



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

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STEP: Your Friendly Resource Center...

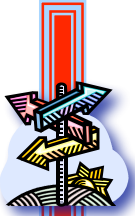


The STEP Center is a division of the Anchorage School District Special Education Department and a resource center for everyone: Students-Educators-Parents. It is located in the ASD Education Center on the corner of Northern Lights Blvd. and Boniface parkway. It has a lending library of books and media that cover a wide range of disability topics. Special Education consultants are available to help answer questions and provide information for students, parents, teachers, and community.

Visit the STEP website to see other resources available:

- Newsletters: Options for Tomorrow, Preschool Press and AK Connect
- Disability Related Topics: An extensive website that provides links to comprehensive disability topics such as autism, ADHD, etc.
- Calendar of events and educational opportunities
- Local and National Resources & Agencies
- Special Education Law Information
- Alaska Family Directory: Find out what is happening around the state.

Website: <http://www.asdk12.org/depts/step/>



College Bound...

Juniors! PSAT test will be given Saturday, October 18th. The test is given at your home high school. This is the ONLY PSAT test given this school year. Students need to register with their home school Career Resource Advisor. The test is only open to juniors and sophomores (on a space available basis)- seniors cannot take the PSAT.

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Seniors! Have you taken the SAT or ACT yet? If not, you should get registered as soon as possible. Seniors planning on applying for scholarships and/or attending a school in-state or out-of-state should schedule a SAT/ ACT no later than December (see schedule listed below)



For more information or to register go to these websites:

SAT – www.collegeboard.org

ACT – www.act.org

2008-2009 SAT Schedule

(Test scheduled at Service High School)

(Test Center Code – 020004) (\$45.00)

Test Date

October 4, 2008
November 1, 2008
December 6, 2008
January 24, 2009
March 14, 2009
May 2, 2009
June 6, 2009

Regular Deadline

September 9, 2008
September 26, 2008
November 5, 2008
December 26, 2008
February 10, 2009
March 31, 2009
May 5, 2009

2008-2009 ACT Schedule

(Test scheduled at Hanshew Middle School)

(Test Center Code - 213990)

(\$31.00 No writing \$46.00 with writing)

Test Date

October 25, 2008
December 13, 2008
February 7, 2009
April 4, 2009
June 13, 2009

Regular Deadline

September 19, 2008
November 7, 2008
January 6, 2009
February 27, 2009
May 8, 2009

Adaptive Sports



Challenge Alaska improves the quality of life for people with disabilities & the whole community through adaptive sports, therapeutic recreation, and education. For more information about their Fall activities call 344-7399 or go to their website at: www.challengealaska.org

The Municipality of Anchorage Parks & Recreation Dept.



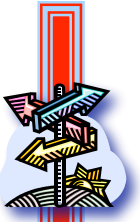
sponsors **Adapted Aquatics** at the East Pool on Saturdays. For more information call Jennifer Thorne: 343-4258 or email: thornejl@muni.org

Yes I Can! Awards



Deadline to nominate is Oct. 14. This award honors students with disabilities who have excelled any of the following categories: Arts, Academics, Athletics, Community Service, Employment, Extracurricular Activities, Independent Living Skills, Self Advocacy and Technology.

For more info e-mail lyndav@cec.sped.org or call 703-264-9478.



Disability Mentoring Day October 23, 2008, Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library



What Is Disability Mentoring Day?

Disability Mentoring Day promotes career development for students and job-seekers with disabilities through job shadowing and hands-on career exploration.

What Happens on Disability Mentoring Day?

The core experience is one-on-one job shadowing. There is a meet and greet session in the morning for mentors and mentees as well as a closing ceremony at the end of the day with several guest speakers of importance from Alaska.

Call to apply: David Barton: 248-4777 ext. 206
For application go to: <http://www.akdmd.com/>

Submit to: (3 options)

Fax to: (907) 248-0639 Attention: David Barton

Mail to: Access Alaska Attn: David Barton
121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 105
Anchorage, AK 99503

Email to: dbarton@accessalaska.org (This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it)



Third Session: Transition to Work Program Fall 2008

Program Intent: Assist students with challenges, grades 10-12, to gain knowledge of skills for successful transition to employment. Students gain experience through work readiness activities, job search assistance, employment portfolio completion or participation in a possible vocational class for career exploration. The program will take place during the 3rd Session at the King Career Center, October 7th- December 4th.

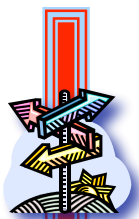


Application process: Must have your school counselor's approval. An Individual Plan of Employment (IPE) can be formed as part of the program.

Measure of success: Students will attend a mini session on work readiness and be assessed as to their abilities through the development of an employment portfolio. This individualized portfolio will contain necessary documents needed for employment as well as letters of reference to support the students' employability. Students will be expected to create and maintain a log of employment related activities in order to receive credit for participation in the program.

Tools of the Trade: Students will create an account and learn the ALEXSYS employment system through the Alaska Department of Labor website. Current job openings will be explored and familiarization of both online and paper applications for jobs will be mastered. Types of jobs to be explored will include federal, state, city, and private industry along with the necessary training for these jobs.

Students will complete a vocational assessment conducted by the instructor utilizing informal and formal tools. These assessments will provide a comprehensive look into the students' academic, spatial abilities, and aptitudes. This report will provide the student with information that can be helpful in future decision making during the transition process from school to work.



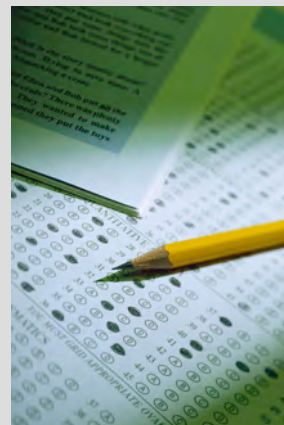
High School Graduation Qualifying Exam

The High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE) measures minimum competencies of essential skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. Passing all three sections of the HSGQE is part of the requirements to receive a diploma in the State of Alaska. The HSGQE is administered twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Students must take the HSGQE for the first time in the spring of the 10th grade. The HSGQE at the 10th grade will generate a score for the HSGQE graduation requirement and a score for assessing the student's performance based upon the Grade Level Expectations for a 10th grader. The HSGQE is offered twice a year, once in the spring and again each fall for 11th and 12th graders. Eleventh and 12th grade students who need to retake one or more subtests of the HSGQE must retest at least once each year until they meet the proficiency requirement. Students receiving a certificate of achievement can retest twice each year until they meet the proficiency requirement. Once the student with a certificate of achievement has passed all the subtests of the HSGQE, he/she will be awarded a diploma

HSGQE:

Fall - Retakes Only:
11th & 12th Graders Only
October 14, 15, 16, 2008

Spring:
10th, 11th & 12th Graders
April 7, 8, 9, 2009



The exam is given over three days, with each day focusing on a subject area: Reading, Writing, Math

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

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

** For students on an IEP: If juniors or seniors want to pursue modifications for Spring testing, you must see the Special Education Dept. Chair at your school. Modifications must be in place 60 days prior to the exam.*