

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #89 (2007-2008)

October 22, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROJECTIONS FOR
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

ASD GOAL: Ensure public accountability through effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The attached document presents the fall forecast for the September 30, 2008 Anchorage School District student membership. Table I compares the projections, by program, with the actual totals for September 28, 2007.

TABLE I
September 28, 2007 Enrollment and
Fall Projections for September 30, 2008

Programs	Actual 9/28/2007	Fall Projections 9/30/2008	Difference (+/-) Project. - Actual
Elementary Schools			
Kindergarten	3,608	3,616	8
Elementary Schools Grades 1 - 8	20,815	20,594	-221
Middle Schools	7,202	6,992	-210
Senior High Schools	13,354	13,113	-241
Other Secondary Schools	2,138	2,122	-16
Pre-Elementary (special ed), Level 3 Spec. Ed., and Special Services	1,340	1,507	167
Total	48,457	47,944	-513

The September 28, 2007 enrollment of 48,457 was less than projected (611 students). Enrollment is expected to decline again for September 30, 2008. The following items highlight trends in the 2008 student population forecast:

- The total projection for next school year is 47,944 students. This projection reflects a decrease of 513 students from the September 28, 2007 official membership total of 48,457.
- The Kindergarten projection for September 30, 2008 is 3,616 students, an increase of 8 students over this year's Kindergarten enrollment. Because there is no grade preceding Kindergarten, it is very difficult to forecast its enrollment. This year, we expected Kindergarten enrollment to decline by 20 students. The actual decline this year was 72 students over 2006-07. Almost all Anchorage areas showed the decline in Kindergarten, except northeast Anchorage (+20), northwest Anchorage (+16), Districtwide, i.e., charter schools, Northern Lights ABC (+8), and Girdwood (+3). This information was used in projecting the 2008 Kindergarten enrollment, along with data obtained from the State Demographer regarding the Anchorage population, birth data from Vital Statistics, as well as prior years' observations.
- Elementary schools, using a modified projection to include the new German charter school—Rilke Schule K-8, were projected to decrease by 185 students this school year over 2006-07. The actual decline this year was 636 students over 2006-07. All geographical areas had less than projected elementary enrollment except northeast (+103), Districtwide schools, i.e., charter schools, Northern Lights ABC--(+16), and Girdwood (+1). This decline is the result of fewer people in the Anchorage population in the 6 - 11 year age group, and this trend is expected to continue to next school year. Next year, elementary schools are projected for 20,594 students, a decrease of 221 students over this school year.
- This year, using a modified projection to include the new German charter school—Rilke Schule K-8, Middle schools were projected to increase by 3 students over 2006-07. The actual increase this year was 122 students over 2006-07. However, recent declines in the Elementary levels will negatively impact the Middle school levels. As a result, Middle schools are projected for 6,992 a decrease of 210 students next school year.
- Senior High Schools were projected to lose 82 students over 2006-07. The actual decrease this year was 186 students. Although the size of this population will remain large, the trickle-down effect from the elementary

and middle school levels will result in smaller classes entering the senior high levels. Senior high schools are projected for 13,113 a decrease of 241 students next school.

- The Other Secondary Schools and Programs were projected to increase by 10 students over 2006-07. The actual increase this year was 114 students. The schools and programs in this category are projected for 2,122 a decrease of 16 students for next school year.
- Pre-Elementary special education students, Level 3 special education students, and Special Services program students are projected for 1,507 an increase of 167 students. The schools and programs in this category had 7 fewer students than projected for this school year.
- Charter Schools are projected for 2,013 students. This projection is 35 students more than their current year enrollment of 1,978. Current year enrollment was 45 students more than projected—using the modified projection which included Rilke Schule.

It should be noted that the September 30, 2008 enrollment forecast is based on the following assumptions:

- The Anchorage-area economy will remain at current levels during school year 2008-09.
- If additional charter schools are approved by the School Board for school year 2008-09 they will attract students from within the District, not from outside the District.
- The participation-rate of the Anchorage school-aged population will remain constant.
- The average grade-to-grade progression pattern observed over the past five years will hold constant for 2008-09.
- Student enrollment on Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base will remain constant, or will slightly increase, as many military personnel are returned, or replaced, after recent deployments.

Economic and demographic trends will be closely monitored during the 2007-08 school year. A revised forecast will be issued only if there are significant changes in the observed trends.

