

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #336 (2004-2005)

June 13, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD  
FROM: OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT  
SUBJECT: SIXTH GRADE MUSIC ADOPTION

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of the Standard of Excellence band method for use in the sixth grade band program.

PERTINENT FACTS:

This recommendation is based on the research of the ASD Elementary Band Textbook Adoption Committee. The Minority Education Concerns Committee also reviewed the books and recommendations as did parent volunteers from the elementary band program.

The adoption committee conducted an objective analysis of the three leading elementary band books. They included the Yamaha Band Student, and Standard of Excellence. All three books were scored in twenty-nine separate categories, including 1) meets national standards, 2) addresses issues of diversity/fairness (cultural, religious, gender), and 3) accommodates diverse learning styles. The result of this objective evaluation resulted in the final recommendation of the Standard of Excellence.

|                        | <u>Student</u> |          | <u>Teacher</u> |          |
|------------------------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|
|                        | <u>Book</u>    |          | <u>Manual</u>  |          |
| Yamaha Band Student    | 68/150         | (45.33%) | 43/90          | (47.77%) |
| Essential Elements     | 104/150        | (69.33%) | 69/90          | (76.66%) |
| Standard of Excellence | 111/150        | (74.00%) | 77/90          | (85.55%) |

The District does not generally purchase elementary band books. Although the ASD Music Department will purchase a small number of the adopted text, the

majority of books are purchased by each student from local music vendors. Additional funds are not needed for this adoption.

The recommended adoption schedule will take place for the 2005-2006 school year. During the first year of this adoption, approximately one quarter of the elementary schools will continue with the previously adopted book, the Yamaha Band Student. The other schools will move to the Standard of Excellence. This gradual approach is necessary in order to allow local vendors to empty their stock of Yamaha books. Since ASD relies on these vendors to stock up on current music books, it's reasonable to give advance notice of a change to allow them to deplete the books that are being phased out.

The adoption of this new band method book will increase student achievement as teachers focus on the importance of effective instructional practices for all learners. The elementary band teaching staff is committed to excellence in teaching. Combining their teaching excellence with updated and better materials will result in greater student success.

The recommended music books are available for review in the School Board Office on the third floor of the Administration Building at 4600 DeBarr Road.

CC/JC/EH/MM

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