



OPTIONS FOR TOMORROW

*Transition Planning for the Future...
Produced by the Anchorage School District STEP Center and
the Secondary Special Education Department*

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Options for Tomorrow is a publication for secondary special education transition planning for the future. It is distributed quarterly (October, January, March and May) through direct mailing to parents of ASD special education students in grade 9 and above. It is also sent out via email upon request. To subscribe to this newsletter: call 742-3868 or email: loutrel_barbara@asdk12.org

In this issue...

Page 1

- Ring in the New Year!
- Career Advisors

Page 2

- High School Graduation
Qualifying Exams
- Accommodations and
Modifications

Page 3

- Accuplacer Early Testing
Program
- Parent Training
Opportunities

Page 4

- Alaska Statewide Special
Education Conference



2008
Ring in the New Year!

A Fresh Start:

The new school semester begins January 7, 2008. If you withdrew from school previously, you can register for classes and special education classes will resume.

Credit Recovery:

Check your credits, and if you need to make up credits, you can do this outside the regular school days by enrolling in the pre-approved ASD classes. Check with your school counselor about this program.

Career Advisors for High Schools

Bartlett HS	Elsie Graham	742-1800
Chugiak HS	Candi Dixon	742-3083
Dimond HS	Shirley Reeves	742-7020
East HS	Vonnie Gaither	742-2283
Eagle River	Pam Pawloski	742-2752
KCC	Liz Lake	742-8999
Service HS	Yuko Bendetti	742-8100
South HS	Ramona Suetopka-Duerre	742-6253
West HS	Denise Martinez	742-2540



High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) for 10th, 11th & 12th graders: April 1, 2, 3, 2008.

April 1 (Reading) April 2 (Writing) April 3 (Math)

HSGQE for 11th & 12th graders: These students will only take the subject areas that they did not pass previously.

HSGQE for 10th graders: This spring is the first time for sophomores to take the HSGQE.

For more information on test preparation go to: www.studyqs.net and www.testtakingtips.com/

Take a practice test: http://www.asdk12.org/depts/assess_eval/

For students on an IEP: If parents and students want to pursue accommodations and modifications for Spring testing, they must see the Special Education Dept. Chair at their school. Modifications must be in place 60 days prior to the exam (by Feb 1, 2008).

The first time to take the exam, sophomores are not allowed modifications of the exam. If they do not pass any portion of the reading, writing or math, they may be able to get modifications for future HSGQE testing.

9th Grade Testing: 9th graders take the Standards Based Assessments on the following dates: April 1 (Reading), April 2 (Writing), April 3 (Math), April 4 (Science)
Make-up for SBAs go through April 9, 2008.

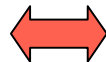
Test Accommodations & Modifications: What's the difference?

Test Accommodations

Do not compromise test validity

Meet specific needs of individual students

Are a change made to ensure an accurate reflection of what the test is intended to measure rather than the student's disability



Test Modifications

Alter what is measured by the test or alter the validity of the result

Modified tests produce invalid test scores for regular assessments and ARE NOT SCORED (with the exception of when a student is approved for a Modified HSGQE)

More isn't necessarily better....

*It is good practice for an accommodation to be used in the student's regular or special education classes for at least three months before using it in testing. An **unfamiliar** accommodation given to a student with a disability can lower test performance results.*

If an accommodation is needed for statewide testing, it is also needed for classroom testing to accurately measure the student's skills learned through instruction.

To find out more about testing and examples of accommodations and modifications go to the ASD website:

*http://www.asdk12.org/staff/johnson_cheryl/pages/statewide_assessment/regular.html#Regaccommod
OR go to the State of Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development website:
<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/accommodations.html>*



Accuplacer Early Testing Program

The purpose of ACCUPLACER is to provide you with useful information about your academic skills in math, English, and reading. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with your academic background, goals, and interests, are used by career advisors and counselors to determine your course selection. The information gained from the testing will give guidance for the need to take additional classes in those subject areas.

For Juniors: The testing dates in the second semester will be set by the individual high schools for February and March. Students can check with their counselors in January to find out the testing dates. King Career Center will host Accuplacer Testing during the HSGQE dates (April 1, 2, 3).

If you are interested in this opportunity, contact your school counselor or career advisor.

Accuplacer is UAA's approved placement test to assess your skills in English and Mathematics. You are only permitted to register for English and Mathematics courses at the level indicated by your Accuplacer test results, ACT or SAT scores.

CollegeBoard's Accuplacer Test Sample Questions: Go to
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/index.html>

Parent Training Opportunities

Stone Soup Group (SSG)
3350 Commercial Dr. Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
561-3701



**Brought to you by
Stone Soup Group**

January

1/8 6-8 pm **504 Plans**, Location - SSG, Anchorage

1/14 12-4 pm **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) 201**, Location - SSG, Anchorage

1/22 6-8 pm **Overview of IDEA**, Location - SSG, Anchorage

February

2/5 6-8 pm **Advocating and Collaborating with Your Child's School**, Location - SSG, Anchorage

2/11 12-4 pm **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) 101**, Location - SSG, Anchorage

2/18 1:15-4:30 **Meeting the Needs of Students with FASD**, Location - ASSEC, Anchorage

2/19 10-11:30 **Positive Behavioral Supports for Parents**, Location - ASSEC, Anchorage

2/19 1:30 - 3:00 **Transition Planning**, Location - ASSEC, Anchorage

3:30 - 5:00 **Stone Soup Group Panel**, Location - ASSEC, Anchorage

2/21-22 **Positive Behavioral Supports**, Location - ASSEC, Anchorage

March

3/4 6-8 pm **Understanding the Evaluation Process and SPED Eligibility**, Location - SSG, Anchorage

3/18 6-8 pm **Secondary Transition**, Location - SSG, Anchorage

3/24 6-8 pm **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) 101**, Location - SSG, Anchorage

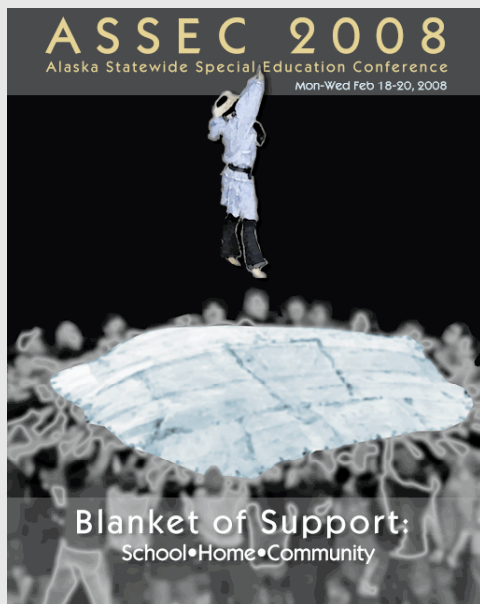
3/31 6-8 pm **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) 101**, Location - SSG, An

**Please call prior to the event to assure that there are no changes
in date or location: 561-3701**



Employment Pilot Project for FASD Affected Youth

Call Catie Wheeler at Nine Star (269-0038) for more information about their new eligibility criteria.



ASSEC 2008

The Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference Association (ASSECA) is a non-profit association comprised of representatives from Alaska chapters of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), CEC Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE), TASH, Alaska School Psychologists Association (ASPA), and Alaska Speech and Hearing Association (AKSHA). This unique collaboration among a variety of professional organizations, all with their own focus related to special education, results in training in a variety of topics of interest to teachers, parents, administrators, related service providers and others.

- * *Mon-Wed Feb 18-20, 2008*
- * *Pre-Conference: Sat-Sun Feb 16-17*
- * *Post-Conference: Thu-Fri Feb 21-22*

*For registration and updates on the conference go to:
<http://www.assec.org/>*

Blanket of Support: School•Home•Community

This year's theme, Blanket of Support, is borrowed from the richness of the Blanket Toss tradition. Originally a way to celebrate the landing of a bowhead whale, the blanket toss became a game for mountain men, Alaska Native people and traders when they got together to trade their furs for cash and supplies. We see school staff, family members and community supports surrounding children as those holding the sturdy blanket, gently challenging children as they "toss" them towards a world of possibilities. The blanket holders' eyes are focused on raising and lowering the blanket to toss the person. In the same way, we challenge and support children while exposing them to the possibilities their future may hold. While they go through school, many see the possibilities of what's in their future. Some simply enjoy the air time, others are kissing the sky, scoping out what's on the horizon and anticipating and planning their futures. This blends with our emphasis on self-determination, school/ home/community partnerships and academic and behavioral interventions that work for Alaska's children.

Autism Strand

This year's Autism Spectrum Disorders Strand again provides a wealth of information for professionals, service providers and families. This third annual set of presentations will include both local and national speakers who will provide information on a variety of topics in the field, including communication, occupational therapy, and behavior supports. This strand is sponsored by the Alaska Autism Resource Center, a program at the Special Education Service Agency. For more information, call Patricia McDaid at 907-334-1300.

Visit their website to see the complete conference schedule. Go to: <http://www.assec.org/> (Click on ASSEC 2008 Register Today. The Registration Packet has the conference schedule)