

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #333 (2004-2005)

June 27, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Indian Education Program provided academic support to 1,803 students in 37 elementary schools and four middle schools during the 2004-05 school year. An additional 1,113 students in three high schools and one middle school had contact with and support from four community counselors.

The program focused on two major areas this school year, enhancing communication and increasing accountability. The image of Indian Education, as a responsive, student focused, highly motivated and accountable program, was enhanced through newsletters, the Website, Public Service Announcements, radio talk shows, bulletin boards, presentations to a variety of community organizations and through Channel 14.

The Indian Education staff took much pride in becoming actively involved in community outreach. They made a commitment to attend the Indian Education Public Forum, Native Advisory Committee meetings, and Anchorage School Board meetings. Some staff took extra initiative and took Native parents with them to these events. In addition, staff participated in parent/teacher conferences, IEP meetings, and hosted Indian Education Open Houses at individual schools.

Communication with the Anchorage School District staff also increased. Staff members made personal contact with the administrative assistant at each of the schools that do not have Indian Education staff. During each one-on-one meeting, a program overview, the 506 form, and how parents and students can access services was explained. Staff made presentations to 12 elementary schools, new ASD principals, area principals and to the General Leadership.

The enhanced communication strengthened partnerships within ASD and the community, which directly benefited Native families. The Municipality of

Anchorage provided transportation for families to attend school-related functions and for after-school tutoring. Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC), Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI), and Kids Café donated money and food to Native high school students. CIRI provided a grant to support the Indian Education Summer Enrichment Program that currently has over 210 students enrolled.

Accountability is imperative to the success of Native students. A mid-year report was developed based on classroom grades of the students who received Indian Education academic services. After reviewing the data with the Native Advisory Committee, recognition for the need of an adjustment in instructional strategies and delivery of services was made. The year-end data will be presented to the Anchorage School Board, the Native Advisory Committee, staff, and the public in August.

Although Indian Education had many accomplishments this school year, there is much more that needs to be addressed. Major concerns include the dropout rate, attendance and the graduation rate of Native students. The program is dedicated to take action and engage in the collaborative efforts that will occur to change the current situation.

CC/JC/EH/DB

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