

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #101 (2009-2010)

November 9, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CONTINUATION GRANT AWARD:
READING FIRST

ASD Goal: *The achievement gap will be erased.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for \$347,982.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School District's Elementary Education Department has received a continuation grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for a seventh year of a multi-year project that was initiated in the 2003-2004 school year. This award originally was for five years, but the Department of Education has allowed participating school districts to expend carryover monies and has provided additional funds to extend the life of the grant. Total funding for seven years is \$5,143,310. This initiative provides core reading curricula and extensive professional development for K-3 staff and administrators at Mountain View, William Tyson, Airport Heights, Creekside Park, Spring Hill, and Ursa Minor elementary schools. Its purpose is to ensure that every child can read at or above grade level by the end of third grade. The initiative directly supports the Elementary Education Six-Year Plan.

Reading First funds have been expended for scientifically based curricula at each participating school site. Programs present a comprehensive approach encompassing the five basic elements of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Reading First funds support extension and ongoing support of core reading programs already in place at William Tyson (Success for All) and Mountain View (Reading Mastery). Both of these schools now use the Houghton-Mifflin program in the intermediate grades. Funds also

provide literacy support at each school and the purchase of supplemental materials for schools' libraries, as well as for classroom library materials.

The state Reading First initiative has required attendance by project schools' primary grade staff and administrators at yearly reading institutes. Reading First also requires a distinct battery of reading assessments for all K-3 students in the project schools. The schools have coordinated these assessments with the methodologies already integrated into the district's reading initiative.

The budget provides added duty for paraprofessionals to attend reading institutes and to take part in site-based professional development. The program does not require a cash match. Substantial in-kind contributions have included site leadership by the schools' principals and project management by Executive Director Linda Carlson.

Results from this project have been substantial and student achievement has significantly increased in project schools. This is attributed in large part to the significant commitment and efforts of the school principals and staff.

Budget Summary, Year Seven:

Certificated Salaries	\$ 72,446
Non-certificated Salaries	60,453
Employee Benefits	24,889
Professional & Technical	16,375
Travel	14,000
Teaching Supplies	116,887
Other Expenses	2,275
Equipment	29,900
Indirect costs	<u>10,757</u>
Total	\$347,982

CC/EG/LC/BT

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Approved by: Ed Graff, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction