

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #130 (2004-2005)

November 22, 2004

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD: CROSSROADS SMART  
FAMILIES INITIATIVE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$49,880 for a partnership program at Crossroads School. in parenting.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services' Healthy Marriages Initiative is a competitive grant program funded by federal pass-through funds through the Administration for Children and Families. The purpose of the competition is to support programs that can strengthen two-parent families within marriage. The competition's program objectives include providing youth and young adults with skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about healthy relationships; providing stability for families at risk of fragmenting; and expanding community partnerships capable of implementing healthy marriage strategies.

The Crossroads initiative is a partnership between Crossroads and Chugachmiut tribal consortium to equip parenting teens with relationship, survival, and parenting skills. The project is designed to support the development of skills which can stabilize and strengthen young families, keep teen parents in school, and include teen fathers more fully in the academic, life skills, and support services at Crossroads and Chugachmiut. This effort specifically targets teen fathers, with the purpose of involving them responsibly in the lives of their children and families. The project focuses on both married and unmarried teen families, emphasizing family skills, personal responsibility, job skills, academic achievement, and financial planning.

The Smart Families Initiative combines educational workshops with case management services. Expected outcome measures address improvement on

attitudinal, behavior, and skills assessments; positive time spent with children and significant other; positive and achievable academic, employment, and family goals; realistic plans for self and family support; observable relationship skills; enrollment in school; and academic achievement.

The project takes place during the 2004-2005 school year. Chugachmiut education and social services staff will work with Crossroads staff in after-school and evening workshops for ten teen families, implementing the Smart Families Initiative curriculum. Based on work by the University of Denver, Harvard University, and the University of Minnesota, this curriculum provides 45 hours of contact time in research-based practices sponsored by such organizations as the National Fatherhood Initiative, the National Endowment for Financial Education, the Dibble Fund, and Prudential Youth Leadership Institute. The project also provides case management and health and social services referrals through Crossroads staff, Chugachmiut's staff and community network, and the University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) School of Social Work.

The grant program does not require a cash match. The budget includes one day of release time for training for Crossroads staff. Major budget items support contract addenda for Crossroads staff, stipends as incentive for participating student parents, a contract to Chugachmiut for participation of its Smart Families staff specialist, and external evaluation by UAA. In-kind support consists primarily of time dedicated by Crossroads' principal and Chugachmiut staff.

Budget Summary:

Added Duty - Classified	\$ 4,044
Substitute Teachers	120
Extra Help - Parent Stipends	2,000
Fringe Benefits	1,218
Contracted Services - Instruction	33,100
Mileage	263
Student Travel - Field Trips	750
Teaching Supplies	6,301
Indirect Costs	<u>2,093</u>
TOTAL	\$49,889

CC/JC/MH/KP/BT

Prepared by: Mike Henry, Executive Director, High School Education  
Karin Parker, Principal, Crossroads School  
Beverly Thornburg, Coordinator, Discretionary Grants

Approved by: Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction