

Bd. of
Education

AK 2000B

ALASKA 2000 RECOMMENDATIONS

On October 21-23, 1992, the Alaska Board of Education reviewed the 49 Alaska 2000 recommendations and the public comments on them. The Board eliminated some recommendations, revised some, and tabled a few. The recommendations that follow are those that the Board advanced for implementation.

SETTING OUR SIGHTS

- **Vision.** Adopt the following vision for an Alaska public education: Alaskans envision a public school system controlled by the public that will graduate world-class students who will communicate effectively, think logically and critically, discover and nurture their own creative talents, possess essential vocational and technological skills, be responsible citizens, be committed to their own health and fitness, accept personal responsibility for sustaining themselves economically, and have self-esteem.

EMPOWERING PARENTS

- **Charter Schools.** Implement a three-year pilot program authorizing charter schools. (Charter schools operate under a contract between teachers, parents and local school boards to expand educational choice. An appeal procedure would be built into the program.)
- **School Choice.** Make existing public school choice programs available to all Alaska students by encouraging student transfers between school districts, boarding home arrangements, and a choice of correspondence schools.
- **Choice of Postsecondary Courses.** Enable high school students to attend appropriate post-secondary classes as part of their high school program.
- **Advisory Boards.** Establish advisory boards or committees for each school in Alaska.
- **Encouraging Parental Responsibility.** Conduct a public information campaign reminding parents of their responsibility for their children's welfare.

IMPROVING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- **Performance Standards.** Develop high performance standards for students and assessment methods in the following ten subject areas: (1) English; (2) Math; (3) Science; (4) Geography; (5) History; (6) Skills for a healthy life; (7) Government and citizenship; (8) Fine arts; (9) Technological competence; (10) World languages.

- **Student Testing.** Measure student achievement of academic standards at three benchmark levels: (1) ages 8-10; (2) ages 12-14; and ages 16-18. Measures will be tied to standards.

- **Certificates of Mastery.** Issue state "Certificates of Mastery" to students who reach the standards of the third benchmark.

- **Increased Student Contact Time.** Require a minimum of 180 days of student contact annually exclusive of staff inservice days and approved school closures. Increase student contact days to 200 by the year 2000.

- **Thirteen-Year Funding.** Fund students for 13 years of education through the age of 19, including tuition reimbursement for college credits.

- **Early Childhood Education.** In recognition that improved academic achievement for all students lies in strong early childhood education and strong parental support, the State Board will encourage all communities in Alaska, in concert with their schools, to form broad-based coalitions to develop a plan to assure that children enter school ready to learn, and to structure primary school programs so that children receive a solid base upon which to build success in school and in later life.

KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL

- **School Conservation Corps.** Create a School Conservation Corps, combining public service work with school work.
- **Vocational Programs.** Encourage school districts to establish business-supported vocational programs that will prepare students to successfully enter the workforce or attend a post-secondary school.
- **Residential High Schools.** Assess the need and feasibility for building additional residential high schools and adding dormitories at existing high schools.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

- **Reporting Student Contact Time.** Allow school districts to report student contact time in hours instead of days.
- **Regulation Review.** Review Alaska education regulations every six years.
- **Waivers from Regulations.** Establish waivers for state education regulations so that school districts can use innovative approaches to improve student achievement.
- **Swift Filing of Regulations.** Establish shorter timelines for regulation approval following the public comment period. Leave time for thorough public review.

AK2K

An Education Initiative

Published by the Alaska Department of Education January 21, 1993

- Alaska 2000 was conceived in June of 1991 when Governor Walter J. Hickel told the State Board of Education and newly appointed Education Commissioner Jerry Covey to develop a plan to improve Alaska's schools.
- The plan, called Alaska 2000, was patterned after the national America 2000 strategy of deeply involving citizens, not just educators, in a systemic restructuring of the school system.
- The State Board of Education appointed a task force of 21 prominent Alaskans to identify the barriers to significant improvement of Alaska's public schools. This task force met during November, 1991.
- In January, 1992, Governor Hickel appointed four Alaskans to chair the major AK2K committees. The four were Mary Jane Evans Fate of Fairbanks, Oral Freeman of Ketchikan, Edward B. Rasmuson of Anchorage, and Noreen Thompson of Kodiak.
- Their committees, comprising more than 100 Alaskans from inside and outside the education system, were charged with developing recommendations to resolve the issues identified by the task force that met in November. The committees held their first meeting at the end of January and met periodically through May, 1992.
- The 10 areas examined by these committees were:
 - Choice & Incentives
 - Early Childhood
 - Facilities
 - Finance
 - Laws & Regulations
 - Quality of Workforce
 - Shared Decisions/Self-Renewal
 - Student Outcomes & Assessment
 - System Accountability
 - Technology
- In May and June of 1992, the committees presented 95 recommendations to the State Board. After reviewing them and combining similar ideas, the Board offered 49 recommendations to the public for comment.
- The Board publicized the recommendations with 250,000 copies of an eight-page tabloid newspaper and through a radio ad campaign.

- An Education Summit, featuring U.S. Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander, was held September 14 & 15 in Anchorage. Many hours of public comment were taken at this summit. The Board also held hearings in Fairbanks and Juneau and by teleconference in more than 40 other communities.

- After reviewing public comments, the Board approved 40 recommendations as the final AK2K plan.

- The Board presented the final recommendations to Governor Hickel in early December, 1992. Governor Hickel supported the AK2K plan and began developing a legislative package to implement the recommendations.

- At its December, 1992, meeting, the State Board introduced the first of several proposed regulations to implement AK2K recommendations. It also instructed the Department of Education to begin work on educational standards and assessments, a major part of the AK2K effort.

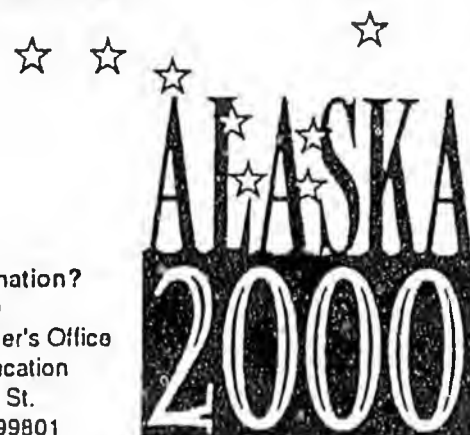
- The Standards and Assessment Oversight Committee will meet in early February, 1993, to set directions for the English/language arts, mathematics, and science committees, which have been asked to develop statewide student standards. The Oversight Committee will also begin discussion of an assessment program.

- The State Board of Education opened a period of public comment in

December on a proposed regulation that establishes a statewide "Vision for Student Performance." The proposal envisions a school system that graduates world-class students who have demonstrated communication skills, logical thinking, creativity, vocational and technical skills, citizenship, health and fitness, and responsibility. The proposal echoes the AK2K recommendation defining a public education as including a working knowledge of English/language arts, math, science, geography, history, skills for a healthy life, government, fine arts, technology, and world languages.

- At its January meeting, the State Board of Education will consider opening a period of public comment on another AK2K recommendation. The proposal would define a process for school districts to obtain waivers from certain regulations in order to implement innovative programs to improve student achievement.

- The State Board of Education and Commissioner Covey will continue to work on the remaining AK2K recommendations for introduction and implementation.



More information?
Alaska 2000
Commissioner's Office
Dept. of Education
801 W. 10th St.
Juneau AK 99801

RAISING STANDARDS FOR EDUCATORS

- **Educator Training Standards.** Adopt state standards for educator training institutions requiring: (1) earlier and more responsible field experience for prospective educators; (2) education skill tests for applicants before admission to teacher or administrator programs.
- **Additional Certification Requirements.** Add the following state certification requirements for new educators: (1) a satisfactory score on an educator assessment test (for example, the National Teacher Exam), and (2) one year of satisfactory teaching experience or one year of successful internship under a master teacher prior to receiving a Type A certificate.
- **Knowledge of Technology.** Require competency in educational technology for initial teacher certification and certification renewal.
- **Technology Training.** Provide statewide training and support in educational technology for teachers.
- **Master Teachers.** Establish a master teacher certificate endorsement.

IMPROVING INSTRUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION

- **Staff Evaluation.** Revise certificated staff evaluation process to include parent and student comments, training for evaluators, and an independent audit of the evaluation process every three years.
- **Educator Tenure.** Amend the Alaska educator tenure law as follows: (1) application for tenure may be made after two years of service in a school district under a regular teaching certificate; (2) evaluations and recommendations must be presented with application; (3) local tenure review board must approve the application, subject to final approval by the local school board; (4) unsuccessful applicants may reapply annually.
- **Research and Development.** Provide funding to support research and development including grants for effective student incentive programs.
- **Telecommunications Network.** Combine existing networks to create a statewide educational telecommunications network, accessible to all schools, that will support audio, video, and data.
- **Telecommunications Reporting System.** Implement a statewide administrative telecommunications reporting system.

MAKING DOLLARS COUNT

- **Sharing Costs.** Each school district should pay a portion of the cost of education.
- **School Price Index.** Develop an Alaska school price index to provide funding equity to the diverse geographical regions of the state.
- **Financial Standards.** Adopt state standards for financial reporting by school districts.
- **Transportation Costs.** School districts should be reimbursed for transportation at the lower of the district operated rate or the competitive bid rate for pupil transportation.
- **Rental Provision.** Include a rental provision in the foundation program so school districts can rent schools instead of owning them.

KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE AND MODERN

- **Capital Funding Priorities.** Fund the following priorities on the state's school construction list: Priority 1 (Health/Life/Safety) & Priority 3 (Protection of Structures) to clear a backlog exceeding \$100 million.
- **New Schools and Classrooms.** Fund the following priority on the state's school construction list: Priority 2 (Unhoused Students), which will cost \$100 million annually in addition to a backlog of \$250 million.
- **Sharing Capital Costs.** Change state capital projects funding from 100% grants to state and local sharing on a sliding scale, based on a community's ability to pay.
- **School Construction Standards.** Adopt state standards for school construction including space, quality of materials, costs, and standards to make possible the most effective use of current and anticipated information. (For example, telecommunications access for all classrooms.)
- **Funding Major Maintenance.** Provide annual set-aside for Major Maintenance of \$20-\$40 million annually. (Major Maintenance is a proposed new category of funding that combines the current Priority 3, Protection of Structures, and Priority 4, Code Upgrades.)
- **Preventive Maintenance.** Require school districts to demonstrate ongoing preventive maintenance as a condition for state funding of Major Maintenance.



Official Business

COMMITTEE:

SENATE HESS

DATE: January 29, 1993

SIGN-IN

Subject of meeting:

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENTATION
ALASKA 2000

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING) & (ZIP)	PHONE	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?
Joe Montgomery	1048 Beech Lane Anch - 99501	272- 9339	State Bd. of Ed.	
Jim Nelson	P.O. Box 158 - Kotzebue Alaska	442- 3501	"	
Tom Newell	1122 1st St Anchorage AK 99501	272- 2115	"	
Robert Walp	804 P Street #4 Anchorage 99501	272-2238	State Board of Education	
Karen Meelan	3640 Chiniak Bay Dr. Anch., AK 99515	244-0662	State Board of Education	
Marilyn Wilson	Senator Bert Sharp State Capitol Building, Room 5101	465-6548	Senator Bert Sharp	
DON FANCHER	Box 2027 BETHEL, AK 99559	543-2326	State Board of Education	
DUANE GUILLEY	DOE, JUNEAU	465-2891	DOE	
Karen Rindell	1122 1st St Anchorage AK 99501	272- 2115	"	
LARRY STEVENS	SEN. JACKO ROOM 125	3770	Sen. Jacko	

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joe Montgomery, Chair
1048 Beech Lane
Anchorage, AK 99501
272-9339 - h

Don Fancher
P.O. Box 2027
Bethel, AK 99559
543-3121-w

543-2270 - fax

Robert Walp, Second Vice-Chair
804 P Street, #4
Anchorage, AK 99501-3252
265-5606 - w

265-5676 - fax

John Hotzfield
5890 Liberty Court
Wasilla, AK 99687-9345
376-6445 - w

Mid-Valley Christian Center

June Nelson
P.O. Box 158
Kotzebue, AK 99752-0158
442-3501 - w

442-3340 - fax

Patricia Norhelm will not be
P.O. Box 642 present
Petersburg, AK 99833-0642
772-4837 - h

c/o Petersburg City Schools
772-4719 - fax

Judy Norton
9824 Atka Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577
696-2577 - w, 694-4415 - h

696-2799 - fax

ADVISORY MEMBERS:

Dr. Roger O. Jarvis, GM-14, USAF
Military Advisor will not be
21 MSSQ/MSE, Bldg. 21-590 present
Base Education Center
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506
552-2120/3164 - w

753-8390 - fax

Karen Meehan
Student Advisor
3640 Chiniak Bay
Anchorage, AK 99515
344-0662 - h

Revised 11/3/92

Alaska 2000 -- An Education Initiative

