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Research Brief

TO: Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
FROM: Patricia Young, Manager
DATE: February 20, 2014
RE: Student Retention Rate, Anchorage School District
LRS Report 14.263

You wished to know the number of students held back, or retained, during the past several years in the Anchorage School District.

Ed Graff, superintendent of the Anchorage School District, provided the following information on the number of district students held back during each of the following five academic years.¹

| Number of Anchorage School District Students Held Back, by Grade and Year | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Grade Level | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 |
| Kindergarten | 111 | 101 | 108 | 94 | 112 |
| 1 | 53 | 42 | 46 | 41 | 49 |
| 2 | 13 | 22 | 16 | 26 | 19 |
| 3 | 12 | 9 | 15 | 12 | 14 |
| 4 | 9 | 15 | 6 | 11 | 12 |
| 5 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 7 |
| 6 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| 7 | 14 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 19 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| 10 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| 11 | 33 | 20 | 16 | 21 | 14 |
| 12 | * | * | * | * | * |
| Totals | 305 | 262 | 255 | 245 | 264 |
| Notes: * Fifth year seniors are not considered students who were held back. | | | | | |
| Source: Ed Graff, superintendent, Anchorage School District, 907.742.4312. | | | | | |

We note that over the course of these five years, the district has averaged a student population of 48,563 per year.² The average retention rate of 266 students per year equates to approximately 0.05 percent of the student population being held back each year.

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

¹ Ed Graff, superintendent, Anchorage School District, can be reached at 907.742.4312.

² We base this average on the average daily membership (ADM) counts by year as reported by the Department of Education and Early Development on their website at <http://education.alaska.gov/stats/QuickFacts/ADM.pdf>.