

SCOMM

125:8

Anchorage School District

Meeting Location: School Board Meeting Room
School District Administration Building
4600 DeBarr Road
Anchorage

Meeting Time: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Directions: From Minnesota Drive, head Downtown
Take a Right on 15th Street
Pass the hospital, Costco and Bragaw Road
15th Street become DeBarr Road
The Administration Building will be on the right
If you get to Boniface, you've gone too far.

**Anchorage School District
Expected Participants**

Administration:

Carol Comeau, Superintendent
Patricia McDowell, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Patricia McRae, Executive Director for Elementary Education
Mike Henry, Executive Direction for High School Education
Gail Opalinski, Executive Director for Middle School Education
Lee Wilson, Executive Director, Employee Relations
Theresa Johnson, Director of Recruitment/Staffing/Training and Profession Development
Jim Taylor, Supervisor for Secondary Education
Jerry Sjolander, Executive Director for Special Education
Nancy Nagarkar, Coordinator for Special Education

Others:

Various Teachers
Various Other Supervisors
Various School Board Members

**Anchorage School District
Resolution on Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

The Anchorage School District urges the Alaska Legislature to develop strategies to attract and retain education professionals.

Rationale:

- Alaska's colleges and universities supply about 30% of our state's annual demand for new teachers.
- More than two-thirds of new teachers come from out-of-state.
- A national shortage of teachers and administrators forces Alaska to compete with other states for an ever-shrinking pool of applicants.
- Other states are offering teachers signing bonuses, down payment on homes, mortgage subsidies, and student loan repayment plans.
- As a result, Alaska needs to consider strategies for attracting and retaining qualified educators.

These strategies might include:

ASD Resolution #183	Aligning vesting in the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) with vesting in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Currently, it takes 8 years to vest in TRS, but only 5 years to vest in PERS.
ASD Resolution #183	Providing student loan forgiveness to offset high needs areas such as special education and related services
ASD Resolution #183	Providing housing subsidies for teachers in both rural and urban areas.

Alaska School District Profiles



Below is the information you have requested.

Anchorage Schools

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Website: www.asd.k12.ak.us

Superintendent: Carol Comeau, Superintendent
E-Mail: Comeau_Carol@msmail.asd.k12.ak.us

School Board President: Peggy Robinson

E-mail the Webmaster





Anchorage School District's Superintendent



A word from Carol Comeau - September

In three days the 2001-2002 school year will be officially underway. At this time of year a lot of attention is focused on how students can plan and prepare for a successful year. It's true that good time management skills, academic discipline, plenty of rest and sound nutrition contribute to a great school year, but it's important to point out that parental involvement is also a key component to a student's academic success. Studies show that students are the most productive when parents take an active role at their child's school. So I urge you to get involved and make a difference. Your child's future depends on all of us working together!



This year will be many opportunities for parents and community members at the neighborhood school level, as well as districtwide, to be involved in all of our activities. I invite you to help us work toward finding the best solutions to some of the issues we will face in the coming year such as overcrowding in Chugiak and Eagle River schools; formulating the district's budget; high school starting times; the debate over open versus closed campuses; upcoming bonds; and the Alaska studies history curriculum. We will keep you informed as we proceed.

Get involved by submitting a suggestion through our district Web site; attending public input forums; serving on budget review committees; giving public testimony at our school board meetings; and even volunteering in your neighborhood schools to see firsthand how some of these issues impact the students and the community.

We need your participation and feedback as we delve into these critical and sometimes controversial issues. I know that together we can find the best solutions for our community, and most importantly our students.

The 2001-2002 school year promises to be challenging and rewarding! Please don't hesitate to contact us for assistance or with suggestions. I look forward to working with you to achieve our goal of educating students for success in life.

[Read Carol's Welcome to the 2001-2002 school year](#)

Most sincerely,

Carol Comeau

Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Carol Comeau's first job with the Anchorage School District was a noon-duty attendant position at Ocean View Elementary School in 1974. Since then she has worked as a teacher aide, elementary classroom teacher, president of the teacher's union (AEA), elementary school principal, and executive director of elementary education. In 1993 Mrs. Comeau was promoted to assistant superintendent for instruction. Mrs. Comeau has been married for 38 years to Dennis, and their three children are all ASD graduates.





About the Anchorage School District

— We are the largest school district in Alaska and the 82nd largest in the nation. Located in southcentral Alaska, we have schools in Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak and Girdwood. ([Facilities Map](#))

ASD has a wide variety of programs and schools that serve over 48,000 students:

- (60) Elementary schools
- (9) Middle schools
- (1) Middle/High school combination
- (6) High schools
- (1) K-12 school
- (1) Vocational school
- (7) Specialized programs and schools
- (4) Charter schools

You are invited to visit the pages here and learn more about us. "[Telling our story](#)" is a great place to start as it takes you on a tour, chapter by chapter, of our district and community. If you're looking for an abbreviated overview of the district, try the [1998-99 Facts & Figures](#).

Perhaps you already know about us and are looking for some specific information as it relates to the day-to-day business of a school district. The links to the left and the topics below should help you on your way:

- [A word from Carol Comeau](#)
- [Back to school information](#); handbooks, immunization requirements, registration information, [graduation requirements](#), [bus schedules](#), [school day schedules](#)
- [Zone Exemption Application](#)
- [Calendar of events](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [School business](#)
- [ASD in the news](#)
- [ASD curriculum resources](#)
- [Site index](#)



*Welcome to
Anchorage,
Alaska*



120 different languages have been spoken by our diverse group of students:

- 65% - White
- 12% - Alaska Native/American Indian
- 9% - African American
- 9% - Asian/Pacific Islander
- 5% - Hispanic

School Business

- [Summer school information](#)
- [2001-2002 Bus Schedules](#)
- [Enrollment Health Forms](#)
- [Immunization Requirements](#)
- [School Day Schedule](#)
- [Emergency Closure Procedures](#)



ASD In the News

- [*A Required Curriculum for Respect*](#) Featuring Clark Middle School
- [*Forum: How Do You Ensure Equal Access and Proportionate Participation in Your School?*](#) Featuring Central Middle School Principal, Keith Taton





Mission: To educate students for success in life

2000-2001 Goals

- Increase **academic excellence** by emphasizing student achievement, developing respect for diversity, maintaining quality staff retention, recruitment and training, and maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning.
- Establish a **supportive learning environment** by providing safe and caring schools which are barrier-free, by promoting health and wellness, and by collaborating with other community agencies where appropriate.
- Ensure **public accountability** by continuing participation in the State required testing program, through the continued use of the writing assessment in selected grades, through wise use of financial resources, through construction and maintenance of facilities, and through effective communication to internal and external audiences.



1. All students will show academic growth as indicated by performance on:
 - a. State Benchmark Exams (Grades 3-6-8)
 - b. Norm Referenced Tests (Grades 4 and 7)
 - c. Anchorage Writing Assessment (Grades 5-7-9)
 - d. High School Graduation Qualifying Exam
2. All students will acquire basic skills and strategies to read independently by the end of the third grade as measured by:
 - Attaining "Advanced" or "Proficient" ratings on the reading portion of the third grade State Benchmark Exam
 - Teacher assessment, observation and judgment
3. The percentage of students who have taken and successfully completed Algebra I

by the end of eighth grade will be increased from year to year.

- Develop and implement training in math content and teaching strategies for elementary and middle school teachers
 - Work with students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators and community representatives to increase expectations for elementary, middle and high school math
 - Develop additional advanced math classes, other than calculus, for seniors and other students who wish to continue with math
4. All students will demonstrate a high level of spelling skills or growth in spelling as demonstrated by their performances on a series of District developed grade level high tests of high frequency words administered on a pre- and post-test basis annually.
- Strengthening the effective delivery of instructional services to students using all financial resources available
 - Attempting to minimize the impact of budget reductions on student achievement
 - Increasing parental and community awareness of the critical role families and the community play in the academic success of students
 - Continuing to create positive community relations and understanding of issues critical to the Anchorage School District by establishing coalitions with parents, business leaders and political leaders at all levels





School Board

The seven member Anchorage School Board determines policy to guide the District. Elected each year for overlapping terms, each member serves for three years.

The School Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meeting agendas are published regularly in the newspaper on the weekend preceding each meeting. Agendas are available in Braille by calling *Public Affairs*, 742-4153. The District's cable Channel 43 educational bulletin board also lists the agenda. Board meetings are broadcast live on Channel 43 and are closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

If there is an agenda item of interest to you or if you wish to address an item not on the agenda, call 742-4312, or sign up with the secretary prior to the meeting being called to order. Speaking time is limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for groups.

An assistive listening system is available for use in the School Board meeting room. To obtain headsets and information, call 742-4312.

Budget

The administration and the School Board believe the budget presented in this document makes the best use of the funds available to the district. We have paid close attention to the community's concerns about increasing taxes and the need to help students reach State standards and pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and Benchmark tests in grades 3, 6 and 8. We have worked hard to balance the priorities listed in the beginning of this letter. But, as revenue from the State of Alaska continues to decline, the balance becomes more difficult to maintain.

We hope this document will help you better understand the Anchorage School District budget. If you have additional questions, please contact Public Affairs at 742-4153.

Included below are summaries of each of budget review teams' recommendations: