

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #21 (2008-2009)

August 25, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE  
CORPORATION

*ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

In 2004, the Anchorage School Board resolved to advocate for development of more affordable housing. Since then, the district has identified more than 2,800 homeless children in our community. Their families struggle to afford what is Anchorage's current fair market rent of \$989 per month for a two-bedroom apartment.

One of the Anchorage School District's partners in this endeavor, the **Alaska Housing Finance Corporation**, has stepped up to the challenge. A recent AHFC policy change resulted in 38 ASD homeless families being housed during the 2007-08 school year. Another 100 families are on the AHFC wait list and have an opportunity for affordable housing they did not have before due to the corporation's efforts.

With the help of **ASD Child in Transition/Homeless Department** liaisons, AHFC modified its policy regarding homeless preferences to include families receiving services from the district's liaisons. That change opened the door to housing assistance for families who met the U.S. Department of Education definition of homelessness, but not the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development definition.

Children cannot learn without a food, shelter and clothing. By reducing the red tape that prevented families from qualifying for housing, AHFC has increased the district's ability to accomplish its mission. There is no place like home, and now, because of AHFC, close to 140 families know that to be true.

This is a request to officially recognize AHFC and its representatives who are here tonight, **Chief Executive Officer Dan Fauske, Public Housing Division Director Jim Gurke** and **Program Supervisor Karen Savage** for their dedication to finding housing for all of our city's homeless families.

CC/HG/TW

Approved by: Heather Graves, Communications Director  
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