

# Back to School



## Anchorage School District

### Announcements

- **Registration will be held the week of August 7–11, 2006. See details below.**
- **Students in grades 1-12 start school Tuesday, August 22.**
- **Kindergarten students start school Monday, August 28.**

### Registration

If you need assistance determining the school your child will attend, please call Demographics, 348-5190. All students attending an alternative or charter school for the first time should register at that school.

Proof of residency, such as a utility bill or phone bill, will be verified for:

- new-to-school or new-to-district students (including kindergarten) registering at any school
- all students, new or returning, at those schools which were involved in boundary changes for this school year
- students attending a school on a zone exemption

### Elementary School

All new and returning elementary school students must register on August 8, 9 or 10. Registration is held at each school. Kindergartners must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2006.

#### Register on these dates:

- August 8 . . . . . 9 am–3 pm (last names A-L)**
- August 9 . . . . . 9 am–3 pm (last names M-Z)**
- August 9 . . . . . 7–9 pm (last names A-Z)**
- August 10 . . . . . 9 am–3 pm (make-up, A-Z)**

Students who are not registered will not be placed on a class list prior to the first day of school.

### Middle School

Doors are open from 8–11 a.m. and 12–3 p.m. There is no alphabetical rotation.

**Parents of new-to-district middle school students and in-district transfers should contact their school to schedule an appointment with the registrar.** Schedules not picked up on the assigned day will be dropped from the computer at the end of the day and students will have to reschedule.

- August 8 . . . . . 8th grade**
- August 9 . . . . . 7th grade**
- August 9 . . . . . 7th & 8th grade make-up (4-7 p.m.)**
- August 10 . . . . . Mirror Lake 6th-grade registration  
7th & 8th grade make-up**

### High School

**New-to-district high school students and in-district transfers should call the school to schedule an appointment.** New students may pick up their schedules on their registration date listed below. Students must clear all fines/charges from the 2005-06 school year before they can activate their class schedule. Schedules not picked up on the assigned day will be dropped from the computer at the end of the day and students will have to reschedule.

#### Alphabetical rotation for each day:

- Last name A-L . . . 8–11 am**    **Last name M-Z . . . . . 12–3 pm**
- August 7 . . . . . Seniors**
- August 8 . . . . . Juniors**
- August 9 . . . . . Sophomores**
- August 10 . . . . . Freshmen**

### Kindergarten begins Monday, August 28

Anchorage School District kindergarten classes begin on Monday, August 28.

From August 22 to August 25, kindergarten teachers will meet individually with parents and students for brief orientation and assessment activities. During the orientation conference, parents will complete a questionnaire and students will participate in several activities.

The interaction with the students will help teachers collect information for the Developmental Profile that is required by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. This information also assists teachers in making decisions about classroom instruction and helps establish a positive partnership between the home and the school.

Call Elementary Education, 742-4254, for more information.

### Back-to-school supplies

Supply lists vary according to teacher plans. Specific supply lists will be available at registration. However, there are some school supplies you can purchase that are sure to be used. For elementary students, these supplies include crayons, #2 pencils, pens, scissors, a ruler, glue stick, lunchbox and backpack. Tips for middle school supplies are available on our Web site, [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org).

In addition, a clean pair of athletic shoes (no black or blue soles) for physical education class is also recommended.

Free school supplies and coats are available to families in need through the “HUGSS and Coats for Kids” community partnership. Informational fliers will be available at registration and additional information available on the HUGSS hotline, 644-8477.

### A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Welcome back to school!

The start of a new school year is an exciting time of year. Students are ready to learn, ready to explore, ready to find success. Teachers, principals and support staff are energized and eager to help students reach new goals.

Beyond the usual start-of-school feelings, there are a few **reasons I'm particularly excited about this school year:**

- Our **scores on college-entrance exams (SAT and ACT) have increased** over the last three years and are significantly higher than the national averages.

- We've **expanded our vocational and workforce development classes**—the King Career Center will offer a third shift of daily classes this year for the first time.

- Our four-year high school **graduation rate increased last year**, though we have much work to do to ensure all students complete high school in four years.

- **Schools that have previously struggled with reading, writing and math proficiency have made tremendous gains.** Two prime examples are Mountain View Elementary and Muldoon Elementary schools, whose students have met and exceeded state and federal performance targets for two years in a row.

One other thing that makes me proud of our school district is that **we offer an array of educational choices to suit every family's needs.** In fact, ASD offers more choices in education than just about any other school system in the nation. It's something that makes our district stronger than many others. We are committed to meeting the educational needs of all of our students.

**Most families enjoy our solid neighborhood schools**, and their children are successful there. **Others want an education experience that suits their individual preferences:**

- **ABC schools**, for families who prefer a more structured setting.
- Spanish, Japanese and Russian **language immersion programs**, for families who want their children to become fluent in a second language.
- **Open Optional** programs, for families whose students thrive best when given the personal responsibility to direct much of their own learning.
- **Charter schools**, semi-independent schools established and overseen by parents and community members.
- **Montessori, International Baccalaureate, Multi-Sensory Instruction, school-within-a-school programs**, and others.

**We've got so much to offer to our students and their families:** high quality classroom academics, top notch music and arts, powerful sports and physical education programs, and engaging extra-curricular activities that keep kids interested in and excited about school.

Parents, take advantage of this. **Work with your schools, and support education at home.** Encourage your children to focus on their studies, and to participate in all that their school has to offer.

Whether you're a family with a returning student, a family new to Anchorage, or just new to ASD, **I welcome you to our schools.** I think you'll like it here, and I know your children will have every opportunity for success.

Let's keep this feeling of excitement for education going all year long. I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the school year.

Most Sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*



### Registration for limited-English-proficient students, grades 7–12

The Bilingual Education Program will conduct assessments for placement of 7-12 grade students who are new to the District and have limited English proficiency.

Assessments will be held August 7–10, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the bilingual Newcomers' Center, King Career Center, 2650 E. Northern Lights Blvd. For more information call the Bilingual Education Office, 742-4452.

Matrícula de estudiantes con limitaciones en el idioma inglés, 7-12 grado.

El Programa Bilingüe evaluará a los estudiantes nuevos al Distrito Escolar que tengan limitaciones con el inglés, en agosto 7-10, con el propósito de ubicarlos apropiadamente. Las evaluaciones se llevaran a cabo de 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. en el Bilingual Newcomers' Center, King Career Center, 2650 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

Para mayor información llamar a la Oficina de Educación Bilingüe, 742-4452.

Mo Alo ma Fanau e Faalelava le Gagana Faa-peretania Resitalaina mo tamaiti a'oga e fa'alelava le gagana Faa-Peretania, vasega 7 e o'o i le 12

O le a fa'ataunu'uina e tagata faigaluega mai le Polokalame o A'oa'oga o Gagana e lua, (Bilingual Education Program), ni su'esu'ega mo alo ma fanau e fou mai i lenei itumalo ia Aukuso 7-10.

O le a amataina nei su'esu'ega mai le 8:30 taeao - 3:00 aoauli i le potu ua ta'ua o le Bilingual's Newcomers' Center, i le tuatusi o le King Career Center, 2650 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

A i ai ni fesili i lea fuafuaga, ia fa'afeso'ota'i le ofisa o A'oa'oga a Gagana e Lua (Bilingual), i le 742-4452.

Pagpapatala ng mga mag-aaral na hindi gaanong bihasa sa wikang English, ika 7-12 baitang.

Ang Programang Bilingual ay magsasagawa ng pagsusuri sa mga mag-aaral na baguhan sa Pampaaralang Distrito ng Anchorage na hindi pa gaanong bihasa sa wikang English. Ito ay upang mailagay ang bawat mag-aaral sa klase ayon sa kanilang kakayahanan sa nasabing wika. Ang pagsusuri ay gagawin sa Sentrong Pambaguhang Bilingual (Newcomers Center) na nasa King Career Center, 2650 E. Northern Lights Blvd., 8:30 n.g.- 3 n.h., Agosto 7–10.

Para sa dagdag na katanungan, tumawag sa Programang Bilingual sa 742-4452.

이중 언어 프로그램은 8월 19일 부터 22일 사이에 앵커리지 교육청에 새로이 입학하는 모든 학생들로서 영어가 부족한 학생에게 영어 사용 수준을 알아보는 시험을 실시합니다.

영어 수준 시험은 이중언어 신입학생 센터에서 오전 8:30분부터 11시 30분까지 실시합니다. 장소는 다음과 같습니다. King Career Center, 2650 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

학생들은 성의 알파 순서로 다음과 같은 날짜에 와서 영어 수준 평가 시험과 함께 미리 등록을 할 수 있습니다.  
A-L 월, 화요일 8월 22, 23일  
M-Z 수, 목요일 8월 24, 25일  
추가 안내는 이중언어 사무실 전화 742-4452로 문의해 주십시오.

### For more information

**Anchorage School Board and Superintendent**  
Jeff Friedman, President, 742-6699, [friedman\\_jeff@asdk12.org](mailto:friedman_jeff@asdk12.org)  
Crystal Kennedy, 696-2624, [kennedy\\_crystal@asdk12.org](mailto:kennedy_crystal@asdk12.org)  
Mary Marks, 742-2343, [marks\\_mary@asdk12.org](mailto:marks_mary@asdk12.org)  
Jake Metcalfe, 274-1441, [metcalfe\\_jake@asdk12.org](mailto:metcalfe_jake@asdk12.org)

Macon Roberts, 742-5350, [roberts\\_macon@asdk12.org](mailto:roberts_macon@asdk12.org)  
Tim Steele, 277-7663, [steele\\_tim@asdk12.org](mailto:steele_tim@asdk12.org)  
John Steiner, 696-2629, [steiner\\_john@asdk12.org](mailto:steiner_john@asdk12.org)  
Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, [comeau\\_carol@asdk12.org](mailto:comeau_carol@asdk12.org)

MECAC: The mission of the Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC) is to serve as the voice for families in the Anchorage School District and to promote educational success for minority students. The MECAC meets the third Thursday of every month at 12 noon at 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320.

4600 DeBarr Road, Anchorage, AK 99519-6614 • 742-4000 • [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) • Tune in to cable channel 14

# Back to School



## Student Nutrition

The Anchorage School District provides free and reduced-price meals for elementary, middle, and this school year, high school students. Under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, the household size and income criteria listed below are used to determine eligibility for the 2006-07 school year. This income chart is adjusted each year by the federal government.

### FEDERAL INCOME CHART—REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Family Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$22,663	\$1,889	\$ 436
2	30,525	2,544	588
3	38,388	3,199	739
4	46,250	3,855	890
5	54,113	4,510	1,041
6	61,975	5,165	1,192
7	69,838	5,820	1,344
8	77,700	6,475	1,495
for each additional family member, add:			
	7,863	656	+152

### FEDERAL INCOME CHART—FREE MEALS

Family Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$ 15,925	\$1,328	\$307
2	21,450	1,788	413
3	26,975	2,248	519
4	32,500	2,709	625
5	38,025	3,169	732
6	43,550	3,630	838
7	49,075	4,090	944
8	54,600	4,550	1,050
for each additional family member:			
	5,525	\$461	\$107

You may discuss your application status informally or formally by calling or writing to: Director of Student Nutrition, 1307 Labar Street, Anchorage, AK 99519-3516. Phone: 907-348-5142.

## Breakfast program

Breakfast is available for \$1.05 at the following elementary and middle schools: Abbott Loop, Baxter, Campbell, Chester Valley, Chinook, Chugiak Elementary, College Gate, Creekside, Denali, Fairview, Gladys Woods, Government Hill, Klatt, Lake Hood, Lake Otis, Mt. View, Mt. Iliamna, Muldoon, North Star, Northern Lights, Northwood, Nunaka, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, Scenic Park, Susitna, Taku, Tudor, Tyson, Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, Whaley, Williwaw, Willowcrest, Wonder Park, Clark, Hanshev, Mirror Lake, Romig, Wendler.

Breakfast is available for \$1.50 at the following high Schools: Bartlett, Chugiak, Dimond, Eagle River, East, Service, South Anchorage, West.

## Free and reduced-price meals for students

### Who is eligible

Children from households whose size and income is at or below the criteria are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals for the school year effective July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007. Income plus Permanent Fund Dividend information will be totaled.

A household or family is defined as a group of related or unrelated individuals who are living as one economic unit.

Children who are members of households that are approved for Food Stamps or Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP), or Temporary Assistance to Native Families (TANF) are automatically eligible for free meals.

Foster children, as the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, may also be eligible for benefits regardless of the household income where they reside.

### How to apply

#### Applications must be submitted annually

If your children participated in the free and reduced meal program last year, you have a 30-day (30 school days) carryover period this school year. Your children's eligibility will end on the 31st school day if you have not submitted a new application for the current school year. To avoid confusion and disruption of your students' benefits, please apply early.

Applications will be distributed to all elementary, middle and high schools at registration, and will be available at the schools, ASD Administration Building, and Student Nutrition Dept. Applications are also available online at [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org). Click on "menus" under the Parents/Students section.

Instructions for applying are on the back of the application. More details are available on a separate question/answer sheet. Please submit one application per family.

**Applications must be complete to be eligible for processing.** Information on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and use in Title I grants. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year.

### Special message for Food Stamp (ATAP), (TANF), migrant applicants

Student Nutrition now receives automatic electronic data for the households receiving the Food Stamp/Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) Temporary Assistance to Native Families (TANF) School Meal Direct Certification notices from the Division of Public Assistance. Student Nutrition will send letters advising households of their children's status. Any eligible household not advised through the electronic import process and who have written certification from Public Assistance may submit a meal application or use a regular application listing their case number.

### Transferring schools

Some district schools may be designated to a special category, allowing schools to feed all students free without applications. However, if students transfer within this district to other schools that participate in the Free and Reduced-price Meal Program with applications, then the *transfer student must apply* at that time. Otherwise, it is NOT NECESSARY to complete a new application when transferring between regular district schools. Schools where all students get meals for no charge are: Clark, Fairview, Mt. Iliamna, Mt. View, Muldoon, North Star, Whaley, William Tyson and Williwaw.

### Reapplication

You may apply for benefits anytime during the school year. Families may reapply if household income changes.

### Other benefits

**Anchorage School District Child In Transition/Homeless Project** – contact 742-3833.

**Denali KidCare** – You may be eligible for free health insurance for your children. Call 269-6529 or toll free 1-888-318-8890.

**WIC (Women, Infants & Children)** – You may be eligible for nutritious foods. Contact 257-4633.

## Breakfast and lunch prices

**Lunch full price:** Elementary: \$2.40; middle school: \$2.80; high school: \$3.25

**Reduced-price breakfast:** 30¢; **Reduced-price lunch:** 40¢; **milk:** 40¢.

## Special Education Services

### Contact information

The Special Education Department employs specialists, administrators and teachers with specialized expertise, certification and/or license to design, implement and supervise special education services of the district. The Special Education Parent Resource Center provides a variety of services, information and training for parents of special education students. For more information regarding special education services, please contact one of the following:

<b>STeP Center</b>	
<b>Deb Maynard or Barb Loutrel</b>	742-3872
<b>Preschool and Elementary Special Education</b>	
<b>Dana Dugdale, Director</b>	742-3886
<b>Middle and High School Special Education and Special School Programs</b>	
<b>Cindy Anderson, Director</b>	742-3888
<b>Alaska State School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing</b>	
<b>Lee Waters, Supervisor</b>	742-4243
<b>Related Services (Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Audiology, Speech Therapy, Adaptive P.E., Blind/Visually Impaired Services, Hard of Hearing Services, Assistive Technology)</b>	
<b>Diane Poage, Director</b>	
<b>Cindy Higgins, Supervisor</b>	742-6050
<b>Special Education Administration Office</b>	
<b>Jerry Sjolander, Executive Director</b>	742-4236

### Eligibility for Special Education Services

Two federal laws protect children with disabilities, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act (IDEA) of 1973. Children experiencing disabilities are guaranteed a free appropriate public education (FAPE) under IDEA and Alaska State Regulations. Under IDEA, a child with a disability is one who has a physical or mental disability as defined in one of 14 eligibility categories, the disability adversely affects the educational performance of the child and because of the disability the child is in need of special education and related services. The areas of eligibility are autism, deafness, deaf blindness, early childhood developmental delay, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, specific learning disability, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairment. Section 504 defines disabled as "any person who has a physical or mental disability which substantially limits a major life activity or has a record of such a disability or is regarded as having such a disability." For information about whether your child may qualify for services under IDEA or Section 504, contact an administrator at your child's school.

### Rights of Children with Disabilities

IDEA provides for a Free Appropriate Public Education to all children experiencing disabilities in the least restrictive environment. This means services without charge to the parent, in conformity with an appropriately developed Individualized Education Program (IEP), provided at public expense under public supervision, and which meet the education standards and administrative policies and procedures of the state education agency. IDEA requires school districts to provide parents with opportunities to become involved in their child's educational program and to document that involvement. These rights place responsibility on the parent to become actively involved. Rights to which parents are entitled under IDEA 97 are referred to as procedural safeguards. A copy of the procedural safeguards is available at any school or through the Parent Resource Center.

### Educational needs of children with disabilities

Special education means the specifically designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a

disability. Specially designed instruction means adapting content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the child and to ensure access of the child to the general curriculum. Special education is a service, not a place.

### Services available to children with disabilities

The Anchorage School District provides comprehensive educational services through the Special Education Department to all children who experience disabilities and have additional needs beyond those which can generally be met by the regular classroom program. Special education services are provided in all Anchorage School District schools, including alternative schools, optional schools, charter schools and special school programs. Services are designed by an IEP team in the least restrictive environment, including the parent as a contributing member. IDEA 97 requires that a continuum of special education placements is available which includes support in the regular classroom supervised by special education personnel, direct service by special education personnel in the regular classroom, pull-out time from the regular classroom with service from special education personnel, self-contained special education classrooms, a special school, home or hospital instruction, or instruction in an institution. Since all components of the continuum cannot be provided in every neighborhood school, the IEP teams make every effort to provide the appropriate services for a student in a setting as close to his/her normal classroom as possible. In addition to providing the necessary special education services, the IEP team may determine a need for related services. Related services may include speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, specialized nursing services, audiology services and transportation.

### Confidentiality protections

The district maintains the confidentiality of information relating to students with disabilities. The district must obtain written consent before disclosing personally identifiable information to any person other than a school employee who has a legitimate educational interest, employees of the school in which the child is enrolled, or a representative of the United States Department of Education or the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

## ASD Online — [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)

At the Anchorage School District's Web site, [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org), parents, students, and others can find useful information anytime they need it. ASD Online is a one-stop resource for the answers to all of your questions about Anchorage schools and district policies. Some of the information included online:

- District calendars
- School board agendas, memos, minutes and policies
- Lunch menus and applications for free and reduced-price meals
- Student handbooks
- Employment information, job openings and applications
- School closure information
- Activities/sports schedules
- School construction and remodel updates
- Employee directory
- School and department links and contact information
- News releases
- Cable channel 14 program schedule

The Web site is continually improving due to the tremendous feedback that comes from the public through the Suggestion Box. Superintendent Carol Comeau reads every suggestion submitted and appreciates hearing about what people have on their minds, whether it's a suggestion for a different way to approach a problem or to provide input on the latest topic.

### E-mail lists [www.asdk12.org/asddirect/](http://www.asdk12.org/asddirect/)

Subscribe to one of the e-mail lists we offer to receive timely e-mail about district happenings. The topics covered include announcements/news releases, school closure announcements (delivered to your e-mail address as soon as the closure is announced), and school board announcements.

### New Features [www.asdk12.org/parents/](http://www.asdk12.org/parents/)

Keep an eye on our Parents section – we're pulling together resources, tips and links from across the district to help every parent assist their child in the path to learning. From academics and achievement, to health and safety, and even how to get involved – you'll find it in the Parents section!

What would you like to see on the site? We're always looking for ways to improve, so be sure to stop by the site and send in your suggestions and comments.