

#ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #11 (2003-2004)

August 11, 2003

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FOURTH QUARTER AND END OF 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR
SUSPENSION/WEAPONS/EXPULSION REPORT

PERTINENT FACTS:

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. This information, as well as year-end summaries by school and category for each Instructional Division level for the 2002-2003 school year, is shown in the narrative information below and in Attachments A - L.

In accordance with the School Board's adopted goal to "Establish a supportive learning environment by providing safe and caring schools which are barrier free, by promoting health and wellness, and by collaborating with other community agencies where appropriate," all efforts were focused to provide safe and healthy schools. This goal has been supported by the employees at each school as well as by the students and their parents and the business and general community. Again this year, the Anchorage Police Department was extremely supportive in its assistance to the schools. The attached discipline/suspension reports from the elementary, middle, and high schools show the statistics for the fourth quarter and the recently completed school year and the schools' efforts to address this important goal.

Fourth Quarter Expulsions

A total of 21 middle school students and 29 high school students were expelled by the School Board during the fourth quarter of 2002-2003, for a total of 50 students. There were no elementary expulsions during the fourth quarter. Of the middle school students expelled, five were for fighting, one for assault, one for harassment, one for sexual harassment, two for weapons (one knife and one scissors), eight for their second drug/alcohol offense, and three for gang-like behavior. One high school student was expelled for assault, one for assault/staff, one for false alarm/bomb/threat, two for weapons, six for fighting/threats, and 18 for sales or second offense drug/alcohol.

Expulsions During 2002-2003

A total of 152 middle school and high school students were expelled by the School Board for various reasons during the 2002-2003 school year. This compares to 134 students in 2001-2002 and 115 expulsions during the 2000-2001 school year. No elementary student was expelled during the 2002-2003 school year, compared to one during the 2001-2002 school year.

Causality

During the 2002-2003 school year, nine recommendations for expulsion from middle school were not brought forward to the School Board due to a finding of causality by the IEP team. This compares to five students in 2001-2002, and two students in 2000-2001. The incidents and causality are reflected below:

Offense	Disability	School
Assault/Staff	Multiple Disabilities	Hanshew
Threats to School	Learning Disabled	Clark
Threats to Harm Self	504 Plan	Romig
Assault/Staff	Other Health Impaired	Clark
Sexual Harassment	Emotionally Disturbed	Clark
2nd Drug/ Alcohol	Learning Disabled	Hanshew
Assault/Staff	Intensive Needs	Clark
Fighting Threats/Vandalism	Other Health Impaired	Clark
Gang-Like Behavior	Learning Disabled	Clark

Three high school students found to have causality were not brought forward to the School Board in 2002-2003. This compares to 10 students during the 2001-2002 school year and 12 during the 2000-2001 school year.

Offense	Disability	School
2nd Drug/ Alcohol	Learning Disabled/Math	Service
Threats to harm w/ weapon	Emotionally Disturbed	East
Possession of BB Gun	Traumatic Brain Injury	Benny Benson

Discipline Reports

The elementary, middle school, and high school discipline summaries follow; these are shown for fourth quarter and for the entire school year. Fourth quarter information by school and category for elementary schools is shown on Attachments A and B; elementary cumulative information is shown on Attachments C and D; middle school fourth quarter information by school and category is shown on Attachments E and F;

middle school cumulative information is shown on Attachments G and H; high school fourth quarter information by school and category is shown on Attachments I and J; and high school cumulative information is shown on Attachments K and L.

Elementary Schools

Suspensions during the fourth quarter of the 2002-2003 school year increased from the fourth quarter of 2001-2002. There were 420 suspensions in the fourth quarter of 2002-2003 and 370 suspensions in the fourth quarter of 2001-2002. Although overall suspensions increased, there were decreases in fighting/threats (166 to 137), sexual harassment (14 to 8), weapons, (10 to 8), and drugs/alcohol (6 to 4).

Seven police contacts were made during the fourth quarter in elementary schools; there was one during the same time period last year.

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Fourth Quarter</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Threats	157	166	137
Assault	14	6	17
Harassment	25	14	16
Sexual Harassment	0	14	8
Firearms	0	0	0
Other Weapons	15	10	8
Drugs/Alcohol	4	6	4
Tobacco	3	0	3
Disobedience	42	43	47
Other	127	111	180
Totals	387	370	420

Among incidents listed in the "Other" category are larceny/theft (29), profanity/obscenity (40), vandalism (16), dangerous actions (38), false witness/lying (3) and false fire alarm (3).

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions Comparison**

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

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Findings of Causality Comparison**

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

**Elementary Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fourth Quarter	60	50	55

**Elementary 2002-2003
Yearly Suspension by Category Report**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Drugs/ Alcohol	10	16	11
Fighting/Threats	443	458	422
Assault	40	29	38
Weapons	29	30	31
Firearms	0	0	0
Harassment	27	27	40
Sexual Harassment	21	22	35
Other	425	439	543
Totals	995	1,021	1,120

In comparing the cumulative yearly totals for the past three years, suspensions for elementary students have increased each year except in the firearms category. There have been no firearms incidents in elementary schools for the past three years.

**Elementary 2001-2002
Yearly Expulsions by Category Report**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Drugs/ Alcohol	0	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	0	1	0
Totals	0	1	0

Middle Schools

The suspension rate for the fourth quarter of the 2002-2003 school year for grade 6 (Mirror Lake only), 7, and 8 is 886 suspensions, a decrease from 1,064 in 2001-2002. Categories showing decreases are fighting/assault (254 to 184), drugs/alcohol (38 to 31), willful disobedience (75 to 67) and sexual harassment (21 to 17). Included in the number of suspensions in the "Other" category are profanity/obscenity (75), dangerous actions or materials (139), refused option to suspension (46) and general disruptive behavior (114).

Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report Quarterly Suspensions by Category Comparison

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Threats	137	254	184
Assault	37	15	17
Harassment	42	47	49
Sexual Harassment	9	21	17
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	7	9	9
Drugs/Alcohol	28	38	31
Tobacco	1	5	17
Willful disobedience	56	75	67
Other	529	600	495
Total	846	1,064	886

Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report Quarterly Expulsions by Category Comparison

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting	4	2	5
Assault	0	0	1
Assault/Staff	0	1	0
Harassment	0	0	1
Sexual Harassment	0	0	1
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	2	2	2
Drugs/Alcohol	2	4	8
Other	1	4	3
Total	9	13	21

There are three recommendations for expulsion that are pending a hearing by the School Board for incidents that occurred during fourth quarter 2002-2003. The hearings will be held during first quarter 2003-2004. Three recommendations for expulsion are pending forensic evaluations.

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Expulsions by School**

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Central	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (1)
Central	Drug Sales (1)
Central	Sexual Harassment (1)
Clark	Assault/Threats (1)
Clark	Drug/ Alcohol Sales (1)
Clark	Fighting (4)
Clark	Gang-Like Behavior (3)
Clark	Harassment (1)
Goldenview	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (1)
Hanshaw	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (1)
Hanshaw	Fighting/Threats (1)
Hanshaw	Weapon/Knife/Threats (1)
Mirror Lake	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (1)
Wendler	Drug/ Alcohol Sales (2)
Wendler	Weapon/Scissors (1)

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Findings of Causality**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Threats to school-Central (emotionally disturbed)	1		
Drug Sales-Hanshew (learning disabled)		1	
Weapon(knife)-Goldenview (learning disabled)		1	
Assault/Staff - Clark (intensive needs)			1
Fighting/Threats/Vandalism - Clark (other health-impaired)			1
Gang-Like Behavior - Clark (learning disabled)			1

**Middle School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fourth Quarter	143	189	150

**Middle School 2002-2003
Yearly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Threats	562	721	765
Assault	90	64	89
Harassment	131	143	150
Sexual harassment	43	62	60
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	19	28	31
Drugs/Alcohol	106	134	97
Tobacco	16	15	33
Willful disobedience	137	180	233
Other	1,426	1,548	1,582
Total	2,530	2,895	3,040

Middle school yearly suspension rates have increased for the last few years though the 2002-2003 shows a slower rate of the increase. The suspension increases are attributed partly to the increase in the middle school enrollment and to the schools' quick responses to inappropriate behavior.

**Middle School 2002-2003
Yearly Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Threats	8?	9?	14
Assault			4
Assault/Staff			5
Harassment	1	0	1
Sexual Harassment	0	0	1
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	3	5	3
Drugs/Alcohol	5	20	17
Willful disobedience	0	0	0
Other	4	6	7
Total	21	40	52

Of the seven expulsions in the "Other" category, three were for gang-like behavior, three were for vandalism and one was for criminal acts.

Polaris K-12 School

Four students were suspended from Polaris K-12 School during the fourth quarter of 2002-2003, compared to 17 suspensions for the same period in 2001-2002. There were no recommendations for expulsion for fourth quarter 2002-2003, nor for the 2001-2002 school year, compared to the one expulsion for a second drug/alcohol violation in 2000-2001.

Polaris Fourth Quarter Suspension Report Suspensions by Category

Offense	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/ Assault	0	0	2
Harassment	4	1	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Weapons	0	0	0
Drugs/ Alcohol	1	0	0
Tobacco	0	1	1
Willful Disobedience	0	2	0
Other	6	13	1
Total	11	17	4

High Schools

There were 717 high school suspensions for fourth quarter of the 2002-2003 school year, a decrease of 39 incidents as compared to the fourth quarter of 2001-2002.

Decreases were shown in the following categories: fighting/threats (114 to 108), drug/alcohol (108 to 76), assault, (27 to 8), harassment, (28 to 11); smoking (15 to 7), and willful disobedience (40 to 37). Compared to fourth quarter 2001-2002, there were two more incidents of sexual harassment, and three more weapons incidents in 2002-2003.

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Threats	86	114	108
Assault	17	27	8
Harassment	30	28	11
Sexual Harassment	12	5	7
Firearms	1	1	0
Weapons	1	7	10
Drug/Alcohol	85	108	76
Smoking	8	15	7
Willful Disobedience	23	40	37
Other	455	411	453
Totals	718	756	717

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Expulsions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Assault	1	1	1
Assault/Staff	1	1	1
Weapons	1	1	2
Firearms	1	1	0
Drug/Alcohol	16	34	18
Threats to Staff	0	0	0
Fighting/Threats	4	0	6
Harassment	0	0	0
Dangerous Actions	0	1	0
False Alarm/Bomb Threat	0	0	1
Totals	24	39	29

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

<u>School</u>	<u>Offense</u>
Benny Benson	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (2) False Alarm/Bomb Threat (1)
Bartlett	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (1)
Chugiak	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (3)
Dimond	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (5)
East	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (4) Fight/Gang-like Behavior (5) Fighting/Continued Violence (1) Assault (1) Staff Assault (1)
Service	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (1) Weapon/BB Gun (1)
West	2nd Drug/ Alcohol (1) Weapon/Cap-gun (1)
McLaughlin Day Program	3rd Drug/ Alcohol (1)

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Finding of Causality Comparison**

There were no findings of causality for high school students during the fourth quarter of 2002-2003.

Fourth Quarter	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
2nd Drug/ Alcohol			
Service Traumatic Brain Injury	1		
Threats to School			
Chugiak, Emotionally Disturbed	1		
KCC, Mentally Retarded	1		
Service Learning Disabled	1		
Drug/ Alcohol (attempted sale)		1	
East, Emotionally Disturbed			
Assault/Staff		1	
Bartlett, Multiple Disabilities			
Larceny		1	
West, Learning Disabled/written language placed at MYC			

**High School Fourth Quarter Suspension/Expulsion Report
Quarterly Repeaters Comparison**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fourth`	69	85	68

**High School 2002-2003
Yearly Suspensions by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Threats	392	458	546
Assault	79	76	62
Harassment	86	97	54
Sexual Harassment	37	24	24
Firearms	4	2	0
Weapons	43	36	33
Drugs/Alcohol	445	464	417
Tobacco	47	44	81
Willful Disobedience	149	167	213
Other	1,713	1,633	*1,727
Total	2,995	3,001	3,157

*Included in the "Other" category are 584 suspensions for students who refused the options for suspension.

**High School 2002-2003
Yearly Expulsion by Category Comparison**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fighting/Assault	12	9	23
Firearms	4	1	4
Weapons	5	3	6
Drugs/Alcohol	68	78	64
Other	5	4	3
Total	94	95	100

There were seven expulsions for assault and 16 for fighting. Incidents in the “Other” category for 2002-2003 include criminal acts (1), false alarm/bomb threat (1), and threats (1).

CC/JC/PM/GO/MH

Attachments

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