

# Monthly Update



## Anchorage School District

### This month at the Anchorage School District

- **First day of school for grades 1–12 is Tuesday, August 22**
- **First day of school for kindergarten is Monday, August 28**
- **Friday, September 1, is an in-service day — no school for students**
- **Monday, September 4, schools and offices are closed for Labor Day**

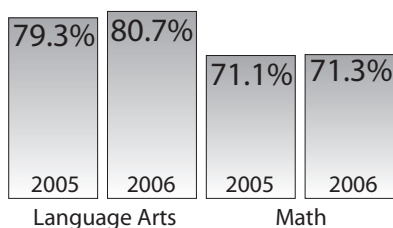
### Announcements

#### Native Advisory Committee needs your voice

The NAC is an advisory committee to the Title VII Indian Education Program and the ASD School Board. We are seeking parents, a teacher/counselor of ASD Native students, and ASD Native secondary students to join us in improving education for Native students. Applications and more information are located at [www.asdk12.org/depts/IndEd](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/IndEd), or call 742-4445. Applications are due September 7. Committee members are elected from among the applicants. The election will be held on September 21, 6:30 p.m. at Abbott Loop Elementary.

#### Academic achievement is increasing

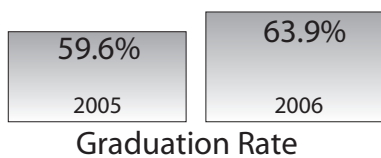
Results of the April 2006 statewide tests given to students in grades 3 through 10 show that student proficiency in language arts and math increased last year.



Solid teaching, dedicated teachers and support staff, high expectations, and a clear vision of what we want to achieve are the keys to this success. We're going to keep it up, working hard to make sure we and our students reach higher marks this year.

#### Four-year graduation rate is higher

ASD's four-year graduation rate increased last year. Though we're thrilled at the solid improvement, we know we must further increase the rate, keeping more students in school and on track to graduate in four years. By continuing to focus on individual students, engaging them and their parents in school, and offering top-notch classes to all students, we can accomplish this goal.



#### MyASD – Your online source of information about the Anchorage School District

The Anchorage School District Web site is packed with information about the district and its 93 schools. School year calendars, policy and procedures, forms, news and events — it's a one-stop online resource for students, parents and the community. Through the site's online suggestion boxes, you can send questions or comments to Superintendent Carol Comeau on any issue or topic of concern.

You can also subscribe to one of three e-mail lists to receive timely e-mail about district happenings. The topics covered include announcement/news releases, school closure announcements (delivered to your e-mail as soon as the closure is announced), and school board announcements. Anyone with an e-mail address can subscribe to the lists by filling out a form on the ASD Web site at [www.asdk12.org/asddirect](http://www.asdk12.org/asddirect).

You can even create a customized myASD Web page with regularly used links and information. Parents can use myASD to build a list of teacher and school Web pages, subscribe to homework notification and stay current on district news.

[www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)

#### Parent Networks

Kids network all the time. They know each other's telephone numbers. They find out what's going on, and they plan activities together. But parents are often isolated and out of touch. It's time they learned about networking.

Parent Networks are informal groups of parents who communicate with each other on a regular basis about kids' activities, rules, curfews, parties and problems. They help parents participate in their children's lives in a proactive, positive way.

Get your kids help to list the names of their friends, their parents and their phone numbers. If your kids don't care to participate, pick up the phone. Call the parents you know and work up a list of parents of kids who do things with your kids — through school, sports, music, clubs and the neighborhood. Invite the other parents for coffee or a potluck. Find out the family rules that you and the other parents in your network share.

For more info, visit [www.asdk12.org/events/parentnetwork.asp](http://www.asdk12.org/events/parentnetwork.asp).



279-3966

### A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Welcome back!

School bells will ring across Anchorage, Girdwood, Eagle River and Chugiak on Tuesday, August 22, welcoming students and staff, and kicking off what I expect will be a great year of teaching and learning.

My expectations are high because of how well we've done over the last few years:

Our students' **proficiency in language arts and math has increased.**

Our students' scores on the SAT and ACT **college-entrance exams have increased** over the last three years and are significantly higher than the national averages.

We've **expanded our vocational and workforce development classes**—the King Career Center will offer a third shift of daily classes this year for the first time.

Our four-year high school **graduation rate is increasing.**

The **majority of our schools are making adequate yearly progress** under state and federal requirements.

We continue to offer **solid neighborhood school programs** as well as an **array of alternative programs to fit our families' specific styles and preferences.**

We have talented, high quality teachers who use data and research to hone instruction to meet individual student needs. We have a support staff dedicated to running an efficient operation so that our educators and students can focus on instruction.

We have a vision for student achievement and a detailed plan for getting there. We have a commitment to public accountability and open communication. We embrace every student and family that walks through our doors, regardless of their background.

We know our students can accomplish more and we will push them toward higher challenges.

We know our families must reinforce in the home that a great education is to be valued, earned and honored, and we want parents to be partners with our schools.

We insist that our schools be safe, respectful and welcoming places for all, and we will not accept violent, harassing or unruly behavior.

Those are the expectations. With everyone working together as a team, we can meet them. Please join us as we all work together support our students!

Most Sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*



### Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 8/1/06

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA August 14, 2006 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road			
<b>Call To Order, Roll Call</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>School Board Comments</b>	<b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> 1. Student Hearings 2. AEA Negotiations Update	<b>Superintendent's Update</b> <b>Adjournment</b>	

REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA August 14, 2006 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road			
<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>Approval Of Agenda</b> <b>Announcements</b> <b>Awards/Recognitions/Presentations</b> 1. Memo 23 - Curriculum Leadership Award <b>Special Advisory Reports</b> 1. Student Advisory Board 2. Military Delegate 3. M.E.C.A.C. <b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)</b> <b>Consent Agenda</b> 1. Approval of Minutes a. Special Meeting - June 19, 2006 b. Special Meeting - June 26, 2006 2. Memo 18 - School Board Policy Addition: 349.1 Adult Testing (First Reading)	3. Memo 19 - School Board Policy Revision 443.1 Absenteeism and Tardiness (First Reading) 4. Memo 20 - School Board Policy Revision 831 Parent Involvement (First Reading) 5. Memo 21 - Adoption of Social/Emotional Learning Standards 6. Memo 22 - Approval of School Board Out-of-State Travel for First Quarter 2006-2007 7. Memo 6 - Alaska Department of Education and Early Development FY 2008 Grant Applications 8. Memo 7 - Sale of Surplus 9. Memo 1 - Award of Contract: Three New 84-Passenger Type D Diesel School Buses 10. Memo 2 - Award of Contract: Fresh Pizza 11. Memo 5 - Approval of Concept Design for Clark Middle School Renewal 12. Memo 8 - Personnel Report	<b>Superintendent's Report</b> 1. Memo 9 - Project Status Report 2. Memo 4 - Muldoon Area Middle School - One Percent for Art 3. Memo 28 - Adequate Yearly Progress Update FY 2005-2006 3. Memo 17 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Months of June and July 2006 <b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-agenda Items</b> <b>Communications &amp; School Board Comments</b> <b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> <b>Adjournment</b>	

*Persons wishing to be heard may call 742-4315 or sign up prior to the meeting being called to order.*

*\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast August 16 at 5 p.m., August 17 at 12:30 p.m., August 19 at 12:30 p.m. and August 21 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. The agenda is available in Braille by calling 742-4153. The ASD telephone number is 742-4000. A message may be left after hours.*

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA August 28, 2006 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road			
<b>Call To Order, Roll Call</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>School Board Comments</b>	<b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> 1. Student Hearings 2. AEA Negotiations Update	<b>Superintendent's Update</b> <b>Adjournment</b>	

REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA August 28, 2006 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road			
<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>Approval Of Agenda</b> <b>Announcements</b> <b>Awards/Recognitions/Presentations</b> <b>Special Advisory Reports</b> 1. Student Advisory Board 2. Military Delegate 3. M.E.C.A.C. <b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)</b> <b>Consent Agenda</b> 1. Approval of Minutes a. Regular Meeting - April 10, 2006 b. Regular Meeting - May 1, 2006 c. Special Meeting - August 14, 2006 2. Memo 24 - 2006 Charitable Giving Campaign 3. Memo 18 - School Board Policy Addition: Section 349.1 Adult Testing (Second Reading)	4. Memo 19 - School Board Policy Revision Section 443.1 Absenteeism and Tardiness (Second Reading) 5. Memo 20 - School Board Policy Revision Section 831 Parent Involvement (Second Reading) 6. Memo 14 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Project APPEAL – Advanced Placement for Every Able Learner 7. Memo 15 - Acceptance of Grant Award: HIV Prevention RARE-T 8. Memo 16 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Teaching American History 9. Memo 3 - Award of Contract: Fire Alarm Inspection Term Contract 10. Memo 10 - Personnel Report <b>Superintendent's Report</b> 1. Memo 11 - Project Status Report 2. Memo 29 - FY 2007-2008 Budget Review Process 3. Memo 26 - Out-of-District Travel: Fourth Quarter Report FY 2005-2006	4. Memo 12 - Conflict of Interest: Fourth Quarter Report FY 2005-2006 5. Memo 13 - Semi-Annual Report of Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$10,000 6. Memo 30 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Fourth Quarter 2005-2006 School Year 7. Memo 27 - Operating Budget Transfers – June Monthly Report FY 2005-2006 <b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-agenda Items</b> <b>Communications &amp; School Board Comments</b> <b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> <b>Adjournment</b>	

*Persons wishing to be heard may call 742-4315 or sign up prior to the meeting being called to order.*

*\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast August 30 at 5 p.m., August 31 at 12:30 p.m., Sept. 2 at 12:30 p.m. and Sept. 3 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. The agenda is available in Braille by calling 742-4153. The ASD telephone number is 742-4000. A message may be left after hours.*

### For more information

**Anchorage School Board and Superintendent**  
Jeff Friedman, President, 742-6699, [friedman\\_jeff@asdk12.org](mailto:friedman_jeff@asdk12.org)  
Crystal Kennedy, 696-2624, [kennedy\\_crystal@asdk12.org](mailto:kennedy_crystal@asdk12.org)  
Mary Marks, 742-2343, [marks\\_mary@asdk12.org](mailto:marks_mary@asdk12.org)  
Jake Metcalfe, 274-1441, [metcalfe\\_jake@asdk12.org](mailto:metcalfe_jake@asdk12.org)

Macon Roberts, 742-5350, [roberts\\_macon@asdk12.org](mailto:roberts_macon@asdk12.org)  
Tim Steele, 277-7663, [steele\\_tim@asdk12.org](mailto:steele_tim@asdk12.org)  
John Steiner, 696-2629, [steiner\\_john@asdk12.org](mailto:steiner_john@asdk12.org)  
Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, [comeau\\_carol@asdk12.org](mailto:comeau_carol@asdk12.org)

MECAC: The mission of the Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC) is to serve as the voice for families in the Anchorage School District and to promote educational success for minority students. The MECAC meets the first Wednesday of every month at 4:30p.m. and the third Thursday of every month at 12 noon at 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320.

4600 DeBarr Road, Anchorage, AK 99519-6614 • 742-4000 • [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) • Tune in to cable channel 14