

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #231 (2004-2005)

April 11, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF PILOT COURSE: PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to implement a pilot course, Public Safety and Security, as part of the Career and Technology Education program (C&TE) at the Martin Luther King Jr. Career Center. The pilot status enables in-depth curriculum development and assessment of course objectives in an authentic classroom setting. Upon successful completion of the pilot, the program will be presented to the School Board for adoption.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Public Safety and Security (PS&S) is a national designation for a cluster of career fields that have received prominence in light of global terrorism, crime, perceptions of vulnerability, and resource shortages. A growth in PS&S careers reflects a burgeoning global need for personnel in law, law enforcement, public safety, corrections, and security. The need is intensified by the continual creation of new PS&S careers in many areas across the U.S. economy. In Alaska and in Anchorage, occupational forecasts project high needs for people in PS&S careers, with special attention to jobs linked to economic development, resource extraction and transportation infrastructure, tourism and immigration, and urban and rural law enforcement. Forecasts call for significant growth of PS&S jobs over a broad range of industries in the foreseeable future.

The Career and Technology Education program in the Anchorage School District has worked with District, community, and state stakeholders to update and replace obsolete curriculum. C&TE must prepare students for *actual* careers, with the greatest potential, that are most likely to unfold in their world over the

coming decades-- even if we can't yet know the precise nature of these jobs. For this purpose, Public Safety and Security has been identified as an important new curriculum. This career field has a foremost need for qualified workers in Alaska, as well as significant projected growth over many industries in the foreseeable future.

The proposed pilot course for FY 2005-2006, titled Public Safety and Security, is targeted for grades 10 to 12. This initial PS&S course is designed for career exploration in law, law enforcement, public safety, corrections, and security. Curriculum will be defined by units specific to each of these areas, and also by units in leadership, life skills, service learning, and communication. Content will be defined by measurable objectives and by assessment pertinent to each unit of study. The experience will be enriched by interactions with such agencies as Anchorage police, firefighters, corrections, and security companies.

Career and Technology Education's Public Safety and Security white paper and Public Safety and Security pilot program timeline are attached.

Attachments

CC/JC/EH/MH/RR/BT

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Public Safety and Security (PS&S) Pilot Program Time Line:

- 2000-2003 Perceived need for new curriculum to replace outdated and ineffective curriculum. New Career & Technology Education programs must meet new standards for high achievement and employability skills. Public Safety is identified as a possibility.
- Fall 2003 PS&S becomes a front runner as more information and support is acquired. ASD administration is advised and supports the early development of a pilot initiative. Superintendent suggests APD be included. Executive Directors are advised and Assistant Superintendent approves further development in the spring.
- Spring 2004 A team from the Anchorage School District and Anchorage Police Department attend the National Conference – Fostering Careers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, in Los Angeles. Founder of the LAPAMS academies, Roberta Weintraub warns that a school principal is the most important person for the success of a program.
- Spring 2004 Anchorage Police officer Dawn Neer reports to ASD Career & Technology Education Community Advisory Council. The Committee strongly supports the consideration of a PS&S program. A high school principal who strongly supports the initiative is needed.
- Fall 2004 Guy Okada appointed principal of King Career Center and strongly embraces PS&S. Mr. Okada requests help in developing a pilot program proposal. Mr. Okada and Rick Rios collaborate on strategies for successful development of a PS&S program. Plans include community advisors at the early stages. ASD executive directors are informed. Community leaders are contacted for the purpose of identifying important partners.
- An outdated Career & Technology Education program is identified as obsolete and in need of transition. Time becomes critical to develop a replacement program.
- Spring 2005 Rep. Lesil McGuire requests a white paper on PS&S and agrees to attend a kick off luncheon. White paper is distributed to school

administration. Luncheon date is set for April 1 to introduce the development of pilot program. Community and state leaders rally to the early luncheon notice. ASD C&TE joins National Partnership for Careers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security.

Next Steps

- April 1, 2005 Introduce pilot proposal to community and solicit community support and partnerships. Promote ASD's strong support of new programs and innovations in Career & Technology Education. Demonstrate programs that support NCLB initiatives of high academic achievement and relevant workforce development through pathways to college and employability.
- April 2005 ASD and partners attend National Conference – Fostering Careers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, in Tampa, Florida.
- Summer 2005 Curriculum for a pilot course is developed. Instructor job description is developed. Material, supplies and equipment are ordered. Classroom space is identified.
- Fall 2005 Instructor is hired. Pilot course is advertised in all high schools. Performance standards and lesson plans are developed.
- First pilot class is taught at KCC. Refinement of curriculum, standards, lessons and assessments continue.
- Fall 2007 Upon successful completion of pilot program period, and recommendations from ASD administration, application for school board approval is submitted. The program becomes available at additional sites as interest and student enrollment increases and FTE is available.

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Public Safety and Security: A white paper in support of a new to the Anchorage School District – Career & Technology Education Career pilot program. The name of the proposed program is “Public Safety and Security (PS&S).” The name of the initial course in the program is “Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security (LPSCS).”

The Growing Need for Public Safety and Security: Global and Local Concerns

Public Safety and Security (PS&S) concerns have reached high alert and top priority with federal, state and local organizations and with the American citizen. Terrorist activities, increasing crime rates and related, inadequate resources threaten the safety of our nation’s citizenry and our freedoms as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. There are no safe havens without intentional planning and support of PS&S agencies and services. Issues related to safety and security demand precedence in planning, identifying and allocating resources in support of PS&S. The safety and security levels within our schools, homes, businesses and agencies are not negotiable.

For example, airline and airport safety remain vulnerable with far too many breaches of policy and procedures and incidents that place travelers at extreme risk. Providing protection of the public and building trust in procedures and trained personnel are critical if our airline industry is to remain a strong economic force. Likewise, Marine and highway systems fall prey to similar threats and issues of public safety. Public Safety and Security agencies are failing to attract and recruit our best and brightest young people. Critical to the development of a world-class system of public safety and security is career planning and resource identification in our public high schools. PS&S not only offers career and employment opportunities for today’s aspiring youth, but also contributes to the social and economic welfare of our nation.

Our national and state borders are unsafe without better protection from agencies such as Coast Guard, port authorities, customs and transportation safety authorities. Congressional concern for the number of un-inspected containers entering our country, is one example of the growing need. Illegal aliens crossing our borders by land, sea and air, is another example. PS&S is a national and state customs and immigration concern.

Alaskans and world tourists seek adventure in the Last Frontier wilderness of Alaska. The tourism industry grows at an 8% annual rate. Park Rangers, Fish & Game officers, EMT, Rescue, Firefighters, Air and Army Guard units all need more recruits and better training to insure a health and safe workforce. PS&S is a tourist industry concern.

Global protection both within the U.S. and abroad is dependent upon our military’s strength and its ability to recruit bright trainable people. Each branch of our armed forces requires more

volunteers to meet our global protection responsibilities and humanitarian needs. PS&S is a military concern.

Locally, the Anchorage Police department recruits outside of Alaska to meet the growing demand for skilled and capable candidates. The Alaska State Troopers recruit their employment force for training at the Sitka Law Enforcement Academy. The State Corrections agency has an annual 10% employee turnover and is in constant need of new recruits. Correction and probation agencies also lack the resources to attract, train, and maintain a highly skilled workforce. PS&S is a law enforcement, corrections, and rehabilitation concern.

More than four-hundred and thirty-five (435) workers are needed annually to meet the PS&S occupational needs in Alaska, according to statistics from the Alaska Department of Labor. When twenty-four individual occupations related to PS&S are analyzed, a workforce of over thirteen thousand state workers is identified. In the next ten years, Alaska needs eleven-hundred and thirty-eight (1138) new positions and three-thousand seven-hundred and seventy-eight (3778) replacements.

Citizens demand better protections for their schools and communities. Public schools' first line of defense is self-protection and a partnership with community officers. More and more communities are utilizing unarmed community officers. There is a growing need for better trained officers who started their training earlier as a first career choice. Students must be educated regarding the diverse PS&S needs of our communities and various PS&S career opportunities. PS&S is a community concern.

The History of Public Safety and Security Courses

The National Partnership for Careers in Public Safety and Security began in Los Angeles in 1999 with support from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the US Department of Justice. Its mission is to assist schools, communities and other stakeholders in building and improving smaller learning communities focused on law, public safety and security. In 2001 The National Partnership formally became a component of the National Association of Partners in Education, an organization, for more than 30 years, devoted to promoting partnerships among schools and all types of community based and national organizations.

The concept behind this multi-level partnership seeks to merge the need to increase the numbers of those interested in entering careers in public safety and the quality of those entering the field and the need to increase the effectiveness of the public safety career education received at both secondary and post secondary levels. The organizations believe that many of the gains can be achieved through more effective partnerships among schools, public safety agencies and related community based organizations. Additional gains can be achieved by using small learning community concepts, service learning approaches, interactive learning and courses that integrate core academic subjects with the targeted career areas. (NPSCS National Directory-chapter 1, I-1)

Public School's Role in PS&S

Public Safety & Security is a federal career cluster field including areas of law, law enforcement, general public safety, corrections and security. This includes both government and private sectors.

There are thousands of challenging educational and training opportunities within the high-skilled world of Law, Public Safety and Security. Learners need a solid background in math, science and technical skills. Education and training can be obtained in high schools, technical colleges, two-year community colleges, four-year colleges and career technical schools/institutes.

Along the way, career guidance professionals assist learners in assessing their educational goals, interests, abilities and skills to facilitate a good match to the cluster's many pathway options. Learners participate in relevant educational opportunities framed in the context of the cluster. They gain knowledge and skills through coordinated workplace learning experiences such as site visits, job shadowing and internships. If they choose, they may achieve valuable skill certifications that lead to employment. Colleges and universities offer advanced degrees that prepare learners for professional technical careers.

(States' Career Cluster Initiative, U.S. Dept. of Ed.)

There are an estimated 1200 national career programs in law, public safety, corrections and security, according to Joe Coffee, executive director for the National Partnership for Careers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security. Coffee says that there has been a 15-20% growth in the number of programs in the last 5 years.

From the survey completed of high school programs across the country, we know that programs fall into five general categories: whole schools, schools within schools, pathways, centers, and after school programs. Within these categories, there are many variations. Generally, except for the after school programs, most have partnerships with local colleges and almost all programs in the five categories have law enforcement agencies as primary partners.

These programs have a number of different roots, all of which appear to be merging to varying degrees in different states and communities. These roots include 1) traditional vocational and apprenticeships programs, 2) Tech Prep programs which foster high school/community college relationships in targeted career areas, 3) school to work programs which integrate academic and career education with experiential learning in the career areas, 4) the career path concepts which focus on developing career plans early and involving the students in both career related courses and work experiences, and 5) small learning communities where students with similar interests attend the same courses together with the same teachers over a period of 2-4 years. (NPSCS National Directory-chapter 1, I-4)

Most of the high school law enforcement programs have local law enforcement agencies as primary partners. These agencies usually provide significant resources in support of these high school programs. In a growing number of cities, agencies often provide an officer full

or part-time as an adjunct teacher and program coordinator. Where this does not exist, a former law enforcement officer often serves as one of the instructors. It is these programs, with their richness of local support that many in local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and the Police Corps believe are keys to effective law enforcement, good police/community relations and community policing both now and in the future. (NPSCS National Directory-chapter 1, I-2)

Academic Benefits of a PS&S program

Young people are more likely to choose a career in PS&S if they are provided early information and education in high school. Early career choices guide students' education and training through articulated pathways. There are no PS&S courses currently available in the ASD to help form these pathways.

A PS&S program supports all the initiatives of federal NCLB and leads to higher academic achievement. Student achievement is higher when students combine relevant work with contextual learning. Contextual learning connects academic skills with real careers. Students learn better when they recognize the uses of their classroom instruction for both college and workforce employability. PS&S is an education issue.

Other unique opportunities for acclimation to and preparation for law enforcement work can be more easily incorporated into academic work. Science often becomes more exciting to students as they learn biology and chemistry in the context of crime investigation using their own school based crime labs. Physical education becomes more focused as students are challenged by their own agility courses and strength standards based on local law enforcement recruit standards. Most have their own courtrooms where students take the full range of roles in mock trials.

(NPSCS National Directory-chapter 1, I-5)

Furthermore, the Governor's aggressive pursuit of economic development requires more skilled labor. The Knik crossing, gas pipeline, new rail trunks, airport developments, mining and other industrial projects will need security personnel for all aspects of the initial construction as well as the sustainable jobs once they are completed. Governor Murkowski spoke about the need for new and innovative education programs at the National Governors' Association education summit. The governor's remarks followed Bill Gates' critique of U.S. high schools, calling them "obsolete" and saying that elected officials should be "ashamed" of a system that leaves millions of students unprepared for college and for technical jobs. Courses in PS&S can help to alleviate the coming shortfall and provide an answer to the Governor's and Bill Gates' challenges.

An ASD PS&S Program Can Benefit the Whole State

The role of the Anchorage School District's Career and Technical Education (ASD-C&TE) department is to develop new business and industry programs to meet the needs for all Alaskans for the next twenty years. In order for us to be successful, innovative career programs such as PS&S must replace outdated programs with declining workforce demands.

Sadly, smaller districts are closing their vocational programs. The ASD-C&TE department receives strong support from the ASD Administration and School Board, helping us to remain

one of the strongest programs in the state. Old vocational shop programs must adapt to new career demands as they have in the Anchorage School District in order to meet the variety of needs in our student body and in our environment. The ASD-C&TE department provides curriculum, industry performance standards and training to other statewide career and technical instructors. The department believes it has an obligation to a state system. It is committed to develop and implement programs that meet the needs of all Alaskans. Through PS&S courses, we can work to revitalize the smaller districts' programs.

The ASD-C&TE department will host a task force of national, state and local PS&S agencies. An advisory board will be formed to provide sponsorship, curriculum data and support for the new PS&S program. In this way we can stay current and relevant in our courses and have the best information for our students, as well as our partners throughout the state.

What part can the Alaska Legislature play?

- The Legislature can recognize the enormous need for PS&S in our nation, state, and local communities.
- The Legislature can recognize the need for and the important role the high school programs that provide early career education play in fostering PS&S.
- The Legislature can recognize the need for new and innovative career education programs that provide rigorous academic education and improve academic achievement.
- The Legislature can recognize the ability of the Anchorage School District Career & Technology Education Department to provide leadership, support, and training for statewide education initiatives such as PS&S.
- The Legislature can support programs that provide pathways to post-secondary education and training opportunities such as college, tech/prep, apprenticeships and adult academies.

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"Technology – The modification of the natural environment in order to satisfy the perceived human needs and wants" 4/8/2005