 the first quarter of 2001-2002 to 120 for 2002-2003. There were seven weapons violations, (a leatherman tool and six knives) which resulted in suspension during the first quarter; there were also seven reported weapons incidents during the first quarter of 2001-2002.

There were three drug and alcohol suspensions for the first quarter this school year compared to four during the first quarter last year. There were no gang-related incidents to report during the first quarter of 2002-2003, as was the case in 2001-2002. There were no racially motivated offenses reported for the first quarter, there was one incident last year. There have been ten sexual harassment suspensions this year as compared to three last year.

**Elementary First Quarter Suspension Report
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

First Quarter Offense	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Assault	57	67	49
Sexual Harassment	3	3	0
Harassment	3	3	10
Firearms	0	0	0
Other Weapons	3	7	7
Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco	1	4	3
Willful Disobedience	4	10	13
Other	43	41	38
Totals	114	135	120

Among incidents listed in the "Other" category are profanity/obscenity (5), vandalism (44), dangerous actions (8), and general disruptive behavior (15).

**Elementary First Quarter Suspension Report
Quarterly Elementary Expulsions Comparison**

Quarter	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
First Quarter	0	0	0

**Elementary First Quarter Suspension Report
Findings of Causality Comparison**

Quarter	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
First Quarter	0	0	0

**Elementary First Quarter Suspension Report
Repeaters Comparison**

Quarter	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
First Quarter	12	14	16

Middle School

The number of students suspended for the first quarter of the 2002-2003 School Year for grade 6, (Mirror Lake only), 7 and 8 is 519. There were 413 suspensions during first quarter in 2001-2002. This is an increase of 106 suspensions as during the same period in 2001-2002.

The category of fighting/assault shows the largest increase of 66 suspensions, from 112 to 178. The drug/alcohol and tobacco categories maintained their low numbers with 14 and 3 suspensions respectively. In the “other” category, there was an increase in the number of suspensions for dangerous actions or materials from 66 to 88 an increase of 22. There was a decrease of 7 suspensions for harassment from 45 to 38 and an increase of 18 in the disobedience category. Of the 519 students suspended, 72 were repeaters.

The increase in suspensions occurred for a variety of reasons. The schools are taking steps to be proactive in stopping aggressive and bullying behaviors both by establishing and enforcing an appropriate disciplinary process, and by implementing violence prevention programs within the school; the enrollment at Middle Schools has increased steadily over the last few years; and a second assistant principal was assigned to three of the Middle Schools.

In order to further address aggressive and bullying behaviors a joint program by the Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Police Department will be put in place second semester at Clark. Through this effort a research-based program called “Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders” will be taught to the students by police officers and school personnel. Additionally, middle school administrators

and RCCP (Resolving Conflict Creatively Program) peaceable coordinators will be trained to present this program at other middle schools.

**Middle School First Quarter Suspension Report
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Assault	136	130	199
Harassment	33	45	38
Firearms	0	0	0
Other Weapons	6	5	5
Drugs/Alcohol/ Tobacco	18	12	14
Disobedience	10	4	3
Other	222	18	36
Totals	425	199	224

**Middle School First Quarter Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Assault	2	0	1
Harassment	0	0	0
Firearms	0	1	0
Other Weapons	0	1	0
Drugs/Alcohol/ Tobacco	2	1	2
Disobedience	0	0	0
Threats to Staff	0	0	0
Other	1	0	4
Totals	5	5	7

A total of seven middle school students were expelled by the School Board during the first quarter of 2002-2003, an increase of four from the previous year. Two expulsions were for threats, two for vandalism, one for assault, and two for a second drug/alcohol offense.

Two students were not expelled due to a finding of causality.

**Middle School First Quarter Suspensions/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by School**

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Central	Threats to bring and use a weapon
Clark	Threats to bring and use a weapon
Goldenview	Vandalism (2)
Mears	Assault/Gang Related
Mirror Lake	2nd Drug/Alcohol (2)

**Middle School First Quarter Suspension Report
Findings of Causality Comparison**

First Quarter	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Assault of Staff/Wendler (Emotionally Disturbed)	0	1	0
Assault of Staff/Hanshew (Multiple Disabilities)	0	0	1
Threats to School/Clark (Learning Disabled)	0	0	1
Threats to Harm Self/Romig (504 Plan)	0	0	1

**Middle School First Quarter Suspension Report
Repeaters Comparison**

Quarter	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
First Quarter	69	50	72

Polaris K-12

Polaris K-12 had 16 suspensions during the first quarter of 2002-2003; one for profanity, one for dangerous actions or materials, seven for general disruptive behavior, one for willful disobedience, one for lying and one for "other". Polaris K-12 had no expulsions for the first quarter of 2002-2003.

High Schools

The number of high school suspensions for the first quarter of the 2002-2003 school year is 710, an increase of 14 suspensions, as compared to the first quarter of last year.

When comparing first quarter 2002-2003 to the first quarter 2001-2002, suspensions increased in the following categories: fighting/threats up from 126 to 168; drug/alcohol up from 105 to 131; smoking suspensions up from eight to 38; and willful disobedience from 32 to 61. Harassment incidents have decreased from 37 to 20; and weapons incidents were down by three.

**High School First Quarter Suspension Report
Suspensions by Category Comparison**

Offense	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Fighting/Threats	129	126	168
Assault	24	14	13
Harassment	27	37	16
Firearms	1	0	0
Weapons	8	14	11
Drug/Alcohol	93	105	131
Smoking	13	8	38
Willful Disobedience	27	32	61
Other	273	360	272
Totals	595	696	710

**High School First Quarter Expulsion Report
Expulsions by Category Comparison**

Offense	2001-2002	2001-2002	2002-2003
Assault	0	0	0
Assault/Staff	0	0	0
Weapons	0	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Drug/Alcohol	9	11	9
Threats to Staff	1	0	0
Fighting/Threats	0	0	0
Harassment	0	0	0
Totals	10	11	9

There were nine expulsions for drug/alcohol offenses during the first quarter of this school year. Additionally, 14 incidents occurred in late September and early October; Board hearings were held on October 28th and those expulsions will be counted on the second quarter report. Currently, the disposition of 13 students recommended for expulsion during the first quarter is pending Board action.

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

School	Offense
Dimond	2nd Drug/Alcohol (2)
East	2nd Drug/Alcohol (1)
Service	2nd Drug/Alcohol (6)

**High School First Quarter Suspension Report
Finding of Causality Comparison**

First Quarter	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Harassment/Sexual (Chugiak) (Emotionally Disturbed)	1	0	0
2nd Drug/Alcohol (East) (Emotionally Disturbed)	0	1	0
Weapon (Leatherman) (Bartlett) (Emotionally Disturbed)	0	1	0
2nd Drug Alcohol (Service) (Learning Disabled/Math))	0	0	1

**High School First Quarter Suspension Report
Repeaters Comparison**

First Quarter	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
	63	69	80

Repeat offenses would not necessarily be in the same category. A student that has been suspended on first Drug/Alcohol violation, for instance, may later be suspended for a different infraction and be listed as a repeater.

Charter Schools

All three charter schools had suspensions during the first quarter of 2002-2003. One Family Partnership Charter School student was suspended for fighting, and two Aquarian Charter School students were suspended for fighting. There were five suspensions at Village Charter School (students are suspended for their third infraction, regardless of what it is); these include such things as disruptive behavior, fighting, throwing rocks, and other violent acts. One special education student was suspended for assaulting a teacher.

There were no expulsions for charter school students.

CC/JC/PM/GO/MH/mlh

Attachments

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