

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #173 (2002-2003)

February 10, 2003

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 332.3 LOTTERY
PROCEDURES (FIRST READING)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the proposed changes to School Board Policy 332.3, Lottery Procedures. (Attachment A)

PERTINENT FACTS:

To resolve allegations presented in a complaint filed with the US Office of Civil Rights (OCR), the Anchorage School District agreed to review and modify the District's procedures for admission to its alternative educational programs to make it clear that the race, color, and national origin of applicants will not be considered in its admissions process for such programs. The major requirement in the agreement reached with the Office of Civil Rights is the deletion of all references in the policy favoring a racial preference. The agreement is provided as Attachment B. On the advice of the District's legal counsel, the Administration is also recommending eliminating gender as a consideration in its admissions to alternative educational programs. All references to racial and gender preference have been deleted in the proposed policy.

In section g., Continued Participation, two sentences were added to allow a child to remain on the waiting list for an additional lottery period if the school was unable to make contact with a parent/guardian within the two-day period. There was discussion that some parents/guardians are out of town during the lottery process and are unable to be contacted or do not contact the school. Rather than remove their children from the waiting list when contact cannot be made, the children will stay on the waiting list through the next lottery. In that same section, the term "temporary" was deleted to indicate that positions would not be held for students who withdraw from the program.

In section i., Waiting List (4), the last sentence was added to delineate that registration in the program should occur no later than five school days after acceptance into the program.

The other changes to the policy were grammatical in nature, corrected dates, and/or clarified existing language.

The School Board Policy Subcommittee reviewed the proposed changes at their meeting on January 17, 2003, and agreed to forward the proposed policy changes to the full School Board for approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENT:

The Administration will work closely with the alternative school principals and their advisory committees, the MECC, and the various ASD advisory committees to encourage applications in the lottery process. Our goal to increase diversity in all of our programs is very important, and the impact of these required changes will be monitored by the Administration. Our programs have been strengthened by our use of the racial and gender balance priorities since 1995.

Attachment

Prepared by: Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent