

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #40 (2004-2005)

September 13, 2004

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CONTINUATION GRANT AWARD:
PROJECT MIR - MISSION IS RUSSIAN

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program, in the amount of \$161,245. The project will implement the second year of the K-6 Russian Partial Immersion program at Turnagain Elementary School, with initiation of the kindergarten and first grade classroom programs.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The ASD World Languages Program has been awarded funding for the second year of a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language Assistance Program. This competition supports foreign language study for less commonly taught languages of major economic and political importance to the United States. The Anchorage School District's Russian Partial Immersion program capitalizes on the District's longstanding track record in language immersion and on the city's economic, political, cultural, and social ties to Russia. The grant project is designed for capacity building. By the end of the third year, the program will develop Russian immersion in kindergarten through second grade at Turnagain Elementary School. Based on the District's growth models in Spanish and Japanese immersion, the Russian immersion design expands the program by one grade level each year. From sixth grade, students can matriculate into existing middle school and high school Russian language programs.

The first year of the project was allocated to schoolwide planning and professional development. The kindergarten and first grade classes will begin in

the current school year, with second grade coming on line in FY 2005-2006. The model replicates the District's current language immersion delivery model. Students receive content instruction in English for half of each day and in Russian for half of each day. Russian instruction is delivered by teachers who are native or near-native Russian speakers.

The budget supports a certified project coordinator/resource teacher in the school, professional development for teachers over the three years, materials and supplies, curriculum development, whole-school enrichment, and program recruitment. The second-year budget includes \$1,000 in release time for teachers to observe at other District immersion programs. The grant program does not require a cash match. In-kind contributions consist primarily of regularly allocated FTEs for classroom teachers, regular school budget items, and administrators' staff time.

Budget Summary for Year Two - FY 2004-2005:

Personnel	\$ 71,000
Fringe Benefits	21,000
Supplies	18,000
Contractual	28,479
Travel	6,000
Training Stipends	10,000
Indirect Costs	<u>6,766</u>
Total	\$161,245

CC/JC/EH/PM/JG/BT

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