

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #57 (2004-2005)

October 11, 2004

TO: SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution recognizing the link between student mobility and the lack of affordable housing in Anchorage and advocate for affordable housing.

PERTINENT FACTS:

There are an estimated 3,000+ homeless children in Anchorage, a figure that represents nearly seven elementary schools in the Anchorage School District. In addition, many more children are "highly mobile." The ASD Student Mobility Task Force (2002) reaffirmed poverty as a base cause of student mobility and recommended that the school district advocate for increased affordable housing in Anchorage.

CC/ME/LN

Prepared by: Lori Nakanishi, Communications Specialist
Janet Levin, Child in Transition

Approved by: Michelle Egan, Director, Communications

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
ASDR 2004-2005-3**

RESOLUTION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS, decent, safe, affordable housing is one of the basic necessities of life and is of vital importance to the health and well-being of Anchorage area residents; and

WHEREAS, during the 2003-2004 school year, the District counted more than 2,200 homeless children – sleeping in shelters and motels, borrowing couch space from family and friends, or camping out in tents and vehicles; and

WHEREAS, these 2,200 children are those that are counted, and historically there are many more highly mobile families that are uncounted – bringing the estimated total of homeless children in Anchorage to more than 3,000; and

WHEREAS, these homeless and highly mobile children include preschoolers, elementary, middle and high school-aged youth and create an enormous impact on schools, teachers and other children in the community; and

WHEREAS, reducing school mobility and preventing family homelessness are overlapping goals related to student achievement; and

WHEREAS, today's families face Anchorage's Fair Market Rent (as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) of \$885 for a two-bedroom apartment, and to rent this a family must earn \$17.02 per hour or work 95 hours per week at Alaska's minimum wage of \$7.15 per hour; and

WHEREAS, homeless families who seek public housing assistance wait a minimum of six months before receiving it due to shortages in affordable housing stock; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage School Board recognizes the plight of homeless and highly mobile families and will advocate for the development of solutions by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, private sector developers and homebuilders, and the Municipality, which will result in a plan for an increased number of safe, stable, affordable housing units, which in turn, will diminish the impact on schools and student achievement, and create a healthier learning atmosphere for our students.

AMENDED

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage School Board this 11th day of October, 2004.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

Tim Steele, President

Crystal Kennedy
Jake Metcalfe
Macon Roberts

John Steiner
Jeff Friedman
Mary Marks

Carol Comeau, Superintendent