



March 24, 2009

Anchorage School District

Representative Paul Seaton
Alaska State Legislature

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504-3135
(907) 742-4000

State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative *Paul* Seaton:

Last night, the Anchorage School Board passed the enclosed resolution in support of the Interstate Military Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. I am also enclosing the School Board memorandum which accompanied the resolution. The vote was unanimous. Our military representative strongly supported this resolution and testified in support of passage.

I am very grateful to Representative Coghill for introducing this important legislation. This compact reinforces our strong commitment to our military families and students and is more important now than ever as they serve our country in these uncertain times.

I hope that this legislation moves quickly through the House and on to the Senate during this legislative session.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at comeau_carol@asdk12.org or 907-742-4312.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Comeau
Superintendent

Enclosures

Cc: Larry LeDoux, Commissioner of Education and Early Development
Eddy Jeans, Director of School Finance

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM # 252 (2008-2009)

March 23, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

David McConnell

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERSTATE MILITARY
COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY
CHILDREN

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the administration that the School Board approve a resolution in support of the interstate military compact on educational opportunity for military children (attachment A). It is further recommended that the School Board and administration communicate the support of the Anchorage School District to the Alaska Legislature, the State Board of Education and Early Development, and the Governor.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The United States Departments of Education and Defense signed a historic agreement in June of 2008. This historic agreement set the state for a formalized working agreement to work collaboratively to ease the challenges of transitions for military dependent students. As of the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, the following states have passed legislation in support of military compacts: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, and Oklahoma. Other states have legislation pending. Subsequent to that action, the State Board of Education and Early Development discussed the military compact and expressed strong support for Alaska entering into this compact. This was communicated to the Alaska Legislature and to Governor Palin.

Subsequently, Representative John Coghill, filed HB 137, "An act relating to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children..." It is moving through the legislature during this first session of the twenty-sixth

legislature. Representative Dahlstrom has attended meetings relating to this issue as part of her legislative responsibilities.

The administration has reviewed the military compact and the proposed legislation and urges the School Board to pass this resolution in support of its guiding principles. The administration supports this compact because it validates our close working relationships and current practices with our military installations and dependent families. The Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Kodiak, and Sitka school districts are in support of this compact and are in the process of supporting this action for their districts. The administration would like to work with our military representatives and members of the legislature on this important legislation.

An information packet provided to school districts provides general information to the School Board in support of this administrative recommendation and is included as Attachment B.

CC

Prepared and approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
ASDR 2008-2009-12

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE
INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR
MILITARY CHILDREN

WHEREAS, military students are faced with numerous transitions during their formative years, and

WHEREAS, moves during the school years, particularly the high school years, present special challenges to learning and future achievement, and

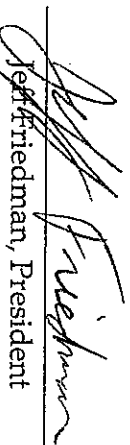
WHEREAS, there is a large and growing military student population in the Anchorage School District, and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage School District can help ease the school transition challenges faced by its military students through awareness, flexibility and accommodations as reflected in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage School Board endorses the guiding principles expressed on Attachment B of this document, and urges all employees to institute these practices no later than the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage School Board this 23rd day of March, 2009.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD


Jeff Friedman, President

Pat Higgins
Crystal Kennedy
Jeannie Mackie

Macon Roberts
Tim Steele
John Steiner

Carol Comeau, Superintendent